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'DISCRIMINATIVE MOVE'

Centre insulted State by barring U.S. trip: Revanth

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SC's treatment of the 1978 ruling highlights an enduring anxiety

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CALLING THE SHOTS

Jurel piles on the agony for Sri Lanka

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Three newborns killed in Maharashtra hospital fire

36 infants rescued from the SNCU of District Women's Hospital in Amravati; blaze started after a ventilator exploded, say police; seven-member panel to probe the incident, says Health Minister

Yohaan Varghese
MUMBAI

Three newborns were killed and 36 rescued after a fire broke out at the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) of the District Women's Hospital in Amravati, Maharashtra, in the early hours of Monday.

The police said the blaze started after a ventilator exploded and caught fire on the third floor of the unit. Six infants were rescued from the affected area, and the flames were doused in 10 to 15 minutes.

At the time of the fire, 39 newborns were admitted to the SNCU, which provides treatment to premature babies and newborns who have low birth weight and are in a critical condition.

Relatives of an infant victim of the fire mourn near the District Women's Hospital in Amravati, Maharashtra, on Monday. PTI

Sources said doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff rushed to the ward after the fire broke out and began evacuating the babies. They disconnected the medical equipment and shifted the infants to safety as rescue operations got under way.

A nurse who was on duty said: "While the ventilator was burning, we removed the babies. I cannot describe it – it was terrible. The babies were burning next to it, we rescued them, extracted the incubator, and shifted them."

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis called the incident "heartbreaking" and ordered a high-level probe. "The health administration has been directed to conduct a high-level inquiry," he said in a statement, adding that strict action will be taken against those found culpable. He announced ex gratia of ₹5 lakh to the family of each deceased infant.

Health Minister Prakash Abitkar, who rushed to Amravati, flagged "grave" irregularities at the fire-hit hospital and said a seven-member panel would probe the blaze and submit its report within eight days.

"The situation here is horrific and unfortunate. Whatever irregularities were there at the hospital were grave ones," he told presspersons.

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T.N. drops Parandur airport project; new sites 'identified'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Monday announced his government's decision to drop the proposed airport project in Parandur and identify alternative sites for a second airport in Chennai.

Making a *suo motu* statement in the Assembly, he said a new terminal, Terminal 5, would be developed in the north-western part of the Chennai airport in collaboration with the Airports Authority of India (AAI), along with an approach road and a flyover.

The main Opposition party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), sought to speak on the issue, but Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar said he would not allow a debate on an announcement made under Rule 110 of the Assembly.

Former Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu said he was not seeking a debate but wanted to clarify. DMK members then walked out after the Speaker stood his ground.

> The [alternative] site will be finalised after studying the technical feasibility and consulting the departments concerned
>
> **C. JOSEPH VIJAY**
> Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

The Chief Minister said he had consulted experts on the creation of a new airport and that a few alternative sites had been identified that would cause minimal damage to farmland and human settlements. "The site will be finalised after studying the technical feasibility and consulting the departments concerned," he said, recalling his visit to Parandur in 2025 to express solidarity with protesting farmers and his earlier announcement at Vikravandi opposing the project.

Mr. Vijay said he was fully aware of the role of airports in industrial development but maintained that an airport should not be built at Parandur as it would affect vast tracts of farmland and human settlements. He said the Chennai airport currently handled 30 million passengers a year. "After the completion of Terminal 5, the passenger capacity will increase to 55 million a year. It will improve the services and transport facilities until a new airport is completed," he said.

NEARBY

'No bypolls till election petitions are disposed of'

CHENNAI
The Election Commission has informed the Madras High Court it does not intend to notify byelection to five Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu until the disposal of election petitions related to them. » PAGE 8

Gold rings for infants to be stored in vaults

CHENNAI
The Tamil Nadu government will establish vault-like facilities in the State to store the one-gram gold rings meant for newborns under the *Thaimaman Thanga Mothiram* scheme. » PAGE 8

Over 1 crore names deleted in Karnataka draft electoral rolls

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

With the removal of over 1.07 crore names, Karnataka's electorate shrunk to 4.46 crore voters with the draft electoral rolls published on Monday as part of the special intensive revision (SIR). An overwhelming number of the missing names were marked "absent, shifted, duplicate, dead, and others (ASDDO)".

Announcing the figures at the end of the enumeration phase of the SIR, Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) V. Anbu Kumar said the electorate comprised over 2.22 crore men, 2.24 crore women, and 2,871 others. Voters can check their names on the CEO's official website.

The CEO said a special campaign will be held in areas reporting high ASDDO numbers, where voters will be assisted in filling Form 6 (for inclusion). The dates for the campaign are yet to be announced by the CEO's office.

Discrepancy notices

As many as 43.81 lakh notices will be served on voters whose enumeration forms contained logical discrepancies or those who could not be mapped. Notices may also be issued if a complaint is filed against a voter or if the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) has reason to suspect that a voter is ineligible.

With the enumeration phase of the SIR ending, voters are likely to face the same problems they encountered with the ASDDO list. Just as people remained unaware that their names were on the ASDDO list until 12 days before the enumeration phase ended, they now have no way of knowing whether they will receive a notice until one is actually served.

"We only have numbers on how many people will receive notices, and the names will not be known until the notice is generated," the CEO said.

The entire process – from an ERO generating a notice to it being served – is to be completed within just seven days. This could become a major hurdle, especially for voters living in another district or city while remaining registered in their native constituency, as the voter must attend the hearing in person.

There is, so far, no online option to check whether a person is likely to receive a notice. The CEO reiterated that the names will be known only after a notice is generated. The process has now placed the burden of saving one's vote squarely on the voter.

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EDITORIAL
» PAGE 10

Breaking down draft deletions in Telangana SIR

Driven by a deletion rate of 35% or more in Hyderabad and adjoining urban areas, Telangana has registered the highest deletion rate — 21.7% — in the enumeration phase of the SIR process in the country. In contrast to northern States though, the gender ratio in the draft rolls improved from 1,018 to 1,028. » PAGE 11

Braving the weather

Rough outing: Fishing boats seen off the Visakhapatnam coast on Monday, despite the India Meteorological Department's advisory against venturing into the sea until Tuesday as conditions along the north Andhra Pradesh coast are expected to stay rough to very rough. K.R. DEEPAK

CRPF sub-inspector injured, two houses torched in clash between Manipur groups

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) sub-inspector was injured and at least two houses were torched after violence erupted between two groups in Manipur on Monday.

Officials in Imphal said unknown miscreants burnt a house in the Taphou Kuki village in the Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi district in the early hours. Soon after, another house was torched at Taphou Naga village in the adjoining Naga-dominated Senapati district.

As tension mounted, two groups exchanged fire after 9 a.m. The CRPF sub-inspector was caught in the crossfire and got shot. He was later admitted to a local hospital.

Burning streets: A road blocked by local people amid reports of violence in Senapati, Manipur, on Monday. ANI

Local people in Senapati blocked National Highway no. 2, also known as the Imphal-Dimapur (Nagaland) road, for a few hours after the violence. Following the incidents, the security forces heightened alert along the highway and in vulnerable villages in the two districts.

The Taphou Kuki village authority condemned the "highly deplorable, inhuman, and unacceptable" arson attack, appealing to individuals and groups to refrain from violence, destruction of property, and any actions that may further escalate tension and suffering among the people.

Probe sought

"We urge the district administration, police, and other competent authorities to take immediate and appropriate action to investigate the incident, identify those responsible, and ensure that justice is delivered in accordance with the law," the village authority said in a statement.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

T.N. govt. to pay for three domestic LPG cylinders a year: Vijay

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Monday announced the reimbursement of the cost of three domestic LPG cylinders a year for eligible home-makers under the Annapoorani Super Six Scheme, which will be launched on Pongal Day in 2027. A total of 1,30,16,104 families will benefit from the scheme, which is expected to cost the government around ₹4,000 crore a year.

In the run-up to the Assembly election, Mr. Vijay had promised six free LPG cylinders to each family a year and free travel for women on all government buses across Tamil Nadu.

Making a *suo motu* statement in the Assembly, the Chief Minister said the money for the cylinders would be credited into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. "The government will collect the list from the oil companies after the beneficiaries receive the cylinders following registration and credit the money into their bank accounts," he said.

Criteria for eligibility

Families with an annual income not exceeding ₹2.5 lakh, middle and marginal farmers, and families of persons with disabilities are eligible for the free cylinders.

Mr. Vijay said there had been a shortage of cylinders in the last four months because of the war in West Asia, forcing the people to opt for alternative fuels. The increase in fuel prices had also eaten into the family income. "Though the government is facing a financial crisis, it has decided to reimburse the money for the LPG cylinders to ease the burden on the people and fulfil the TVK's election promise," he said.

'No restrictions'

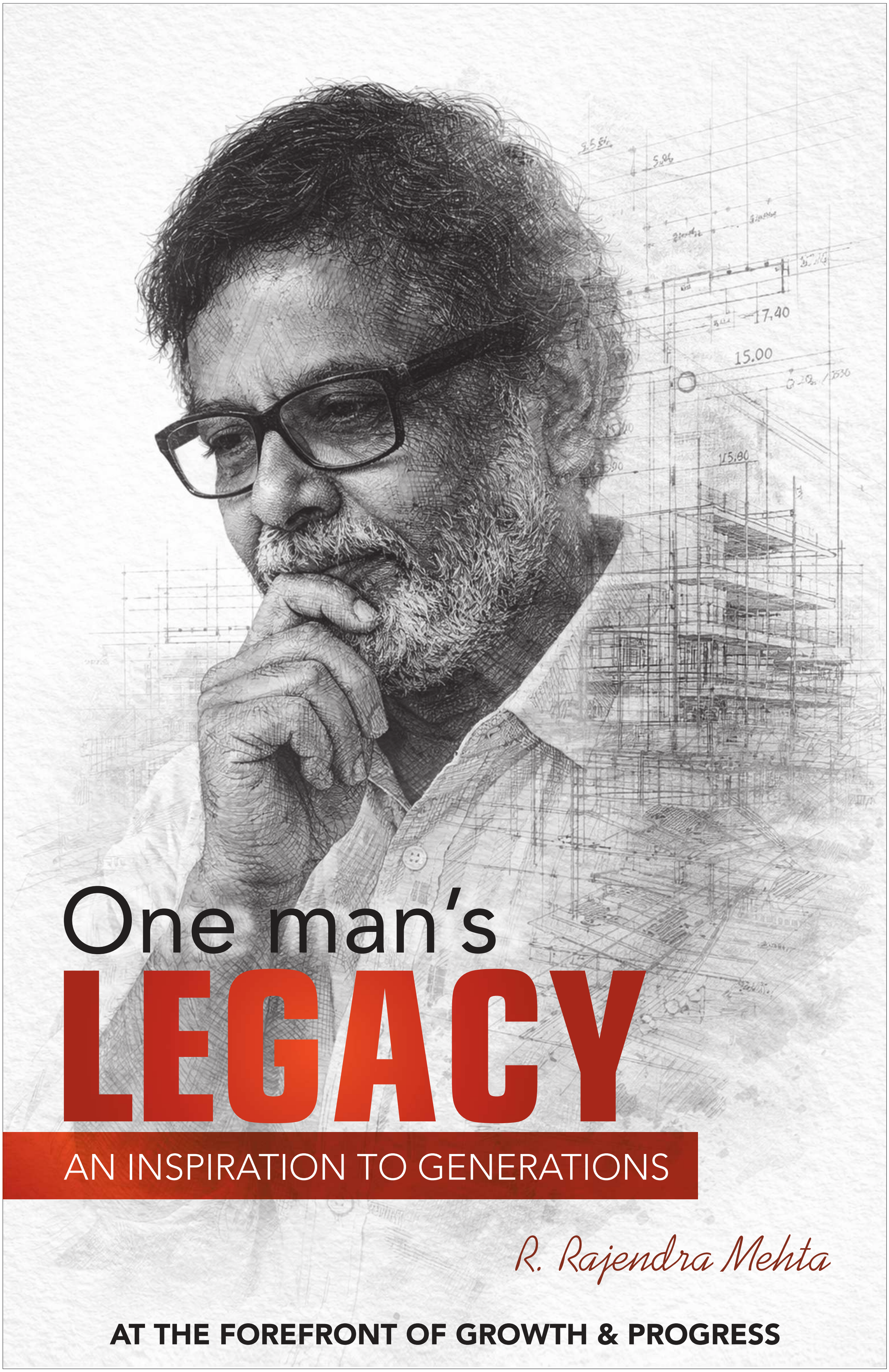
Mr. Vijay also announced the expansion of the Vettri Payanam scheme (previously Vidiyal Payanam) to allow women to travel on express, LSS, and deluxe buses. The expansion will come into effect on Gandhi Jayanti (October 2) and cost the exchequer roughly ₹6,000 crore a year.

In a *suo motu* statement, he said women are now allowed to travel free only on ordinary buses in the cities and municipal areas, and in the hill areas for up to 40 km. He said that from October 2, women could travel without paying fares on mofussil buses plying between districts and on buses operating in the hill areas.

"There is no income ceiling or other restrictions. The expansion will enable girl students to travel to colleges at faraway places and women to travel across the State. Transgender persons can also make use of the scheme," he said.

Fuel aid & free ride

- Over 1.30-crore families to benefit from LPG cylinder scheme
- **Cost to exchequer will be ₹4,000 crore a year**
- Women can travel free on express, LSS, and deluxe buses also under Vettri Payanam scheme


One man's
LEGACY
AN INSPIRATION TO GENERATIONS
R. Rajendra Mehta
AT THE FOREFRONT OF GROWTH & PROGRESS

₹41-crore drain work to be implemented for preventing floods in city's western parts

The stormwater drain work is aimed at flood mitigation in Villivakkam, Ambattur, Korattur, Padi, and Anna Nagar West. Sewage treatment plant at Tiruvottiyur will be upgraded at a cost of ₹42 cr.

R. Aishwaryaa
Aloysius Xavier Lopez
CHENNAI

The Greater Chennai Corporation is expected to start work on the stormwater drain network connecting Otteri Nullah Zero Point to the Cooum river along Jawaharlal Nehru Salai to mitigate flooding in the western parts of the city. The project was announced in the Tamil Nadu Budget session for the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department on Monday.

The drain will be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹41 crore with assistance from a German bank.

The drain construction work is expected to prevent flood-related issues in Villivakkam, Ambattur, Korattur, Padi, and Anna Nagar West areas during monsoon.

Several urban infrastructure and sanitation projects in Chennai and its adjoining urban local bodies were announced under the Chief Minister's Integrated Urban Development Mission (CMIUDM), along with other municipal initiatives.

Precautionary measure: The stormwater drain network from Otteri Nullah Zero Point to the Cooum river will be built along Jawaharlal Nehru Salai. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

The 31-MLD sewage treatment plant at Tiruvottiyur will be upgraded at a cost of ₹42 crore using Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor (MBBR) technology. The project will also include 10 years of operation and maintenance.

Work on development of play grounds in GCC will be taken up at a cost of ₹10 crore under CMIUDM funds.

The State has also allocated ₹102 crore for 100% mechanisation of underground drainage maintenance across municipal corporations and municipalities. A further ₹93 crore has been earmarked for biomining of legacy waste in Avadi and Tambaram corporations, besides Coimbatore Corporation and 25 municipalities.

Sewage infrastructure in Pallavaram, Chromepet, and Thiruneermalai will be taken up at a combined cost of ₹254 crore.

This includes ₹104 crore for rehabilitation of the underground drainage system in Pallavaram and Chromepet, and ₹150 crore for a new sewerage scheme in Thiruneermalai. The State will also explore commercialising biogas generated from sewage sludge at 22 sewage treatment plants in the city by upgrading it into Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative. The move is aimed at promoting the use of treated biogas as a transportation fuel while supporting resource recovery from sewage waste.

Land reclamation through bio-mining in Perungudi and Kodungaiyur will also begin soon, according to the announcements.

Drone surveys have identified an additional 28.70 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste at the Kodungaiyur and Perungudi dumpyards within the Greater Chennai Corporation limits.

This waste will be scientifically cleared using 'biomining' technology for ₹276 crore; this process will reclaim land and improve public health and the quality of life.

Health Minister clarifies on gold ring scheme tender; holds review meeting on rising dengue cases

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Joyalukkas, which quoted one paise and emerged as the lowest bidder for supplying one-gram gold rings under the *Thaimamam Thanga Mothiram Thittam* said that as far as this scheme was concerned it had no profit motive and was doing so as a goodwill gesture, Health Minister K.G. Arunraj said on Monday.

The bid amount of one paise sparked a controversy a few days ago, prompting the Health Department to issue a press release stating that work orders have been issued to Joyalukkas and Kalyan Jewellers, which agreed to match the quoted price, in a 70:30 ratio for the scheme.

Seeking to clarify the issue, the Minister said there are two components in the scheme - one being the gold price and the other being charges including making charges, for packing, transportation, insurance, and BIS hallmarking. The tender was floated not for the gold rate but the other component (additional charges), he said.

"The gold price is fixed. The India Bullion and Jewellers Association publishes the rates in the morning and evening. We are taking the a.m. (morning) rate. This rate applies to Joyalukkas too. When we opened the tender, we found 11 companies were eligible. We were surprised when we saw that Joyalukkas had quoted one paise. We contacted them asking whether it was a typographical error. They said that as far as this scheme was concerned, they had no profit motive and were doing it as a goodwill gesture," he explained.

The Minister said the tender was floated not for the gold rate but for additional charges such as making, packing and transportation

The price quoted by the lowest bidder was shared with the other 10 participating firms for their willingness to match the price. Kalyan Jewellers agreed to match the quoted price following which 70% of the work was granted to Joyalukkas, L1 and the remaining 30% to Kalyan Jewellers.

"Through this, the State government will save ₹20 to ₹25 crore a year," he said, adding that this was possible through a fair and transparent tender process. The State government did not hold talks with any company nor was the tender floated by predetermining companies, he added.

Dengue cases

In the light of rising cases of dengue in the State, the Minister held a review meeting with district health officials on Monday. He said that as against 12 dengue-related deaths last year (From January 1 to August 23), there were four this year.

Tamil Nadu has recorded nearly half the number of dengue cases reported during the same period last year. Till August 23, the State recorded 12,489 cases, compared with 25,585 cases last year. Cases have been reported in Chennai, Coimbatore, Kancheepuram, Erode, Tiruvallur and Tenkasi, he said.

The Minister said that Chennai accounted for the most number of fever cases and dengue positive cases. He added that Tenkasi was an endemic area, and the MLA had also represented the issue.

He further said that additional domestic breeding checkers will be recruited and their work will be monitored.

THE HINDU
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CINEMA ❖ ARTS ❖ EVENTS

MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

Arulmigu Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai
Today (25-08-2026) Tuesday 6:45 PM - PRADHOSHAM Special 'NAMASANKEERTHANAM' by Jaisathguru Bhajana Mandali Smt.RADHIKA RAJA and Group.All Are Welcome.

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Date:
26th to 30th August 2026
Timings:
6:45 to 8:00 PM

SIMS launches aesthetic institute

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

SIMS Hospital, Chennai, has launched the SIMS Aesthetic Institute (SAI), a dedicated centre offering multidisciplinary aesthetic surgery and aesthetic medicine.

SAI brings together specialists in four areas – plastic surgery, dermatology, cosmetic obstetrics and gynaecology, and maxillofacial and dental surgery.

It will provide both surgical and non-surgical treatments across facial aesthetics, body contouring, breast aesthetics, skin and hair care, cosmetic gynaecology, and maxillofacial and dental aesthetics.

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The Reserve Bank of India has issued Show Cause Notice dated July 14, 2026 requiring **M/s Sajilee Credits & Investments Private Limited** to show cause in writing on or before August 04, 2026 as to why the Certificate of Registration issued to it under section 45-IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 should not be cancelled. The Show Cause Notice issued to the company has been returned undelivered and the company has not submitted any reply to the show cause notice till date.

Take notice that, in case **M/s Sajilee Credits & Investments Private Limited** fails to submit any reply to the show cause notice within 15 days from the publication of this notice, the Reserve Bank of India shall be constrained to cancel the Certificate of Registration issued to it under section 45-IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 without any further notice in this regard.

Place: Chennai
Date: August 25, 2026

Sd/-
(Chellapandi S)
General Manager

Sangeetha
VEG RESTAURANT
SINCE1985

27 Years of Authentic Onam Sadhya

Chennai has long been a cultural melting pot, and Onam finds a vibrant home here. Since 1999, the Onam Sadhya at Sangeetha Veg has evolved into a celebrated annual tradition: a symbol of authenticity, cultural heritage, and the enduring bond between Kerala and Chennai.

The story began with founder Mr. Suresh Padmanabhan. Originally from Thiruvananthapuram, he launched his entrepreneurial journey in 1985 on Armenian Street, Parrys. Driven by a deep love for his roots and vegetarian cuisine, he introduced the Onam Sadhya in 1999 to fill a significant gap for an authentic, meticulously curated feast in Chennai's restaurant scene.

For Sangeetha Veg, authenticity is paramount. Preparing a true Sadhya requires more than just recipes; it demands an understanding of ingredients, precise preparation, and traditional service. To ensure this, Sangeetha Veg took the unique step of sending its team to Kerala to experience the Sadhya firsthand. This commitment to "learning from the source" ensures the team masters everything from

the precise banana leaf placement to the perfect balance of flavours. Over the last 27 years, this dedication has never wavered.

The Sadhya itself is a magnificent expression of Kerala's culinary heritage, offering a full sensory immersion. It features a harmonious array of dishes, beginning with the satisfying crunch of banana chips and the sweet, ginger-infused sarkara upperi.

As the meal progresses through traditional delicacies like pachadi, thoran, kootu curry, olan, and kalan, the air fills with the aroma of fresh curry leaves and coconut oil. The pungent, spicy kick of inji puli acts as a palate cleanser, preparing one for the grand finale. The feast culminates in the irresistible pradhaman, a rich, creamy nectar that balances sweet, earthy jaggery with silky coconut milk. This holistic experience is sustained by the collective efforts of the culinary team, led by Mr. Suresh Padmanabhan and supported by his daughter, Ms. Sanjana Suresh, who brings a contemporary vision to this storied legacy.

This tradition has become a "Jewel in the Crown" for Sangeetha Veg. It is a story of passion nurtured by generations of customers, bridging communities through food. Whether you are a member of the Malayali community missing home or a food lover eager to explore Kerala's traditions, the Onam Sadhya offers a unique cultural connection. It is more than just a meal; it is a celebration of heritage that continues to bring people together, reminding us that despite our modern lives, the flavors of our ancestors still have the power to anchor us.

The Onam Sadhya is served at three outlets: Adyar, Virugambakam, and Anna Nagar, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Dine-in bookings can be made at 9003003090. Customers may also book for takeaway, home delivery within a 3 km radius, or order online via Swiggy and Zomato.

Space Marketing Initiative

IndianOil
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Appointment of Business Development Associate (BDA) for Bitumen marketing
Indian Oil Corporation Limited, a Maharatna Company, solicits applications for expression of Interest for appointment of Business Development Associates (BDA) for marketing Bitumen/Bituminous products under Chennai, Madurai and Coimbatore Divisional Offices in the State/s/UT of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry.
The complete details including Eligibility criteria, Application guidelines etc are mentioned in the BDA Document of the application form.
Application form can be collected from the respective Divisional offices at the corresponding address mentioned below by paying a non-refundable fee of ₹ 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only) by a Crossed Account Payee Demand Draft of a Scheduled Bank drawn on Indian Oil Corporation Limited payable at Chennai/Madurai/Coimbatore from 10:00 hrs of 25.08.2026 till 15.00 hrs of 16.09.2026. The filled-in application forms to be submitted on or before 15.00 hrs of 17.09.2026 at the respective Divisional offices.
Mr. Sivasankaran B, CM (Inst Bus), Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Chennai Divisional Office, 500, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai - 600035. Mobile: 9444409216, Email ID: sivasankaranb@indianoil.in
Mr. Boora Naresh, Manager (Inst Bus), Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Madurai Divisional Office, No.2, Race Course Road, Chokkikulam, Madurai - 625002. Mobile: 9444838273, Email ID: nareshb@indianoil.in
Mr. Narendra Devu, SM (Inst Bus), Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Coimbatore Divisional Office, 8/1079, Avinashi Road, Coimbatore - 641018. Mobile: 9841020110, Email ID: narendrad@indianoil.in
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नोटिस

मेसर्स साजिली क्रेडिट्स एंड इन्वेस्टमेंट्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड
(बीआरएच सनशाइन हाउस, न्यू नंबर 150, ओल्ड नंबर 231, पहली मंजिल, फेडरल बैंक बिल्डिंग के सामने, रॉयापेट्टा हाई रोड, रॉयापेट्टा, चेन्नई – 600014, तमिलनाडु और पहली मंजिल 115, तिरुवेंकटस्वामी रोड, आर.एस. पुरम वेस्ट, कोयंबत्तूर – 641002, तमिलनाडु स्थित)

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने **मेसर्स साजिली क्रेडिट्स एंड इन्वेस्टमेंट्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड** को 14 जुलाई 2026 को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी किया है, जिसमें 04 अगस्त 2026 को या उससे पहले लिखित रूप में कारण बताने की मांग की गई कि भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक अधिनियम, 1934 की धारा 45–आईए के तहत उसे जारी किए गए पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्र को क्यों नहीं रद्द किया जाना चाहिए। कंपनी को जारी किए गए, कारण बताओ नोटिस उन्हें सुपुर्द किए वापस कर दिया गया है और कंपनी ने आज तक कारण बताओ नोटिस का कोई जवाब प्रस्तुत नहीं किया है।

यह ध्यान दें कि, यदि **मेसर्स साजिली क्रेडिट्स एंड इन्वेस्टमेंट्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड** इस नोटिस के प्रकाशन के 15 दिनों के भीतर, कारण बताओ नोटिस का कोई जवाब प्रस्तुत करने में विफल रहता है, तो इस संबंध में अतिरिक्त नोटिस जारी किए बिना भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक अधिनियम, 1934 की धारा 45–आईए के तहत कंपनी को जारी किए गए पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र को रद्द करने के लिए बाध्य होगा।

स्थान: चेन्नई
दिनांक: अगस्त 25, 2026

हस्ता/–
(चेल्लपाण्डी एस)
महाप्रबंधक

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However you look at it, Madraspatnam, a mere lick of sand, has magically transformed itself, over 387 years, into a nearly-dazzling metropolis of the future. The Hindu's week-long Madras Day series is a celebration of the journey that Chennai has travelled through, over the centuries, marking the route it took to get where it is today. This city has changed - from how it looks to how it sleeps to how it does business, or even eats. It is a fascinating journey, as you will see. Happy Madras Day!

From celluloid to digital: the changing face of Chennai's cinema industry

Over 84 years, Kodambakkam, the heart of Tamil cinema, has changed beyond recognition, and so has the Tamil film world. Surviving all odds, cinemas have evolved from a single projector and four intervals to the IMAX of today, while filmmaking has moved on from the expensive process of shooting on celluloid to embracing digital technology

TRANSFORMING CITY

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

Projectors of the past: Film equipment preserved at the AVM Heritage Museum. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Nothing gives a better idea of what Madras was like 80 years ago than scenes from the film *En Manaivi,* released in 1942. Indian medicine specialist Vembu Iyer, played by the late T.R. Sarangapani, tells his friend that he moved from *Pattanam* (Mylapore) to the village of Kodambakkam to prevent his wife from visiting her relatives regularly.

The film begins with the arrival of a train at Kodambakkam railway station, surrounded by trees, waterbodies, and houses set amid paddy fields. In 84 years, Kodambakkam – or Kollywood, the heart of Tamil cinema – has changed beyond recognition. So has the Tamil film world.

The film was produced by A.V. Meiyappan, who established the AVM studio in Vadapalani on 10 acres of land that once housed a tannery. He bought the land for ₹37,500, a princely sum in those days.

He constantly experimented with filmmaking and was among the first to achieve post-synchronisation when the required technology was not available. In the film *Sri Valli*, when the heroine, Kumari Rukmini, could not match the pitch of the hero, Meiyappan recorded the songs in the voice of playback singer Periyanayaki.

In his memoir, *Enadhu Vaazhkai Anubhavangal,* he writes that his experiment was a phenomenal success, and that the film – produced on a budget of ₹2 lakh in 1945 – earned a tenfold profit. He introduced the latest technology and imported the U.S.-made Mitchell 35 mm camera, which is preserved at the AVM Heritage Museum.

> Digital cameras allow 120 frames per second and come with an additional monitor that lets a third person supervise production
>
> **M. ILAVARASU**
> Cinematographer-turned-actor

Who would have thought that cinemas that once ran with a single projector – with four breaks as there was no second projector to keep the entire film ready for screening – would adapt to IMAX, even though they have fallen on hard times with the advent of exclusive film channels and OTT platforms?

Even filmmaking has undergone great changes – from shooting thousands of feet of film to embracing digital technology. Writer Ashokamitran, in *My Years with Boss at Gemini Studios*, recalls how thousands of feet of film shot for *Avvaiyar* were trimmed to create the final product. "Vasan (the boss) sat down to select from the miles of footage. He sat for hours viewing the projection of all that had already been shot, while his editors stood by with scissors and splicers. Every time he closed his eyes, a thousand feet were cut. He streamlined the multi-styled rendering, freshly shot, and inserted connecting links from scene to scene, gave a truly poetic beginning to the film, and ended it with a spectacular 'ascent to the heavens' finale," he writes.

But Meiyappan dispensed with the practice of shooting 20,000 feet of film and inserting over 50 songs, and began making shorter films.

Cinematographer-turned-actor M. Ilavarasu said the primitive Mitchell camera, due to its pull-down claw and pin registration, could shoot only up to 24 frames per second (fps), both forward and reverse. It gave way to the German Arriflex 2C and 2BV, which, designed with pressure pad registration, could shoot up to 48 fps. But this was not suitable for masking double action shots. Later came Mitchell high-speed cameras with 144 fps, but they were not popular in India, he said.

"In the early days, the Mitchell camera was the non-reflex type, with a rack-over viewfinder; camerapersons could start shooting only after plenty of rehearsals as they could not see through the viewfinder while filming. The Arriflex 2C and 2C BV are high-speed cameras capable of shooting 48 fps, but with a fixed viewfinder," he said. Subsequently, filmmakers imported Arriflex 3C and Arri 3 with rotating viewfinders, and much later, the Arri 435, whose viewfinder could be shifted to the other side for left-eyed camerapersons, he added.

The film reels, stored in boxes (*petti*), were transported across the State to cinema halls for release/screening in the past. "*Potti vanthuruchu, potti vanthuruchu,*" the chorus in the film *Aan Paavam* after the arrival of the reels in a box, recalls the years when films were made on the expensive celluloid.

Writer Perumal Murugan, in his memoir *Nizhal Mutrathu Ninaivugal*, recorded how multiple theatres would screen the same film by quickly dispatching the reels to another after a screening.

"My *Vaathiyar* (mentor) Balu Mahendra used to tell me how careful he had to be while using film for shooting. He recalled the days when he worked as a cinematographer on the film *Chattakari* (1974), directed by K.S. Sethumadhavan, who would touch his shoulder while saying 'cut'," recalled writer and director Suka.

But today, digital technology has revolutionised filmmaking, and cinematographers and directors can experiment with any number of takes until they are completely satisfied.

"Digital cameras allow 120 fps and come with an additional monitor that lets a third person supervise the production while the cameraperson focuses on the viewfinder," Mr. Ilavarasu said. Nowadays, films are sent in the file format for screening, with amazing sound effects.

Theatres have survived all odds to become one-stop destinations – they sell everything and allow online ticket booking, making the rush to buy tickets and the beeline to the canteen for a cup of tea, *goli soda*, a *thattu murukku* or a bun, things of the past.

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VANISHING THEATRES

A view of the Pilot Theatre in Royapettah on August 7, 2014. For many in Royapettah and its neighbourhoods, an evening at the movies once meant a trip to the Pilot Theatre. Opened in November 1968, the 900-seat cinema was among Madras's most modern, with a large screen, imported projection equipment, an elaborate sound system, and air-conditioning. *Read the full story on newsth.live/PilotTheatre*

WHAT'S GOING ON

Heritage IIT-M: Talk by Col. David Devasahayam, 'An Intersection of Heritage: IIT-M, St. George's Cathedral and Madras', Heritage Centre, Administrative Block, IIT-M, 5 p.m.

Sri Kanyaka Parameswari Arts and Science College for Women: Talk on 'Treasures in the Chennai Government Museum: Sculptures and Inscriptions' by Chithra Madhavan, 10 a.m.

'386 Years… And Madras Still Lives On' – a presentation by Meenakshi Devaraj, Hotel Aadithya, 155, Arcot Road, Vadapalani, 6 p.m.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

No noon, matinee shows on Friday

JULY 24, 1991

Noon and matinee shows in all cinemas in Tamil Nadu will be suspended on Friday, July 26, in support of the 12-hour State Government-sponsored bandh on the Cauvery water issue. According to D. Ramanujam, general secretary, Tamil Nadu Film Exhibitors association, the evening and night shows will be screened. Film studios will also be closed, M. Saravanan, secretary, Madras City Cine Studios' Association, said.

Romance, longing, life, and cinema on Chennai's beaches

Udhav Naig
CHENNAI

Filmmakers have always used certain symbols, motifs, and signifiers to represent ideas, concepts, and places. Over the many years, popular city landmarks, including the hotel Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai and the Cubbon Park in Bengaluru, have been used as establishing shots to depict the city in which a film is set. For Chennai, it has always been a toss-up between Marina/Elliot's Beach, Central Station, Anna Flyover, Spencer Plaza, and LIC Building.

While one could argue that the LIC Building established the "big city" vibe and that Spencer Plaza represented Chennai's "modern and capitalist" aspects, the beach has always been used to represent love and life.

Remember the song, *Enna Paarvai, Undhan Paarvai,* from *Kadhalikka Neramillai*, a popular 60s film that many swear to be the unmatched "evergreen romantic" comedy. The song showcases a young couple – Muthuraman and Kanchana – shaking a leg to a melodious song at the beach, unrecognisable with manicured lawns and the absence of cars. Similarly, in Mani Ratnam's *Alaipayudhey*, the lead-in to the song, *Snehithane*, shows the hero waiting for the heroine at the beach.

The iconic Ilaiyaraaja song *Idhu Oru Pon Malai Pozhudhu* from the film *Nizhalgal* showcases the beach as a place where college students go to smoke weed after bunking classes and build grandiose dreams about their future.

Filmmaker Venkat Prabhu's debut film, *Chennai 600028*, captured another aspect of the beach – its popularity as a space for playing sports, until the police began imposing restrictions. The black tar road on the beach used to be where hundreds of tennis ball cricket matches took place in the evenings, while the fiercely contested football and volleyball games happened on the beach sands.

Symbolic spaces: Filmmakers have always used the beach to represent love and life. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Filmmaker Vetrimaaran's *Vada Chennai* portrayed the lives of those who live near the coast and depend on the Kasimedu Fishing Harbour for their livelihood. While the film itself is about Chennai's underworld, it focuses on the trials and tribulations of those living near the beach through various points in recent history.

In actor Sivakarthikeyan's *Marina,* the beach becomes a place of refuge for those running away from home.

While the Marina has maintained its position as the city's major landmark for tourists, the Elliots' Beach and those further down the East Coast Road have slowly transformed themselves to attract the hip and fashionable youngsters of Chennai.

With the city growing at a rapid pace, there may be more "landmarks" or cultural markers that the filmmakers will be interested in, but one thing is for sure, the beaches in Chennai will continue to fascinate the storytellers for many years to come.

झारखण्ड सरकार ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
कम्बाइंड बिल्डींग, ओल्ड चास कोट एरिया, बोकारो।
ई– निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई–निविदा संख्या :- 01/2026-27/RWD/EE/BOKARO दिनांक – 22.08.2026

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में)		कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल नं0
			अंक में	अक्षर में		
1	RWD/EE/ BOKARO/ 01/2026-27	पतकी कब्रिस्तान से झावा टोला भाया बोलगढ़ा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई– 2.410 कि0मी0)।	2,09,07,300.00	दो करोड़ नौ लाख सात हजार तीन सौ रू0 मात्र	12 माह	प्रथम
2	RWD/EE/ BOKARO/ 02/2026-27	नव प्राथमिक विद्यालय खैराजारा से गोपाल मांझी के घर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई–1.100 कि0मी0)।	1,06,78,700.00	एक करोड़ छः लाख अठहत्तर हजार सात सौ रू0 मात्र	09 माह	प्रथम
3	RWD/EE/ BOKARO/ 03/2026-27	कण्डेर पंचायत अन्तर्गत सिमराबेड़ा आर0सी0डी0 रोड लालजी होटल से ढुंगरी ऊपर आखड़ा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई– 1.730 कि0मी0)।	1,78,49,500.00	एक करोड़ अठहत्तर लाख उनचास हजार पॉच सौ रू0 मात्र	12 माह	प्रथम
4	RWD/EE/ BOKARO/ 04/2026-27	धरवाटांड शिव मंदिर से दामोदर नदी तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई– 2.670 कि0मी0)।	2,83,50,700.00	दो करोड़ तिरासी लाख पचास हजार सात सौ रू0 मात्र	15 माह	प्रथम
5	RWD/EE/ BOKARO/ 05/2026-27	कण्डेर पंचायत अन्तर्गत जहारलौंग आर0ई0ओ0 रोड से दरहाबेड़ा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई– 3.170 कि0मी0)।	2,80,87,500.00	दो करोड़ अस्सी लाख सतासी हजार पॉच सौ रू0 मात्र	15 माह	प्रथम
6	RWD/EE/ BOKARO/ 06/2026-27	भण्डरो पंचायत के काषीझरिया आर0ई0ओ0 पथ से ग्राम–मोदीडीह होते हुए टुपरा पथ तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई– 3.110 कि0मी0)।	2,87,58,000.00	दो करोड़ सतासी लाख अंट्ठावन हजार रू0 मात्र	15 माह	प्रथम
7	RWD/EE/ BOKARO/ 07/2026-27	सुतरीबेड़ा आर0ई0ओ0 पथ से कुमीरडोबा आर0ई0ओ0 पथ तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई– 1. 090 कि0मी0)।	1,21,93,200.00	एक करोड़ इक्कीस लाख तिरानवे हजार दो सौ रू0 मात्र	09 माह	प्रथम
8	RWD/EE/ BOKARO/ 08/2026-27	आर0ई0ओ0 रोड चन्दनाटांड से आर0ई0ओ0 रोड पुटका मोड़ तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई– 3.010 कि0मी0)।	2,74,64,000.00	दो करोड़ चौहत्तर लाख चौसठ हजार रू0 मात्र	15 माह	प्रथम
9	RWD/EE/ BOKARO/ 09/2026-27	बिजुलिया पंचायत अन्तर्गत ग्राम गोपीडीह आर0ई0ओ0 सड़क से आमाडीहा गॉव तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई– 2.640 कि0मी0)।	2,37,18,000.00	दो करोड़ सैंतीस लाख अट्ठारह हजार रू0 मात्र	12 माह	प्रथम
10	RWD/EE/ BOKARO/ 10/2026-27	धधकीडीह से तिलैयागोड़ा होते हुए एस0एल0 आर्या कॉलेज तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई– 2.233 कि0मी0)।	2,02,87,900.00	दो करोड़ दो लाख सतासी हजार नौ सौ रू0 मात्र	12 माह	प्रथम
11	RWD/EE/ BOKARO/ 11/2026-27	बॉधगोड़ा साईट फोर लेन स्थित बी0 ब्लॉक शेड से प्रारम्भ होकर महादेव रजवार, रामचन्द्र मेहरा एवं बिषन मेहरा के घर होते हुए सेक्टर 12/E तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई– 3.950 कि0मी0)।	2,79,33,500.00	दो करोड़ उनासी लाख तैंतीस हजार पॉच सौ रू0 मात्र	15 माह	प्रथम

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथिः– 01.09.2026
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 21.09.2026 अपराहन 5.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 24.09.2026 अपराहन 03.30 बजे।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो, कम्बाइंड बिल्डींग, सिविल एस0डी0ओ0, ऑफिस ओल्ड चास कोट एरिया, चास बोकारो, झारखंड, पिन– 827013
6. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 06542-265705
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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

MY SON, J Madhin Mukund, S/o. Suresh.K, born on 7th March 2012 (District of Birth: Chengalpattu), residing at No.153, A–Block, 1st Floor, Osprey Apartment, 4th Street, Engineers Avenue, S Kolathur, Chennai–600117, shall henceforth be known as MADHIN MUKUND. S –Anusha. K (Mother)

I, PRAVEEN KUMAR SELVARAJ, S/o SELVARAJI DHANAPAL, residing at No.9/4, NH-1, Thayumanavar 4th cross street, Maraimalai Nagar, Chennai-603209, declare that my correct surname is SELVARAJI and shall henceforth be known as PRAVEEN KUMAR SELVARAJI.

I, SELVARAJ, S/o DHANAPAL, residing at No.9/4, NH-1, Thayumanavar 4th cross street, Maraimalai Nagar, Chennai- 603209, declare that my correct name is SELVARAJI DHANAPAL and shall henceforth be known as SELVARAJI DHANAPAL in the passport of my son PRAVEEN KUMAR SELVARAJI.

WE,SUNDARARAJAN M,AADHAR No. 254096100298 & R.Sridevi Aadhar 466344647431, Presently residing at M.101,S&P LIVING SPACES, Ayanambakkam,chennai 95.do hereby declare that we have changed the Name of our son "SUJAN SRIRAM" to "SUJAN SRIRAM SUNDARARAJAN", vide affidavit dtd 12/6/2026

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANITHA Ciren Ashly, D/o Balachandran A, DOB 04/01/1987, Residing at F-1, 3/2 Rakkiyappan Street, Mylapore,Chennai-600004, have changed my name to Anitha Balachandran and shall hereafter be known by this name

MY SON, J Mithun Mukund, S/o. Suresh.K, born on 7th March 2012 (District of Birth: Chengalpattu), residing at No.153, A–Block, 1st Floor, Osprey Apartment, 4th Street, Engineers Avenue, S Kolathur, Chennai–600117, shall henceforth be known as MITHUN MUKUND. S –Anusha. K (Mother)

I, PUNEETH S/o PUNNIYAMOORTHY GOVINDASAMY R/o. No.7, 9th cross street, 3rd main road, Dhandeeswaram Velachery, Chennai - 600042, changed my name to VENKAT PUNEETH PUNNIYAMOORTHY for all purposes vide affidavit dated 17-08-2026.

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As per the instructions/information furnished by our client, the following public notice is hereby issued: Mr. K.G. Murali, son of Mr. K. Ganesan, residing at Door No. 5, Jawaharlal Nehru Street, Thyagaraya Nagar, Chennai – 600017, has registered a Sale Deed bearing Document No. 3330/2023 before the Sub-Registrar Office, Thyagaraya Nagar, in respect of the property situated at T. Nagar, S.R. No. 25, Old T.S. No. 7199, New T.S. No. 7632, measuring 4,788 sq. ft., together with the building standing thereon. The said property originally belonged to Mr. C.S. Venkatanarasimman, son of C.P. Subramania Iyer, under a Sale Deed registered as Document No. 786/1951. As per the said deed, the property devolved upon his legal heir, Mrs. Amirthavalli. Her daughter, Rajeshwari, had thereafter obtained the property through a Will executed by her mother, Mrs. Amirthavalli. The Will was subsequently acted upon/recognized, and the original Will was handed over to our client for obtaining the sale deed. Accordingly, the original title deed relating to the said property has been handed over to our client. Therefore, any person having any right, title, interest, claim, charge, lien, or objection whatsoever in respect of the said property, whether by way of ownership, succession, encumbrance, or otherwise, is hereby called upon to notify the same in writing to our client within 10 days from the date of this notice, together with supporting documents. Any claim raised after the expiry of the said 10-day period will not be entertained, and our client will not be responsible for any such claim.

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Dredging of Ennore backwaters likely to be completed by Oct.

This is aimed at removing the invasive Charru mussel that has affected the wetland ecosystem. Residents seek regular monitoring of the work

WATER WATCH

K. Lakshmi
CHENNAI

Rejuvenation effort: The project is being implemented with funds from Tangedco. FILE PHOTO

The Water Resources Department (WRD) is aiming to complete dredging works in the Ennore backwaters to remove the invasive Charru mussel, which has affected the wetland ecosystem and fishing activities, by October. Residents and fishing communities, however, seek regular monitoring and removal measures.

The work is being taken up in stretches between Kattupalli and Puzhuthivakkam, where the invasive species has proliferated, to remove them. It is locally known as *Kakka Azhi*. The project is being carried out with funds from the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco).

Officials of the WRD noted that work in the backwaters of Kosasthalaiyar river is being carried out in phases following a National Green Tribunal's (NGT) directive. While a project in a portion of about 1,700 metre of the backwaters was completed last year, work is in progress to dredge another 1,700-metre stretch covering Kattupalli and Puzhuthivakkam and a 500 metre branch channel.

The department has been dredging for a depth of up to one metre in various stretches since March this year. Anna University had recommended dredging along a stretch extending from Ennore creek towards Pazhaverkadu to address the spread of the invasive species.

"We are prioritising dredging work in heavily infested portions and plan to execute this in other portions too. A proposal to dredge the stretch near Ennore estuary has been submitted," said an official.

Currently, the dredged slurry is pumped onto the bunds. While water from the sediment is allowed to flow back into the waterway, the removed invasive mussels are disposed of seperately, officials said.

However, residents and fishing communities have sought regular monitoring of the backwaters to track the spread of the mussel.

Bhagath Singh of Save Ennore Creek Movement said dredged material must be disposed of properly. Representatives of the fishing communities must also be allowed to perform a supervisory role as the work is being carried out in areas that serve as breeding grounds.

Officials noted that the Fisheries Department has launched a study to explore measures to eradicate the invasive species.

On the recent mass fish-kill in Kosasthalaiyar river, officials said the department was coordinating with the Fisheries Department and Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to find the rootcause of the pollution. Once the report is completed, mitigation measures would be initiated apart from increased monitoring of the waterway.

Love for Madras, passed down through generations

Vijay Sankar, Chairman, The Sanmar Group

Chennai, Madras during my growing-up years, is my home and the birthplace of some of my happiest memories. My family, going back to my great-grandfather, has lived and built its businesses here. My grandfather had the honour of serving as the Sheriff of Madras, so this city has been more than a backdrop to our lives; it is woven into our story, as a shared history. As a teenager, I spent countless afternoons at First Division league matches–at Pachaiyappa's College, IIT Madras, Anna University, and, of course, Chepauk–watching the game in the unhurried, delightfully local way only club cricket can offer. Chennai's storied journey in promoting tennis drew me into the sport eventually, making me a regular on the courts of the Madras Cricket Club. I came to realise that my love of sport and what I feel about Chennai are inexplicably linked, each reinforcing the other.

This city taught me to respect the many religions and cultures that co-exist peacefully here. It is proof that diversity, without divisions, is a strength that enriches society. It showed me that the true mark of a liveable city is the presence of powerful social service institutions, which is why protecting their legacy matters as much as celebrating them. The values we have adopted in business such as ethical conduct, transparency, and doing the best we can for our communities reflect the qualities often associated with the spirit of Chennai, the headquarters of The Sanmar Group.

Strolling along the beautiful promenade of the Marina Beach remains a favourite pastime–watching the stream of walkers go by, occasionally coming across a familiar face and pausing for a chat as the sun rises. Its open, vibrant atmosphere lends it a unique charm and reinforces the connection to the city's identity.

(As told to Sangeetha Kandavel)

CASAGRAND building aspirations
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From the archives: Delegates gather for the opening of the Madras Music Conference, inaugurated by the Junior Maharani of Travancore on December 24, 1930. This photo and more are on display at *The Hindu* Made of Chennai Archival Photo Exhibit as part of Madras Month celebrations. The exhibition will be on at *The Hindu* office till September 14 and is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. on all days, except Sundays. To visit, register for free at https://madeofchennai.thehindu.com/

INBRIEF

In the Footsteps of Periyava book launched in city

The book *In the Footsteps of Periyava* written in English by S.R. Krishnan, a disciple of Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Mahaswamigal, Mahaperiyava, was launched at the Mahaperiyava Temple in Mylapore on Monday. Published by Giri Trading Agency, it compiles the miracles of Mahaperiyava. It was released by P. Swaminathan, a spiritual orator and writer and the first copy was received by Ganesha Sharma, trustee of the temple. Directors of Giri Trading, S. Ramanarayanan and S. Srinivasan, and the head of sales Amar Girish were present.

Chennai Weather	max	min
Tiruvallur	37	26
Chennai Airport	36	26
Chennai City	36	27

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

Chennai Airport Tomorrow
36°C Morning will be comfortable. Day will be very warm. Night will also be comfortable. Spell of light rain and thundershowers may occur.

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Timings
CHENNAI

TUESDAY, AUG. 25			
RISE	05:58	SET	18:25
RISE	16:32	SET	03:20
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26			
RISE	05:58	SET	18:24
RISE	17:15	SET	04:11
THURSDAY, AUG. 27			
RISE	05:58	SET	18:23
RISE	17:54	SET	05:03

RPF personnel save passenger from falling off moving train at Perambur

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Two Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel saved a passenger from falling off a moving train at Perambur railway station on Sunday. The incident occurred around 6.00 a.m on Sunday when train No. 12672, bound for Chennai from Mangaluru, was departing from Platform 1 of Perambur station. According to officials, the passenger had boarded the train to retrieve his mobile phone.

As the train began moving, he attempted to get down, lost his balance on the footboard and was in danger of falling.

RPF Head Constable G. Udhayakumar and Head Constable Sherlin James, who noticed the passenger in distress, ran alongside the moving train and pulled him to safety.

The train's guard also stopped the train immediately.

The RPF personnel were appreciated for their quick response, alertness, and courage in averting a major accident and saving the passenger's life.

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6. Paruppu
7. Nei (Ghee)
8. Kadhamba Sambar
9. Tomato Rasam
10. Kurukku Kaalan
11. Olan
12. Kootu Curry
13. Avial
14. Ulli Theeyal
15. Thoran
16. Vendakkai Pachadi
17. Sweet Manga Pachadi
18. Moru Kaachiyadhu
19. Katti Moru
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INBRIEF

'Tiger suspected of killing two men will be captured soon'

Tamil Nadu Forest Minister R.V. Ranjithkumar on Monday told the Assembly that three teams, besides three veterinarians, and a specialist, had been pressed into action to capture the tiger that is suspected to have killed two people in Gudalur in the Nilgiris district. Responding to a special calling-attention motion, he said three teams of forest officials had been constituted immediately, and three veterinarians had been equipped with tranquillisers. A specialist veterinarian from Madurai had also been sent to capture the animal. Mr. Ranjithkumar said there would be no further deaths from tiger attacks. "The animal will be captured and sent either to Vandalur or a tiger reserve," he said. The next of kin of the victims were given a compensation of ₹10 lakh each.

'Milk procurement price may be increased to ₹44 per litre'

Tamil Nadu Dairy Development Minister C. Vijayalakshmi on Monday told the Assembly that the government would consider increasing the procurement price of milk to ₹44 per litre after consulting Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, while taking into consideration the financial health of Aavin. Responding to a special calling-attention motion, she said the Chief Minister already announced an increase in the procurement price from ₹38 to ₹41 per litre. "Since the price of Aavin milk was reduced by ₹3 per litre, it resulted in a loss of ₹270 crore. But the [previous] DMK government did not make any efforts to overcome the problem. Chief Minister Vijay, however, increased the procurement price within three months of assuming office," she said.

Dropping Parandur airport project an irreversible setback to T.N., says Stalin

He says the site was carefully selected after evaluating all available alternatives. While the TNCC and CPI(M) leaders welcome the move, others, including Thangam Thennarasu, Nainar Nagenthran, and Annamalai, point out that the decision will adversely impact the State's development

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI/TIRUCHI

DMK president and former Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Monday that the government's decision to drop the plan to build an airport at Parandur near Chennai amounted to an irreversible setback to Tamil Nadu's growth.

"It will set the State's development back by several years. Tamil Nadu's interests cannot be mortgaged for petty political considerations. An announcement of such far-reaching importance being made under Rule 110, preventing any debate or denying the members an opportunity to voice their views, is deeply troubling," he said in a post on social media.

Mr. Stalin said Tamil Nadu was a leader in the country across sectors, from electronics exports to automobiles, and a world-class airport in its capital was not merely desirable but essential. "Rejecting such a vital project is not change. It is a massive disappointment," he said.

The former Chief Minister said the site was carefully selected after all available alternatives were evaluated, and the land acquisition process, along with several stages of preparatory work and permissions, had been completed. "We had drawn up plans to ensure that construction could begin at a rapid pace once we returned to office. If the new government now starts all over again, identifies another location, and goes through the entire process before work can even begin, Tamil Nadu's growth trajectory itself will drop," he said.

Strong protest: DMK MLAs addressing the media after walking out of the Assembly on Monday. R. RAGU

Mr. Stalin said that under the (erstwhile) "Dravidian Model" government, Tamil Nadu had become the first port of call for investors. "This decision threatens to push the State to the bottom of the table. The Chief Minister's [C. Joseph Vijay's] announcement is nothing short of a jackpot for competing States," he said. "Without industrial growth, economic targets of $1 trillion or $1.5 trillion are impossible to achieve. Taken without foresight, planning, or consultation, this decision by the TVK government is a devastating blow to the employment dreams of Tamil Nadu's youth," he added.

Former Finance and Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu of the DMK said Parandur was the appropriate location for a greenfield airport. He said the TVK-led government had dropped the project only for political reasons. "If a scheme is dropped for political reasons, it will affect our economy," he said, after DMK members walked out of the House over Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar's refusal to allow them to speak on the issue. Mr. Prabhakar said no discussion could be permitted after an announcement was made under Rule 110.

Mr. Thennarasu said the DMK government had proposed to acquire 5,740 acres for the airport and had already acquired 90% of the land. "Under the land acquisition rules, the land could not be used for any purpose other than the original project. What will you do with the land?" he asked. "The decision will affect industrial investment," he said.

Congress backs decision

Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) president B. Manickam Tagore welcomed Parandur Airport project's cancellation and said the Congress stood for genuine consent and independent assessment of social impact before acquisition of land for major infrastructure projects. In a statement, he said the party supported the cancellation based squarely on the facts and the government's own records. "The government's own study saw this coming – in 2022," the TNCC president said.

CPI(M) welcomes move

Speaking to journalists at Mayiladuthurai, CPI(M) State secretary P. Shanmugam welcomed the government's decision to drop the Parandur airport project. He said the project would have destroyed 13 lakes and over 3,000 acres of wetlands in that area. People and farmers of Parandur had been consistently staging protests against the airport project. "The CPI (M) welcomes the scrapping of the project and the announcement that an alternative site would be chosen for the new airport. The views of the general public of the area concerned should be ascertained while selecting the alternative site," he said, adding that lands acquired for the proposed airport project should be handed over to the farmers.

'Politically motivated'

In a social media post, BJP State unit president Nainar Nagenthran charged that Mr. Vijay had put the State's development at risk for political reasons.

He questioned why the government had decided to abandon the Parandur project without first selecting an alternative location or approaching the Centre with a proposal for a new site. Starting the process of selecting a new airport site afresh would result in a waste of time, money, and resources, he said.

He also questioned the fate of around 1,700 acres of land that, according to him, had already been acquired for the Parandur airport project. He sought clarity on how the government proposed to use the acquired land and what its response would be to landowners who had surrendered their land after receiving compensation.

We The Leaders founder K. Annamalai said the Parandur airport project's cancellation came with "an opportunity cost that the State government needs to consider carefully". He said it would have helped had Mr. Vijay proposed a new site. "Even if the State government chose to move forward with a second airport at a different location soon, finding a site, taking approval from the Central government and statutory bodies, issuing tenders, acquiring land, and securing licences could take at least 10 years before the airport becomes operational. Meanwhile, other States would be advancing, leaving us behind," he said in a social media post.

DMK would not be in the Opposition without its allies, says Aadhav Arjuna

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Minister for Public Works Aadhav Arjuna on Monday engaged the DMK MLAs in a debate over the welfare of Scheduled Castes and their representation and the DMK's ability to attract minority votes without having the Congress in its coalition.

When former Higher Education Minister Govi Chezhiaan said the DMK had built a manimandapam for B.R. Ambedkar and renamed the Madras Law College as Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, along with the DMK's other contributions towards empowering Scheduled Castes, the current Higher Education Minister P. Viswanathan recalled that it was the Congress government in the 60s that had given Cabinet berths to P. Kakkan, who served as the State Home Minister and to B. Parameswaran, who served as Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments.

Aadhav Arjuna

Govi Chezhiaan

'DMK cadre's hardwork'

When Mr. Govi Chezhiaan responded stating that it was due to the contribution and hardwork of the DMK cadre that Mr. Viswanathan won from Melur constituency, Mr. Aadhav retorted: "DMK often says that they are the reason why coalition parties such as the Congress, the VCK, the IUML won. The DMK had 22 to 23 party alliances, and they won three consecutive elections comprehensively. But, in 2026, the TVK became the single largest party. If the DMK didn't have their alliance partners – the Congress, VCK, IUML and the Left parties – they would have won just 10 seats. The reason why Muslims voted in Chennai is due to the Congress and the VCK. But, in 2026, they have lost 14 seats in Chennai. They would have lost the two seats in Chennai too."

The Minister added: "Can the DMK contest alone and win 50 seats?"

After DMK MLA K.N. Nehru asserted that the Congress could never win without the support of the DMK, Congress MLA Tharahai Cuthbert said the Bharat Jodo Yatra undertaken by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was instrumental in the DMK alliance winning all of its Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu. In response, Mr. Nehru said: "You went on a yatra across India. But, in Tamil Nadu alone, you got 10 seats."

Air passengers disappointed over decision to shelve Parandur project

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Many air passengers, who were looking forward to a better-maintained airport and improved connectivity, were left utterly disappointed with Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay announcing that the government would drop the Parandur airport project.

Dheeraj S., a frequent flyer, said the experience at the Chennai airport was underwhelming compared to airports such as Bengaluru or Hyderabad. The airport also lacked direct connectivity to the U.S., many cities in Europe, or even Vietnam, forcing people to go to other airports to take a flight to these destinations, he added. He said there were a lot of expectations in the last couple of years for the Parandur airport, since many of the issues that passengers face may not exist at the new airport. Now that it has been scrapped, air passengers were irked they will have to wait another five or seven years at least for a second airport, he added.

Sathish G., another frequent flyer, said this was a setback to the city. "If the government is looking for a new location, how long will it take to finalise and start building the airport? Every location is bound to have its own set of drawbacks. What if the new site too draws objections and concerns? How long can the people of Chennai be kept waiting for a second airport?" he asked.

Mr. Dheeraj also said the State risked losing out on the economic impact, flurry of industrial activity, and, of course, employment generation that a new airport drew for a city.

Social media too was abuzz, with many feeling that it was not the right decision.

Economic growth

P. Ravichandran, Chairman, CII-Southern Region, in a statement, said an airport was far more than a piece of transport infrastructure; for a capital city and economic powerhouse such as Chennai, it was a strategic enabler of economic growth, global competitiveness, trade, tourism, investment, and job creation.

The foremost priority must be to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to significantly enhance the capacity, efficiency, and passenger experience at the Chennai International Airport, the CII said.

"Chennai's rapidly expanding industrial, manufacturing, logistics, and services sectors require a second airport to sustain long-term economic growth and attract future investments. In light of the decision to move away from the Parandur airport project, it is critical that the government swiftly identify, evaluate, and finalise an alternative site based on technical, environmental, and economic considerations," the statement said.

Once selected, the project must be given high priority and carried out with urgency to prevent delays, which will ensure Chennai retains its competitive advantage among India's leading industrial and investment destinations, the CII statement added.

Women MLAs reiterate demand to drop use of Tamil term for maiden speech in Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) floor leader Sowmiya Anbumani and CPI(M) MLA Latha on Monday urged Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar to discontinue the use of the Tamil term *kanni pechu* to refer to the 'maiden speech' of MLAs in the House, arguing that the gendered term perpetuated patriarchal notions.

Ms. Sowmiya suggested that instead, it could either be called *arimuga urai* (introductory speech) or *mudhal urai* (first speech).

The Speaker asked Minister for Tamil Development and School Education Rajmohan to express his thoughts on the matter, and he said the suggestions made by Ms. Sowmiya and Ms. Latha could be considered.

"Even in the past, BJP MLA Vanathi Srinivasan had raised the issue, and the then Speaker had agreed to consider it," he said.

The Speaker also announced that the question hour would resume in the Assembly on Thursday.

TN-ARIVU curriculum to be introduced next academic year

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

School Education Minister Rajmohan in the Assembly on Monday announced that Tamil Nadu would introduce TN-Analytical thinking, Reasoning, Innovation, Venture and entrepreneurship, Upskilling (ARIVU) with artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technology curriculum from the academic year 2027-28.

This new curriculum will be based on a development framework called ARIVU Foundation for Classes I-V, ARIVU Discovery for Classes VI-VIII, and ARIVU Edge for Classes IX-XII. This will provide a strong foundation at the elementary-school level, a deeper understanding at the middle-school level, and life, employability, and future skills at the high-school level. Presenting the Demand for Grants for his department, he announced a total of 31 initiatives under the department with AI and sports taking centre stage, with a total estimated outlay of ₹44,527 crore.

Mr. Rajmohan said the competency-based Mathichudar Scheme assessment would also be implemented in 2026-27 at ₹18.01 crore to improve the conceptual understanding of students in Class VI-XII. Vetripathai Scheme will be implemented to provide quality coaching, mock tests, and continuous educational guidance to students studying at 172 government higher secondary schools to prepare for national-level entrance examinations. The scheme will be implemented with a financial allocation of ₹22.36 crore. Paying attention to government school students' health, dental, eye, and ear health check-ups will be launched in partnership with government and private hospitals.

> School students in Tamil Nadu will now get a period dedicated to sports, arts, and other co-curricular activities every day under the PLAY initiative
>
> **RAJMOHAN**
> School Education Minister

School students in Tamil Nadu will now get a period dedicated to sports, arts, and other co-curricular activities every day under the PLAY initiative, the Minister said. A total of 50 government high and higher secondary schools will be developed as 'Sports Plus' schools for nurturing young sporting talent with sports infrastructure, expert coaching, and pathways to State, National and International competitions at a cost of ₹2.34 crore, he said. Coaching for chess and traditional games will be introduced across 6,980 government middle schools for students of Classes I to VIII at a cost of ₹20.17 lakh. "Sports uniforms will be provided to 23.4 lakh students in Classes IX to XII at government and government-aided schools in the next academic year at a cost of ₹81.89 crore," he said.

Funding for Tamil Chair

Mr. Rajmohan also announced that additional financial assistance of ₹5.75 crore would be given to set up Tamil Chair at the University of Houston in the U.S.

He said two Tamil scholars, who are promoting the Tamil language online, would be given a cash award of ₹25,000 and the 'Inaiya Tamil Chemmal' award. Besides, works of Tamil scholars – K. Jeevabharathi, Raj Gowthaman, Saranabaskaran alias T.M.M. Ahmed, S. Kandasamy, and T.M. Peer Mohammed – would be nationalised at a cost of ₹50.75 lakh a year. Students of Tamil University will be upskilled through training programmes, with national and international conferences being held annually. Books that would be helpful to conduct research would be procured for students studying in Tamil university, the Minister said.

Mr. Rajmohan also announced that a manimandapam would be constructed for late renowned filmmaker Bharathirajaa.

T.N. govt. unveils 107-cr. project for rabies control

In the first phase, it will be implemented in municipal corporations, municipalities, and town panchayats, says Minister Rajmohan

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Monday unveiled a ₹107-crore project to create a rabies-free Tamil Nadu.

Replying to the debate on the demands for grants for the Municipal Administration, Urban and Water Supply Department, School Education Minister Rajmohan, on behalf of the Chief Minister (who handles the subject), said the first phase of the project would be implemented in municipal corporations, municipalities, and town panchayats.

The government would purchase vehicles to transport street dogs after they are captured and implement animal birth control programme, and establish surgical centres and after-care centres, he said.

The government will purchase vehicles to transport street dogs after they are captured, and establish animal birth-control programmes.

Besides, the government announced a multi-level parking facility at a cost of ₹40 crore in Kanniyakumari for the benefit of tourists.

The Minister also said a multi-purpose commercial complex would be constructed at the Thanjavur Municipal Corporation. The government would renovate the bus stand in Polpet in Thoothukudi, which had not been in use for more than 30 years. The renovation would include a multi-level parking facility and a commercial complex at a cost of ₹90 crore.

The government would spend ₹20 crore to restore 30 water bodies in town panchayats to facilitate groundwater recharge.

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LTD.,
PUDUKKOTTAI ROAD, KOTTAPATTU, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI - 620 023. E-mail: gmaavintrichy@gmail.com
Ref. No: 16512/P&I/MCR TENDER/2026-2028 **E-TENDER NOTICE** Date:19.08.2026

Trichy District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd invite tender from eligible contractors to engage hired vehicles for Milk Collection Routes(RMC), Milk Procurement Team T- Board Taxi and Liquid Nitrogen distribution vehicle in Trichy District in Tiruchirappalli Union for the period of (2026-2028) 2 years.

Name of the work	Contract period	Approximate Tender value (Rs. in Crores)	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender Number
Milk Collection Route Vehicles	2 years	3.72	Refer Tender Document Page No: 8	16512/P&I/MCR TENDER/ 2026-2028
T-Board Taxi	2 years	0.36		
Liquid Nitrogen Distribution Vehicle	2 years	0.18		

The Tender forms can be downloaded from **www.tntenders.gov.in** on free of cost from the date of issue of tender notice from **28.08.2026** by **4.00 PM** onwards. The Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **07.09.2026** at **11.00 AM** in Tiruchirappalli District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Meeting Hall Trichy. The EMD must be paid only through online **www.tntenders.gov.in** and duly filled tender forms should be submitted on or before **07.10.2026** by **4.00 PM** through online e-procurement portal **www.tntenders.gov.in** only. The opening of the tender technical bid form will be on **08.10.2026** by **11.00 AM.** The Commercial bid opening date will be intimated through **www.tntenders.gov.in.** The General Manager has power to accept, reject or cancel the tender partially or fully. All other details are enclosed with the tender form.

DRO / General Manager
DIPR/2659/TENDER/2026 **Tiruchirappalli District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd.,**

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004
No. PR/69/A.A./Part-XIII Dated: 08.03.2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Notice inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for empanelment of Private/ Reputed Hospitals/Diagnostic centres in Varanasi for extending investigative facilities including pathology, radiological –MRI/CT Scan, PET Scan, Special investigations etc. for the railway beneficiaries of diesel locomotive works.

Principal Chief Medical Officer, Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi invites sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) for empanelment of Private/Reputed Hospitals/ Diagnostic centres/CGHS approved centres in Varanasi for extending investigative facilities including pathology, radiological –MRI/CT Scan, PET Scan, Special investigations etc. for the railway beneficiaries of Banaras Locomotive Works on cashless basis at CGHS rates for Tier II (Y City).

Interested Private/Reputed Hospitals/Diagnostic centres are advised to submit the E.O.I. for above investigations in sealed envelope in Tender Box of Principal Chief Medical Officer's office, Banaras Locomotive Works by **21.09.2026 (uptil 15:00 hrs).**

Special Notice:- Terms and condition and application format can be down loaded from our website: http://www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in

PR/BLW/Med-02 **Sr. DMO/Admin.**

/blwvaranasi "Website : http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

TAMILNADU STATE MARKETING CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
Office Address: CMDA, Tower II, 4''' Floor, Gandhi Irwin Bridge Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. E-Mail: tasmacrv2015@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Online Tender is invited by the Managing Director, TASMAC for "Selection of a System Operator for Deployment and Operation of Reverse Vending Machines for Collection of Post-Consumer Liquor Bottles/Containers with Incentive Mechanism in Tamil Nadu under QCBS Method".

Sl. No	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bid
1.	Online Tender for "Selection of a System Operator for Deployment and Operation of Reverse Vending Machines for Collection of Post-Consumer Liquor Bottles/Containers with Incentive Mechanism in Tamil Nadu under QCBS Method".	R3/8849/2021 Dated. 24.08.2026	31.08.2026 at 11.00 AM to 05.10.2026 upto 11.00 AM	28.09.2026 at 11.00 AM to 05.10.2026 Upto 11.00 AM	05.10.2026 at 12.00 Noon

The tender related documents can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at **https://tntenders.gov.in/.**

Tender Inviting Authority / Managing Director
DIPR/2660/Tender/2026 **TASMAC Ltd.**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS COACHING CENTRE,
Chennai.

Coaching to educated youth for various Competitive Examinations

(TNPSC, SSC, IBPS, RRB, etc.)

Applications are invited through Online mode from the candidates belonging to Tamil Nadu who have passed at least 10th Standard for getting free coaching for TNPSC, SSC, IBPS & RRB Examinations. Coaching will be provided from 02.00 p.m. to 05.00 p.m. on week days for a duration of 6 months at Sir Theagaraya College Campus, Old Washermenpet, Chennai - 21 and Presidency College Campus, Chepauk, Chennai - 05 for 500 seats and 300 seats, respectively, without food and accommodation.

Admission for the above coaching classes will be followed on the basis of Tamil Nadu Government reservation policy and total marks secured in SSLC Examination.

a.	Date of Commencement of Online Application	26.08.2026 (Wednesday)
b.	Last Date for Submission of Online Application	16.09.2026 (Wednesday)

For further details refer to the notification in our website: **www.cecc.in**

Additional Chief Secretary / Director General of Training
DIPR/751/Display/2026

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

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

DRM/ENGG/CKP acting For & On behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Tender Notice No.:** CKP-WEST-26-27-20; **Name of the Work:** Strengthening of all Major/Minor Bridges between Panposh-Jharsuguda Junction under jurisdiction of ADEN/Jharsuguda Junction. (ii) Dismantling of old middle FOB from PF No. 01 to 05 (1.8 m wide) near 2nd class waiting hall at Jharsuguda Junction station. **Tender value:** ₹ 62662855.21; **EMD:**₹ 1253300.00; **Cost of Tender form :** 0.00; **Date of opening :** 11/09/26; The tender can be viewed at Web site **http://www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate ,on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **(PR-656)**

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

भर्ती सूचना / RECRUITMENT NOTICE

भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण (भा.रा.रा.प्रा.) **प्रतिनियुक्ति आधार पर** निम्नलिखित पदों के लिए भर्ती हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है:–

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) invites applications for recruitment to the following posts **on Deputation basis:-**

Name of the post	No.of posts*	Pay Scale
प्रबंधक (विधि) Manager (Legal)	04	पे मैट्रिक्स में लेवल–11 (रु. 67700–208700) Level-11 in the Pay Matrix (Rs.67700-208700)
वरिष्ठ पुस्तकालयाध्यक्ष एवं सूचना अधिकारी Senior Librarian & Information Officer	01	

**पदों की संख्या बढ़ाई या घटाई जा सकती है।*
**Number of posts may increase or decrease.*

2. भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट (**https://www.nhai.gov.in**) पर उपलब्ध विस्तृत विज्ञापन में दी गई प्रक्रिया के अनुसार आवेदक दिनांक **24.09.2026 (सायं 06:00 बजे तक)** ऑनलाइन आवेदन जमा करना सुनिश्चित करें।
The applicant is required to ensure submission of online application as per the procedure indicated in the detailed advertisement, available on NHAI website (**https://www.nhai.gov.in**), by **24.09.2026 (upto 06:00 PM).**
3. आयु सीमा, योग्यता मानदंड, अन्य शर्तों आदि से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट पर देखे जा सकते हैं।
Details regarding age limit, eligibility criteria, other conditions etc. may be accessed on NHAI website.
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/Cancellation to this advertisement, if any, shall be published on NHAI website only.

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

Concept

झारखण्ड सरकार
पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय,गुमला
(दूरभाष–06524–223092,(मो0)9431706376,
E-mail Id- sp-gumla@jhpolice.gov.in

(Search for Missing Person)

Details of the missing person:- Name: Mukta Toppo, Age 14 years, & Current age: 26 years,Height: Approx: 110 cm, Weight: Approx: 40 kg, Hair: Long and black, Eyes: Normal, Complexion: Wheatish, Body build: Average, Clothing at the time of disappearance: White shirt and red frock

A notice is hereby issued to the general public regarding the missing girl Mukta Toppo, who was 14 years old and the daughter of Late Ingenius Toppo, resident of Village Purdi, Police Station Jari, District Gumla (Jharkhand). She has been missing since April 2014 from Delhi. She was last seen in Rohtak, Haryana.In this connection, Ahtu Police Station Case No. 14/21 dated 28.08.2021 has been registered, and efforts are being made to trace her.Aadhaar No.: XXXX-10148-9996 The cooperation of the general public is requested in locating the missing girl. Information provided by any person will be kept strictly confidential.

If anyone has any information regarding Mukta Toppo, please contact the Office of the Superintendent of Police, Gumla, or any of the following numbers:

1. Superintendent of Police, Gumla: 9431706376
2. Deputy Superintendent of Police (HQ), Gumla: 9471182113
3. Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Gumla: 9431706202
4. Officer-in-Charge, AHTU Police Station: 8986604606, 8809624441

PR 388283 Police Wireless Headquarter(26-27).D **Sd/- Superintendent of Police, Gumla.**

In Partnership with TTDC
CASAGRAND building aspirations
THE HINDU GROUP
Presents
Made Of Chennai PHOTO QUIZ
THE HINDU
Co-powered by AU SMALL FINANCE BANK

Known for hits like "Daddy Cool", "Rasputin" and "Rivers of Babylon", which group is pictured performing live in Chennai in November 1997?

Answer to yesterday's Photo quiz:
Museum Theatre

Yesterday's winners:
1. Adithi Teenu
2. Kanmani C
3. Hema Ramya

Scan QR code or visit **newsth.live/MOC2026PA** to take the Photo quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

*T&C apply.

Associate Partners: Andhra Pradesh Tourism, Jmakulam, Orchids The International School, Union Bank, Hindustan Group of Institutions, Toyota, Indian Oil, Akshayakalpa Organic, Licious, Studyin, Airborne
Education Partner | Mobility Partner | Energy Partner | Good Food Partner | Protein Partner | Overseas Education Partner | Gifting Partner

MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE CHENNAI
Government of India Autonomous Body
CFTI, 65/1, G.S.T. Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032
2 DAYS (SATURDAY & SUNDAY) CLASSROOM TRAINING PROGRAMME ON
HOW TO FIND EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES
EXPORT START-UP COURSE
DATES : 29.08.2026 & 30.08.2026 (SATURDAY & SUNDAY DIRECT CLASSES)
TIMINGS: 10.00 A.M. TO 5.00 P.M.
KEY TOPICS COVERED WITH PRACTICAL SESSIONS
- How to Identify Export Potential Products
- Finding Top Importing Countries for your products
- How to find Export Enquiries & Buyer Information Resources
- What are the Incentives Schemes available for Exporters
- How to commence a Export Business & Registrations required

WHO SHOULD ATTEND
- MSME Manufacturers Export aspiring Entrepreneurs
- Export Marketing Managers Documentation Executives
- MBA (International Business)., M.Com., B.Com., Students

COURSE FEE : **Rs.5,900/-** (incl.GST)

TOTAL NUMBER OF SEATS : 25 ONLY (FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS)
For Further Details **www.cftichennai.in E-Mail: msmetdc@cftichennai.in**
Mob : 91504 95272 / 93457 88166 Ph : 044 22501529 Ext : 27
GOVT OF INDIA CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LTD., R. 614.
PUDUKKOTTAI ROAD, KOTTAPATTU, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI - 620 023.
R.C. No. 010681/Engg/26-27 **TENDER NOTICE - (E-SUBMISSION)** Date: 24.08.2026

The Tiruchirappalli Dist. Coop. Milk Producers' Union Ltd., invites TWO PART TENDERS from reputed Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers to undertake the Installation of Automatic Milk pouch stacking and Conveyor System at Trichy Dairy.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money Deposit
1	Installation of Automatic Milk pouch stacking and Conveyor System at Trichy Dairy.	Rs.3,02,000/-
2	Tender document availability **27.08.2026** to **16.09.2026** upto **14.00 hrs.** Downloaded through Online only **http://tntenders.gov.in**	
3	Pre bid meeting date: **03.09.2026** at **3.00 PM**	
4	Submission closing date: **16 .09.2026** at **2.30 PM**	
5	Bid opening date: **16.09.2026** at **3.00 PM** Technical Bid opened through online through e-portal **http://tntenders.gov.in**	

The tenders should submit their bids only through e-procurement portal **http://tntenders.gov.in.** All other details can be seen in the tender documents. Corrigendum /Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.

GENERAL MANAGER,
DIPR/ 2658 /TENDER/2026 **Tiruchirappalli District Co-op. Milk Producers' Union Ltd.,**

ई0 प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल
कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय भवन निर्माण विभाग,भवन प्रमण्डल धनबाद

अल्पकालीन ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट नोटिस
ई–टेन्डर रेफरेन्स नं0 09/2026–27/EE/BCD/DHANBAD

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रू० में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रू० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रू० में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	Renovation and New Construction Work for Utkramit Uchya Vihyalaya, Gendhawadih under Topchanchi Block, Dist. Dhanbad (Part-2)	1,15,92,100.00	2,32,000.00	10,000.00	04 माह।
2	Construction and Renoation of UPG HS at Kamardih, Dhanbad (Part-2)	2,20,02,500.00	4,41,000.00	10,000.00	07 माह।
3	Construction andRenoation of Project +2 High School Manladih Tundi, Dhanbad.	4,99,88,900.00	5,00,000.00	10,000.00	11 माह।
4	Construction and Renoation of UHS Nawatand, Tundi, Dhanbad.	3,93,86,900.00	3,94,000.00	10,000.00	09 माह।
5	Construction and Renovation of Rajkiyakrit +2 High School Govindpur, Dhanbad (Part-2)	1,14,19,600.00	2,29,000.00	10,000.00	04 माह।
6	Construction and Renovation of GS Adivasi HS Yadavpur, Govindpur Dhanbad (Part-2)	2,72,51,000.00	2,73,000.00	10,000.00	08 माह।
7	Construction and Renovation of Utkramit +2 High School Birajpur Govindpur, Dhanbad (Part-2)	1,33,03,200.00	2,67,000.00	10,000.00	04 माह।
8	Construction and Renovation of UPG +2 High School Nagarkiyari Govindpur, Dhanbad. (Part-2)	2,75,45,700.00	2,76,000.00	10,000.00	08 माह।
9	Renovation and New Construction Works for High School (H.S.) Bhuli Nagar, Dhanbad (Part-2)	4,05,44,800.00	4,06,000.00	10,000.00	09 माह।
10	Construction and Renovation Work at Jharia Academy Jharia. (2nd Call)	3,01,22,800.00	3,02,000.00	10,000.00	08 माह।
11	Construction and Renovation Work at DAV H.S. Jharia, Dhanbad. (2nd Call)	2,92,23,800.00	2,93,000.00	10,000.00	08 माह।
12	Renovation and New Constructdion work for U.M.S. Kotaladda Topchanchi School, Dhanbad. (2nd Call)	1,60,52,400.00	3,22,000.00	10,000.00	05 माह।
13	Construction & Renovation of KGBV Tundi, Dhanbad. (2nd Call)	1,64,48,800.00	3,29,000.00	10,000.00	05 माह।
14	Renovation and New Construction Work for Shri Shankar Dayal +2 High School, Rowam, Topchanchi, Dhanbad. (2nd Call)	4,76,60,300.00	4,77,000.00	10,000.00	11 माह।
15	Construction and Renovation of Project Girls HS Tundi, Dhanbad. (2nd Call)	4,68,25,200.00	4,69,000.00	10,000.00	11 माह।

1.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	:–	27.08.2026 03:00 बजे
2.	वेबसाईट में निविदा डालने की अन्तिम तिथि/समय	:–	11.09.2026 03:00 बजे
3.	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	:–	कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग,भवन प्रमण्डल, धनबाद।
4.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि/समय एवं स्थान	:–	12.09.2026 03:30 बजे नोडल पदाधिकारी, ई0 प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड, रॉची।
5.	प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	:–	9973309316
6.	ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल का हेल्पलाईन संख्या	:–	7488650243
7.	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।		
8.	सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी एवं ई–गवर्नेंस विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार के आदेश ज्ञापांक 120 दिनांक 03.10.2023 के द्वारा निर्गत **SOP** (मानक संचालन प्रक्रिया) एवं भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार के पत्रांक 2229 दिनांक 06.10.2023 के आलोक में निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल **Online Mode** द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।		
9.	निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, **SOP** के तहत अग्रधन की राशि उसी खाते में वापसी होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी संपूर्ण जवाबदेही निविदादाता की होगी।		

अन्य किसी भी प्रकार के बदलाव की सूचना **http://jharkhandterders.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है।
Note :- UCAN Registration is mandatory for the Bidders

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, धनबाद

PR 388317 (Building)26-27*D

झारखण्ड सरकार
पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय, गुमला
(दूरभाष–06524–223092,(मो०)9431706376, E-mail Id- sp-gumla@jhpolice.gov.in)

(Search for Missing Person)

Details of the missing person:- Name-:Anju Kumari, Age 17 years, & Current age: 29,Height: Approx. 100 cm, Weight: Approx. 34 kg, Hair: Long and Black, Eyes: Normal, Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Thin, Clothing: White Shirt and Red Skirt.

It is hereby informed to the general public that the victim, Miss Anju Kumari, daughter of Innocious Ekka, resident of Village Farsiyatoli, P.S+District-Gumla (Jharkhand), was last seen in Delhi in 2014 at the age of 17. In connection with this, a General Diary entry No.10/19 dated 27.07.19 has been lodged at P.S. Ahtu and the search is ongoing. Public cooperation is requested for her search. It is necessary to make the above information public. Therefore, all members of the public are requested.

if anyone has any information about the above missing girl, regarding Anju Kumari her identification or whereabouts, please contact the Office of the Superintendent of Police, Gumla, or any of the following numbers:

1.Superintendent of Police, Gumla– 9431706376
2.Deputy Superintendent of Police (HQ), Gumla–9471182113
3.Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Gumla– 9431706202
4.Officer-in-Charge, AHTU P.S., Gumla–8986604506, 8809624441

Sd/- Superintendent of Police Gumla

POLICE HELPLINE (EMERGENCY DIAL)-112 CHILD HELPLINE-1098
WOMEN HELPLINE-1091

PR.NO.388281 Police Wireless Headquarter(26-27):D

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students
PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED

Al-Hira Model School celebrated the spirit of Independence Day with a vibrant Fancy Dress Competition for students of Std. I and II, on the theme 'Viksit Bharat.' The young participants impressed the audience with their creativity, confidence and patriotic spirit. Dressed as futuristic icons, they showcased themes such as Digital India, Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology, Space Exploration, Modern Farming and Innovative Transport. Their enthusiastic presentations reflected India's journey towards progress, innovation, technological advancement and self-reliance, encouraging young learners to express their ideas creatively and envision a progressive, developed and self-reliant India.

ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATED

A.M.M. School celebrated their grand Annual Day with immense radiance and artistic flair, opening with a "Behind the Scenes" video presentation offering a glimpse into months of preparation. Following a Prayer Song and lamp lighting, Head Boy Swaminaathan welcomed Chief Guest Mr. K. Noorul Ameen, Founder of Sana Model School and MD of Admiral Marine Group. Principal Mrs. Mahalakshmi Ramalingam presented the Annual Report, and staff completing 30 years of service received Service Awards. The cultural programme, themed 'Dastan-e-Mughaliya', featured theatrical renditions, a musical Jugalbandi, Sufi dances and Qawwali. Head Girl Kayyal delivered the Vote of Thanks.

THEATRE FEST 'SPOTLIGHT' HELD

Union Christian Mat HSS, Chetpet, hosted their inter-school theatre fest, "Spotlight," bringing together talents through spoken-word poetry, mono-acting and group drama, giving young performers a platform to showcase their creativity and confidence. Mr. Kartik Anantha Subramanian, Executive Producer at JioHotstar, inaugurated the event, while the valedictory function was graced by Janaki Sabesh, a well-known personality in theatre and films, who added a special touch to the concluding ceremony. The festival lived up to its name, shining a light on remarkable talent and giving every performer a moment centre stage.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Subramaniam P: Handphone:+91 98408 98088 | Email: subramaniam.p@thehindu.co.in

INBRIEF

'Do not publicise issues to be raised under Rules 55 and 56'

Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar on Monday directed the members of the House and the media not to publicise notices given in writing under Rule 55 of the Assembly Rules and motions for adjournment under Rule 56 until they are admitted by him. He said some members, after submitting written notices to the Speaker and the Assembly Secretary on issues they sought to raise, were releasing them to the media. "They also post them on their X pages and other social media accounts. This is not allowed under Rule 36(5)," he said.

Lack of announcement on regularisation upsets teachers

The Part Time Teachers Association has expressed disappointment over the absence of an announcement by School Education Minister Rajmohan on the long-pending demand for regularisation of the teachers. "The hopes of thousands of part-time teachers who were waiting for an announcement on the promise made in the TVK's manifesto have not been fulfilled," it said. Referring to the announcement that new teachers will be appointed through examinations for the 2,700 vacant physical education teacher posts, it said, "Over 3,500 physical education teachers have been working part-time for the past 15 years. This raises the fear that this government has abandoned us."

Vault-like enclosures to be set up at 107 CEmONC centres in T.N. for gold ring scheme

With the scheme all set to be launched on September 15, the Health Secretary has asked the Public Works Department to expedite and complete the work on or before September 5

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Vault-like storage facilities will have to be set up at 107 high-load Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) centres to guard the one-gram gold rings meant for newborns under Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay's *Thaimaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam*.

The State Health Secretary has written to the Engineer-in-Chief and Chief Engineer (Buildings), Public Works Department (PWD) to put in place safety enclosures for the storage facilities at these centres. With the scheme all set to be launched on September 15, the PWD has been asked to expedite and complete the works on or before September 5.

The proposed setup includes steel grill enclosures for the steel bureau/storage cupboards, cupboards anchored to the floor and wall, and lockable gates to ensure the safe custody of the gold rings.

Gift for newborns: Under the scheme, a one-gram gold ring will be provided to every eligible newborn born in government health institutions through a network of 107 high-load CEmONC centres.

An approved model of the grill layout around the steel cupboard, along with specifications, has been shared with the PWD.

Under the scheme, a one-gram gold ring will be provided to every eligible baby born in government health institutions through a network of 107 high-load CEmONC centres.

The Health Secretary listed several measures to ensure the safe custody of the gold rings at these hub institutions. These included a secure, restricted storage room surrounded by buildings on three sides, sealed windows, and a cupboard firmly anchored to the floor and wall using cement/concrete. The cupboard is also to be enclosed with metal grills on three sides.

Listing the technical specifications, the communication said the safety enclosure for the steel bureau/storage cupboard should be made using mild steel square rods. The enclosure will cover the top and two sides, while the front will have an openable mild steel grill gate. The structure will be securely fixed using mild steel flats, with proper welding and finishing. The cupboard will also be anchored to a reinforced cement concrete bed to ensure stability.

The Health Secretary requested the PWD to fix the mild steel grill gate around the storage cupboard at all 107 institutions as per the approved design and specifications.

The work may be taken up on priority and completed at the earliest to ensure safe custody of the gold rings and facilitate uninterrupted implementation of the scheme, the official said.

The Health Secretary requested the PWD to issue instructions to all district-level PWD engineers/divisional engineers to coordinate with the respective medical college hospitals, district headquarters hospitals, and sub-district hospitals.

Doctors' association flags high cost of logistics, security

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Gold custody, armed security, and bullion logistics are not core competencies of a Health Department, a government doctors' association has pointed out, questioning the administrative burden and cost involved in implementing the *Thaimaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam*.

In a district-level costing of the proposed hub-and-spoke model, the Service Doctors and Post Graduates Association (SDPGA) said the hospital-based arrangement could cost roughly three times the State-wide administrative norm prescribed in the Government Order, factoring in the expenses for dedicated vaults, armed security posts, and armoured transport.

The association recommended that the scheme be delivered through a bank channel – either direct disbursal against a PICME (Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation)-linked entitlement certificate or bank-run logistics under a Memorandum of Understanding using the infrastructure that banks already operate for their own bullion, currency-chest, and cash-in-transit business.

According to the G.O., the State government had allocated ₹750.83 crore – ₹17,000 each for 4,41,667 deliveries – for procurement of one-gram gold rings. An administrative cost at 0.66% of the total budget – five crore – was sanctioned for the scheme. The administrative cost included monitoring, transport, evaluation, consumables, software, and hardware.

In a letter to the Health Secretary, SDPGA president P. Saminathan said the G.O. envisages a hub-and-spoke framework under which government hospitals take custody of, secure, and physically transport gold rings from hub centres to spoke delivery points for handing them over to beneficiaries. At the district level, the Health Department had to build a parallel bullion-security apparatus that had nothing to do with clinical care, he said.

Earlier, the Revenue Department implemented the *Thalikku Thangam Scheme* through a bank model, and the same can be brought in for the gold ring scheme," he said.

Will not conduct bypolls to five constituencies until disposal of election petitions, EC tells HC

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Election Commission of India (EC) on Monday informed the Madras High Court that it does not intend to notify byelections to the Tiruchi East, Perundurai, Ambasamudram, Viralimalai, and Karur Assembly constituencies until the disposal of election petitions with respect to these five constituencies.

The submission was made in a counter-affidavit filed before the first Division Bench of Chief Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and Justice G. Arul Murugan in response to a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed by K. Venkatachalapathy of Tirunelveli through his counsel V.R. Shanmuganathan.

Filing the counter-affidavit through EC standing counsel Niranjan Rajagopalan, Tamil Nadu's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Archana Patnaik said: "The commission does not propose to announce or notify bye-elections until the election petitions challenging the election of the returned candidates in the five constituencies are decided."

The Bench adjourned the writ petition to September 8, and extended until then an interim order passed by it on July 10, restraining the EC from notifying bypolls to the five constituencies.

Explaining the reasons for the decision, the CEO said the Supreme Court had, in *Sanjeevayya versus The Election Tribunal, Andhra Pradesh* (1967), held that the EC was not bound to hold a byelection to a constituency if an election petitioner had sought to declare himself/herself as the returned candidate.

The top court had held that if an election petitioner had not just challenged the victory of the returned candidate, but had also moved an application, under Section 84 of the Representation of the People Act of 1951, to declare himself/herself as a returned candidate, the conduct of a byelection to such a constituency before the disposal of the election petition may give rise to competing claims to the same seat.

Thereafter, in 1996, Parliament inserted Section 151-A to the RP Act of 1951, prescribing a timeline of six months from the date on which the vacancy arises, for the conduct of byelections. However, the newly inserted provision came up for consideration before the Supreme Court in *Election Commission of India versus Telangana Rashtra Samithi* (2010).

1967 verdict

The top court, after considering the 1967 verdict in the Sanjeevayya case, had expressly held that Section 151-A of the Act could not be interpreted so as to render Section 84 ineffective, and that both provisions must be construed harmoniously. "Hence, a constituency in which an election petition seeking a declaration under Section 84 is already pending, is not available for bye-election on occurrence of a casual vacancy," the counter-affidavit read.

The CEO also brought to the notice of the court that Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, S. Jeyakumar, E. Subaya alias Esakki Subaya, C. Vijayabaskar, and M.R. Vijayabhaskar had got elected from the Tiruchi East, Perundurai, Ambasamudram, Viralimalai, and Karur Assembly constituencies in May 2026, but all of them had subsequently submitted their resignations.

Nevertheless, since election petitions had been filed with respect to all five constituencies, and the petitioners had also sought to declare themselves as the returned candidates, the EC does not intend to conduct byelections to these constituencies, the court was told.

After taking the counter-affidavit on file, the Chief Justice's Bench adjourned the writ petition to September 8, 2026, and extended until then an interim order passed by it on July 10, 2026, restraining the EC from notifying bypolls to the five seats.

Dhinakaran calls upon rebel AIADMK leaders to exercise restraint

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

AMMK general secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran on Monday urged senior AIADMK rebel functionaries S.P. Velumani, C.Ve. Shanmugam, and Natham R. Viswanathan not to make public their observations regarding internal issues of their organisation. "Otherwise, this will boomerang on them," Mr. Dhinakaran told journalists in Thanjavur.

Referring to the demand of the dissident leaders for the reinstatement of those who had been relieved of their party positions after having gone against the party line during the trust motion proposed by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay in May, Mr. Dhinakaran recalled that he had discussed the matter with AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, who explained to him that it would not be proper for him to reinstate those who did not follow the party's direction. Besides, such a move would generate a great deal of heartburn among those who had been made the new office-bearers, he said.

The AMMK leader clarified that there was no motive behind his support for Mr. Palaniswami on the matter. He also criticised Revenue Minister K.A. Sengottaiyan, who was with the AIADMK till November last, for having reportedly made negative remarks about the future of the Dravidian major. He also criticised the TVK-led regime for having fixed an annual income limit for beneficiaries to become eligible for the free cooking gas cylinder scheme. "He [Chief Minister and TVK leader C. Joseph Vijay] should have told the people about the eligibility conditions at the time of the poll campaign," Mr. Dhinakaran added.

PWD surveys govt. school and college buildings

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Public Works Department (PWD) has taken up a survey of 6,620 buildings belonging to government schools and colleges to check out their stability and take steps to restore and repair them, Minister for Public Works Aadhav Arjuna told the Assembly on Monday.

The survey, which began about a month ago, will lead to the creation of a centralised database of these buildings, and the data will be fed to a dashboard. Of these buildings, 6,279 belonged to government high and higher secondary schools, 177 belonged to government arts and science colleges, 11 government engineering colleges, 55 polytechnic colleges, and 98 Industrial Training Institutes.

The survey, which can take about two more months to be completed, will classify the buildings into three categories based on a stability check. The red category will mean the building is unfit for use and classrooms must be shifted immediately. The yellow tag means the buildings require immediate repairs and the green tag will mean the buildings do not have issues of stability and may be used for the next five years or so.

Mr. Arjuna said no report highlighting the status of the buildings of government educational institutions had been prepared in the past.

HC dismisses petitions for CBI investigation into fraudulent registration of Palani math land

B. Tilak Chandar
MADURAI

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Monday dismissed the petitions for a CBI probe into the case of fraudulent registration of Palani math land. A Division Bench of Justices C.V. Karthikeyan and R. Sakthivel took note of the CB-CID's status report on the progress of the investigation.

The report said 16 special teams had conducted searches at as many locations across six districts. A total of 207 documents, 12 mobile phones, three laptops, and eight other electronic devices including one hard disk, one DVR and six CPUs, audio records, and cash were seized. Six mobile phones were obtained through production memos.

As of now, 115 witnesses had been examined, including government officials. A total of 49 records from the Registration Department, 36 records from the Revenue Department, 23 banking records, and 62 call detail records and Internet Protocol Detail Records (IPDRs) had been seized. They had to be analysed. Furthermore, the CB-CID officers seized 55 records relating to the property, its administration, and the previous proceedings. They also seized CCTV footage from relevant locations, call details records, and IPDRs and were analysing the communications and banking transactions.

The court said that as the probe was still going on, it would not express any opinion. It dismissed the petitions of former Palani MLA K.S.N. Venugopalu Senapathi of the AIADMK, chairperson of Palani Municipality R. Uma Maheshwari Pradeep, and Annapoorani Sivakumar. It directed the CB-CID to proceed further.

Meanwhile, Justice K. Murali Shankar reserved orders on the bail petitions of three accused: Suspended Sub-Registrar Justin Manikandan Subramanian, and K. Vellathurai of Tiruppur and D. Sethupathi of Palani, the land buyers.

Stalin moves Madras High Court to declare him elected from Kolathur constituency

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

DMK president M.K. Stalin has filed a writ petition in the Madras High Court, seeking 100% counting of VVPAT slips of the Kolathur Assembly constituency, and consequently to declare him as the returned candidate after nullifying the election of TVK MLA V.S. Babu.

Though Article 329(b) of the Constitution states that no election to Parliament or a State legislature could be called into question except by way of an election petition, the petitioner said his writ petition would be maintainable since he was only challenging the post-result administrative/technical process of EVM/VVPAT checking and verification.

M.K. Stalin

Mr. Stalin said the Supreme Court had, in its 2024 judgment in *Association for Democratic Reforms versus Election Commission of India*, permitted either the runner-up or the third place holder in a parliamentary/Assembly election to make a request for checking and verification of the burnt memory/microcontroller in 5% of the EVMs by a team of engineers from the EVM manufacturers.

In the 2026 Assembly polls, the petitioner stood second, securing 74,202 votes, and was declared to have lost to Mr. Babu, who had secured 82,997 votes. Hence, he made an application on May 7 for verifying 14 (5%) of the 286 EVM sets used in the Kolathur constituency.

Though the application was made within three days of the declaration of the election results on May 4, the verification process began only on July 29.

Informing the court that he had appointed senior counsel N.R. Elango as his representative for the verification process, Mr. Stalin said one of the VVPAT units had stopped working during the mock poll and began displaying an error on July 30. He complained that another VVPAT unit also stopped working during the verification process that continued on July 31.

Stating that Mr. Elango had on August 4 requested election officials for verification of EVM sets from six additional polling stations, the petitioner added that on August 5, another "alarming irregularity" came to light when one of the ballot units bearing his name was unable to detect the control unit.

Without addressing the serious lapses, the District Election Officer passed an order on August 5, declaring that the verification process had been concluded successfully, he said.

Correction

In the photo caption of the report 'DMK's regional satraps among 22 who will lose district secretary post', in the edition dated August 24, 2026, M.K. Stalin should have been mentioned as former Chief Minister and not as published.

Raise proportionate quantity issue with CWMA, SC tells T.N.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The shortfall of water as per the *pro rata* formula was 17.414 tmc ft, T.N. said. FILE PHOTO

The Supreme Court advised the Tamil Nadu government on Monday to take up its contention that it was yet to be given the "proportionate" quantity of Cauvery water due from Karnataka with the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

Appearing before a Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath, senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan, for Tamil Nadu, submitted that the "Cauvery Water Management Authority is not giving directions to make up the proportionate quantity I (Tamil Nadu) must receive".

Then Tamil Nadu must raise the issue with the CWMA itself, Justice Nath said, adding that "here the issue was about Karnataka not giving you water at all".

"As of morning, we have got some water. It was in deficit yesterday," Mr. Vaidyanathan said.

The shortfall of water as per the *pro rata* formula was 17.414 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) as of August 23, senior advocate G. Umapathy, for Tamil Nadu, said. "Today, they have about 78 TMC in the reservoirs," the lawyer said.

Hearing on August 31

The court noted Mr. Vaidyanathan's submission that the CWMA was meeting on August 25 and the State would raise the issue before the authority. The court sought an updated report and posted the case for further hearing on August 31.

An affidavit filed by Karnataka in the court recently had submitted that the State was able to overcome the challenges of a distress year and worsening El Nino conditions to ensure the supply of water from its Kabini reservoir due to large inflows following good rainfall.

"The releases from the KRS (Krishna Raja Sagara) and Kabini reservoirs have already been reflected at the inter-State border at Biligundlu," Karnataka had maintained in the affidavit.

However, Tamil Nadu had filed an additional affidavit in the Supreme Court recently, arguing that Karnataka's release of water was "never voluntary compliance".

Previously, on August 3, Tamil Nadu had urged the court to direct the CWMA to issue appropriate directions to Karnataka to make good, on a *pro rata* basis, the shortfall at the inter-State point of Billigundulu for the period from June 1 to August 12.

Denial of nod for U.S. trip an insult to Telangana: Revanth

Move reflects discrimination against State, he says, adds that it was an effort to rob investments from Telangana in favour of Gujarat; the CM denies reports of plan to meet New York Mayor

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

> If the Gujarat Chief Minister can travel to the U.S. and Canada to promote Vibrant Gujarat 2047, why was the visit of the Telangana Chief Minister denied when it was proposed for similar purposes
>
> **REVANTH REDDY**
> Telangana Chief Minister

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday termed the Centre's refusal to grant political clearance for his proposed visit to the U.S. an insult to Telangana.

He alleged that the decision reflected discrimination against the State, and was an effort to rob investments from Telangana in favour of Gujarat.

The Ministry of External Affairs, which had been approached by the State government for clearance for the Chief Minister's official visit to the U.K. and the U.S., approved only the U.K. leg of the tour.

The MEA cited denial of clearance from the "political angle."

Mr. Reddy said the State government had provided detailed information to the Centre about the purpose and objectives of his proposed foreign visit. "If the proposal of a Chief Minister is rejected without properly reviewing the information, can such a decision be taken without the knowledge of the Prime Minister," he asked presspersons here after his return from the U.K. leg of the trip on Monday.

He questioned the Centre's approach by citing the foreign visits of Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. "If the Gujarat Chief Minister can travel to the U.S. and Canada to promote Vibrant Gujarat 2047, why was the visit of the Telangana Chief Minister denied when it was proposed for similar purposes under Telangana Rising 2047," he asked.

Rejecting rumours of his scheduled meeting with New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani, Mr. Reddy said no such appointment was fixed. "Mr. Mamdani is not an antisocial element. He is an elected mayor," the Chief Minister added.

Mr. Reddy said Telangana should not be treated as a lesser State. He added that his government would continue with Telangana Rising 2047 programme.

BJP accuses Karnataka government of 'double standard' over Adani Group

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP on Monday accused the Congress government in Karnataka of "double standard", alleging that it had rolled out the "red carpet" for Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani in the State, while the Congress leadership in Delhi portrayed him as a "BJP agent".

Leading the BJP protest in the Legislative Assembly, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok alleged that the government had "surrendered" to Mr. Adani by passing the Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which allows up to 5% of park and garden land to be sold, leased, gifted, exchanged or mortgaged for public utility projects.

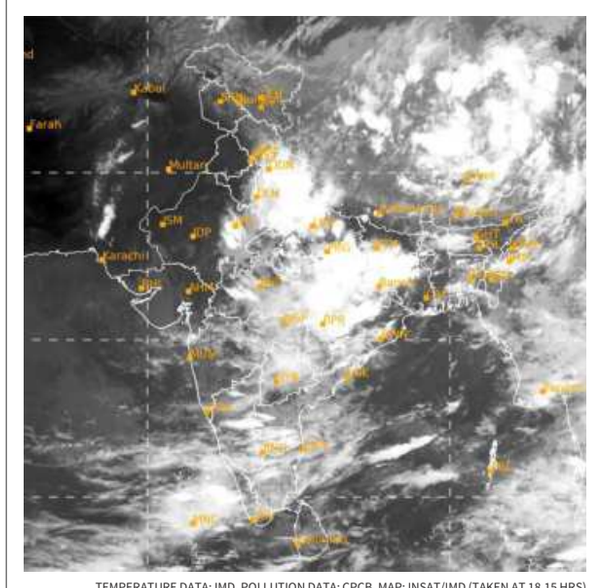
Mr. Ashok claimed the amendment was aimed at facilitating the proposed 17.1-km Bengaluru North-South Twin Tunnel Road, connecting Hebbal with the Central Silk Board Junction, and alleged that the Adani Group was set to execute the project.

Mr. Adani's name was repeatedly raised during the BJP's protest, which was primarily aimed at demanding the resignation of Minister B. Nagendra over his alleged role in the embezzlement of funds in the Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation. Speaking to reporters later, Mr. Ashok accused the D.K. Shivakumar government of trying to "take over parks and garden land" in Bengaluru.

Meanwhile, amid the Opposition protests, as many as 10 Bills were tabled and passed by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly and Council without debate, including the Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) (Amendment) Bill.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



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

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.6	32.7	25.8	Kurnool	2	32.0	25.2
Ahmedabad	0.2	34.3	26.7	Lucknow	3	33.9	26.4
Aizawl	40	32.0	23.5	Madurai	—	37.0	26.6
Bengaluru	4.1	27.5	20.8	Mangaluru	19.5	27.4	24.1
Bhopal	42	29.3	23.0	Mumbai	9	31.7	25.0
Bhubaneswar	23	31.6	25.0	Mysuru	10	29.0	20.0
Chandigarh	31.5	32.0	24.4	New Delhi	3	32.3	27.8
Chennai	31	32.7	26.0	Patna	—	34.5	28.5
Coimbatore	—	30.7	22.4	Port Blair	15	29.4	24.5
Dehradun	—	32.8	24.0	Prayagraj	29.6	32.2	27.0
Gangtok	0.8	22.8	18.8	Puducherry	—	34.5	25.5
Goa	17	32.0	25.2	Pune	—	28.2	23.7
Guwahati	0.4	34.5	26.7	Raipur	82.8	30.0	24.0
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Ranchi	14	28.2	23.0
Hyderabad	4.4	25.8	22.9	Shillong	2	25.4	18.4
Imphal	—	30.7	23.5	Shimla	â	28.0	18.8
Jaipur	—	33.8	27.3	Srinagar	—	30.5	16.4
Kochi	22	27.6	24.0	Thiruvananthapuram	24	31.2	23.4
Kohima	—	26.0	20.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	38.3	28.0
Kolkata	11	31.7	27.5	Vijayawada	—	31.2	26.9
Kozhikode	20	27.3	24.7	Visakhapatnam	3.5	31.7	26.8

(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	8	40	.57	51	108	
Bengaluru	24	8	.12	85	98	
Chennai	5	8	.40	12	149	
Delhi	.33	41	117	259	226	
Hyderabad	.12	.12	.34	37	57	
Kolkata	5	.29	.38	42	82	
Lucknow	7	.20	.33	41	41	
Mumbai	.10	.40	.25	23	55	
Pune	.12	.16	.74	29	66	
Visakhapatnam	.18	.59	.23	34	81	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Leh, Ladakh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 187 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

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

INBRIEF

Keralam approves SOP for euthanasia of rabid stray dogs

The Keralam government has approved standard operating procedures (SOP) for euthanising rabid, incurably ill or demonstrably dangerous stray dogs. The SOP, approved recently, relies on the Supreme Court's order in May this year allowing euthanasia in such cases. A stray dog management committee, which will be formed in every local body, will bear the responsibility of deciding whether mercy killing has to be done. The committee, which will have the local body chairperson as its head and the secretary as the convener, will include the respective ward councillor and veterinary officer, among others.

A.P. Home Minister injured as drone battery falls on her

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha suffered a minor injury to her right hand when a battery from a low-flying drone fell on her hand while she was on the dais during the inauguration of the State-level 'Amaravati Championship 2026' at Tarakarama Grounds of S.V. University in Tirupati on Monday. District Superintendent of Police L. Subbarayudu immediately stepped in to provide first aid to the Minister. She completed her speech with a bandage on her hand.

Panel orders Apple to pay ₹1.09 lakh for faulty iPhone

A District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Keralam has ordered Apple and its authorised service centre to pay ₹1.09 lakh to a consumer over several defects found in an iPhone 14 Plus during the warranty period. The order came on a complaint from a Malappuram resident, who bought the phone and charger for ₹92,250 in 2023 for his son's online classes. The phone got excessively heated up and its camera was faulty. Despite several visits to a service centre, the defects were not resolved, he said.

Consider plea for reduction in NEET-SS cut-off: SC to Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to consider a plea by Tamil Nadu Medical Officers Association seeking reduction of cut-off or qualifying percentile for NEET Speciality seats for in-service government doctors.

A Bench heard senior advocate P. Wilson, for the association, on an application seeking directions to the Centre to return 100% of the unfilled in-service seats to the State. The Centre had submitted that out of the 152 seats transferred by Tamil Nadu, approximately 40 seats continued to remain vacant. Mr. Wilson said that the entire 40 in-service seats must be returned to the State, as 111 candidates were awaiting a reduction in the qualifying percentile.

Subsequently, the court turned to the Centre to take a call on whether the qualifying percentile for Super Speciality admissions should be reduced. It posted the case for further hearing on August 31.

U.S. Ambassador visits Tata Lockheed Martin aerospace facility in Hyderabad

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Boosting ties: U.S. envoy Sergio Gor during his visit to the Tata Lockheed Martin facility in Hyderabad on Monday. X/@USAMBINDIA

U.S. Ambassador Sergio Gor visited the Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures Limited facility in Hyderabad on Monday, underscoring the growing U.S.-India partnership and expanding cooperation in aerospace and defence manufacturing.

In a statement, the firm said that during the visit, Mr. Gor toured the production line manufacturing empennages for the C-130J Super Hercules aircraft.

The facility reflects the integration of Indian industry into the global aerospace supply chain and Tata Advanced Systems Limited's (TASL) long-standing partnership with Lockheed Martin, it said.

"The production in India of critical structures for the C-130J, a platform operated by both our nations, is a strong example of the growing industrial and defence cooperation between the United States and India," Mr. Gor said.

He added that such partnerships create high-skilled jobs, strengthen resilient supply chains and support a free, open and secure Indo-Pacific.

The visit comes as TASL and Lockheed Martin seek to expand their partnership to meet India's recently released Medium Transport Aircraft requirement. Lockheed Martin said the joint venture has an established capability to produce and scale aerospace manufacturing to support the MTA competition.

Krishna water only for drinking, not for irrigation: panel

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The three-member committee of the Krishna River Management Board that met here on Monday decided to share the water available in the two joint storage facilities – Srisailam and Nagarjunasagar – only to meet the drinking water needs of the people of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and not for irrigation.

The decision comes in the wake of El Nino conditions and poor inflow into the dams.

However, no decision was taken on the ratio of water to be availed by the two member-States. It was decided to meet again on September 4 to decide the water sharing ratio to meet drinking water needs till the next June-July.

The meeting was attended by Member-Secretary of the river board and chairman of the panel, Satish Kamboj and others.

As of 6 pm on Monday, the storage in Srisailam was 166.7 tmc ft against its full capacity of 215.8 tmc ft and that in Nagarjunasagar was 178.3 tmc ft against its full capacity of 312 tmc ft.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

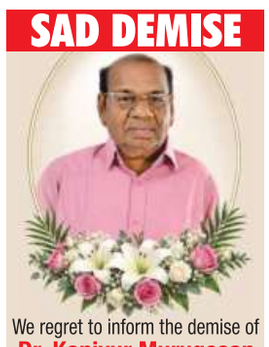
Meenakshi Krishnaswamy
29.08.1929 - 23.08.2026
Wife of late **KS Krishnaswamy**, mother of **KK Srinivasan, Uma Ramadoss and Shubha Ramakrishnan** passed away peacefully in Chennai.
She will be dearly missed by family and friends.
For condolences contact:
9884154431, 9884013049

SAD DEMISE

Mrs. ATHILAKSHMI IYASUNDARAM (ITO RETD)
"With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Mrs Athilakshmi, Age - 92 Y, who passed away on 23.08.2026 at House no 24/40, Srinivasa Nagar, Koyambedu , Chennai - 600107.
Phone no - 9428330540

DEATH

SAD DEMISE


We regret to inform the demise of
Dr. Kaniyur Murugesan Selvaraj
Professor (Retd.)
Madras Veterinary College
on 22nd August 2026.
As per his wishes, his mortal remains have been donated to Madras Medical College.
Deeply Mourned by:
Wife: **Sriranjani**
Daughter:
Dr. Thenral Mangadu (USA)
Son in-law: **Naren**
Son: **M.S. Illankumaran**
Daughter in-law:
Shanmugapriya
Granddaughters:
Divya, Aparna, Preethi and Meena.
✆ 97102 47597

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

10th Anniversary
IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Dr.J.UMA MAHESHWARI I.A.S.(R)
D.O.B:15.10.1954 - D.O.D:25.08.2016
TIME MOVES BUT YOUR MEMORIES ARE ALWAYS WITH US
A.GANESH KUMAR & FAMILY
Ph:8861005866

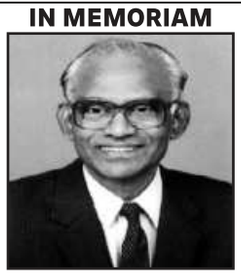
FOURTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
In all things God works for the good of those who love Him
Romans 8:28

KAREN PRARTHANA
06.11.1993 - 25.08.2022
Our special child, God's gift to us, completed her purpose and now rests in His everlasting care.
Joan, Mohanraj Pandian & Family

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

PALLAVI VENKATARAMA Iyer & M.V. Gopal Ever in our Hearts – Mali & Fly.

IN MEMORIAM


A.R.DAMODARAN
14.12.1927 - 25.08.2019
"Whatever a great person does, other people emulate. Whatever he sets as a standard, the people follow." - Gita 3:21
Former MLC
(Graduates Constituency)
Former President
Federation of
All India Petroleum Traders
Founder President
Tamilnadu Petroleum
Dealers Association
Founder, ARLM School, Cuddalore.
Fondly Remembered By
Family

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Prof.N.Bakthavathsalu
Retd. Prof. of History,
Pachaiyappa's College
01.07.1938 - 25.08.2025
Forever in our hearts
Family, Relatives and Friends

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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Invisible actors

The ECI must stop filing of bulk applications for deletion of voters

The Election Commission of India (ECI)'s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has seen allegations of bulk filing of applications seeking to delete voters' names from draft lists using Form 7 in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and, more recently Uttarakhand. Ground reports by *The Hindu* from Karnataka, Rajasthan and Gujarat noted that these forms were often filed in bulk fraudulently using names of people who were unaware of the filing. In several instances, hundreds of objections were filed under a single person's name. Form 7 is filed to object to an existing name – or to request its deletion – on the electoral rolls for reasons such as death, shifting, or ineligibility. The ECI's Booth Level Officer or the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) has to conduct an inquiry on the application and issue a notice to the voter before taking any action. While Booth Level Agents (BLA) of political parties can file up to 10 Form 7s a day, totalling 30, there is no limit on how many forms an individual registered as a voter from the same constituency can submit. To prevent misuse, the ECI has said that if a person files more than five objections, it will trigger a mandatory review by the ERO to ensure the legitimacy of the claims.

The Opposition parties have alleged that the form was being misused through "systemic and coordinated efforts" to delete names of eligible voters and embolden the BJP's efforts to wrongfully gain electoral advantage. In the case of Uttarakhand, the Congress has alleged that the manner in which the bulk forms were submitted online pointed to "institutional" access being granted to some in the process. These parties have also sent delegations and submitted representations to the ECI. What is important to note is that in most cases, voters were unaware that applications for deletion of their names had been filed at all, leaving it to workers of political parties active in the constituency to bring it to their notice. According to ECI data, for the third phase of the SIR covering 16 States/three Union Territories there are 3,42,409 BLAs of political parties for an electorate of 36,73,87,831 or one BLA for approximately 1,073 voters. These numbers include agents from ruling and Opposition parties. In such a situation, it is incumbent upon the ECI to step in and protect the voting rights of an individual rather than leave it to the grassroot strength of political parties. The ECI should thus take immediate steps to address this concern. Abnormal patterns should be investigated and the process should be monitored, with a uniform, countrywide Standard Operating Procedure, requiring verification of identity and constituency of the objector and the following of due process before any elector is deleted pursuant to a Form 7.

Perfect host

India was successful as a host of badminton World Championships

The 2026 BWF World Championships in New Delhi marked the rise of France as an on-court force and of India as a capable host. Alex Lanier's triumph in singles, and Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue's in mixed doubles, were the first golds in France's history. It was just over three months ago that the European nation finished a worthy runner-up to China in the Thomas Cup, the de facto World Cup in badminton. The Worlds success has established France as a serious contender in a sport otherwise dominated by Asian countries. In fact, Lanier is just the third non-Asian this century – after Spain's Carolina Marin and Denmark's Viktor Axelsen – to win the singles gold at the World Championships. The 21-year-old did that at a spruced-up Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, which was in the dock earlier in January when pigeons and monkeys intruded into the arena during the India Open. The massive facelift ensured that the marquee event's return to India after 17 years would be long remembered. An Se-Young will also go back with happy memories after reclaiming the women's singles crown from three-time titlist Akane Yamaguchi. The victory extended the 24-year-old reigning Olympic champion's stellar 2026, during which she has won an Uber Cup gold medal, and the individual and team trophies at the Badminton Asia Championships.

For India, the competition was the 12th straight edition where it secured at least one medal, with Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly bagging a bronze in women's doubles. The performance is the latest in a series of good outcomes for Indian badminton after an ordinary 2025, where Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's World Championships doubles bronze was the best result. This year, Lakshya Sen reached the All England Open final, and Ayush Shetty at the Badminton Asia Championships. P.V. Sindhu's victory at the Japan Open Super 750 last month was only her second Tour title in the last four years, and there were also triumphs for Satwiksairaj and Chirag at Singapore Open Super 750, and for Devika Sihag, Tanvi Sharma and Ashmita Chaliha at the Super 300 level. Yet, the feeling is unmistakable that India should have done better at a home World Championships, with Lakshya's second-round defeat to the unheralded American teenager Garret Tan the most disappointing. There is no questioning the 25-year-old's capability; he is a World Championships bronze medallist, a two-time All England finalist and finished an agonising fourth at the Paris 2024 Olympics. But no Indian men's singles player has won an elite BWF Super 1000-level title since K. Srikanth in 2017. A swift end to this drought is essential for the overall health of the sport.

Labour rights beyond the shadow of BWSSB

V. Gopala Gowda

Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India

Maitreyi Krishnan

Practising advocate

On August 20, 2026, the Supreme Court of India delivered its judgment on the Reference made on the correctness of the judgment in *Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board vs A. Rajappa* (*BWSSB*), 1978, particularly the test for determining whether an activity falls within the definition of "industry" under Section 2(j) of the Industrial Disputes (ID) Act, 1947. A brief history of the Reference. In *State of U.P. vs Jai Bir Singh (2005), 5 SCC 1*, a five-judge Bench referred the seven-judge Bench decision in *BWSSB* for reconsideration. A seven-judge Bench was constituted and, by order dated January 2, 2017, referred the matter to a nine-judge Bench. By order dated February 16 2026, the nine-Judge Bench framed four questions concerning the correctness of the test in *BWSSB*, the impact of the 1982 Amendment and the Industrial Relations Code (IRC), 2020, whether government welfare activities count as "industrial activities," and the scope of "sovereign functions" under Section 2(j).

By the time the questions were framed, the IRC, 2020 had been brought into force from November 21, 2025, also repealing the ID Act, 1947. By virtue of this repeal, the Reference had effectively been rendered otiose. Even so, the nine-judge Bench proceeded to hear the matter.

Judges and reactions

Of the nine judges, Justice D. Datta and Justice U. Bhuyan held that "the reference requires no answer". Justice B.V. Nagarathna found the exercise "unnecessary and only academic in nature". Justice P.S. Narasimha held that "an authoritative interpretation of the definition industry' was compelling at the time of the Reference", but "such a determination has now become unnecessary, with the repeal of the said provision.".

Importantly, even the opinion written by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) for four judges acknowledges this. Even as it sought to re-formulate the Triple Test laid down by *BWSSB*, it describes its reformulation of the Triple Test as merely "hypothetical", and expressly states that it will not apply to any pending case. The ID Act has been repealed, and there can be no future cases under it either. Even the reformulated test framed by four judges was prospective and would not alter pending disputes, which would continue to be governed by the *BWSSB* framework, and since the ID Act, 1947 has been repealed, there can be no future cases under it.

The four questions framed on February 16, 2026 concern only Section 2(j) of the ID Act. The interpretation of Section 2(p) of the IRC was not before the Court.

The CJI, writing for four judges, recognises that the IRC "is an independent legislative enactment and must be interpreted on its own terms, having regard to its text, scheme, and object". At the same time, the same opinion says, in view of the reformulated Triple Test in their opinion, the principles laid down in *BWSSB* shall not be regarded as the "sheet anchor for the interpretation of the IRC should such a question arise in the future". While on the one hand it refuses to construe a provision, in the same breath it rules on how *BWSSB*, as a precedent, may not be used to construe it. This in itself is a form of construing it, and is an attempt to police the tools available for a future interpretive exercise.

Justice Narasimha also says that it is important to ensure that the interpretation of the definition of "Industry" under the IRC "is not burdened by the existing interpretations" under the ID Act, 1947. Justice Nagarathna's opinion on this issue is important. While affirming the judgment in *BWSSB*, she recognised that the extent to which its reasoning carries over to the interpretation of "industry" under the IRC is to be tested by comparing the actual text of the two provisions. Such a comparison can be meaningfully undertaken only in a case arising under Section 2(p), and not in the abstract.

The interpretation of the definition of industry under the IRC cannot be seen in abstract and would have to be understood in light of the rich jurisprudence that has developed with *BWSSB* and after.

The importance of BWSSB

There is a deeper thread – an anxiety about the judgment in *BWSSB*, which needs to be addressed. This anxiety is what gave rise to the Reference itself. The five-Judge Bench in *Jai Bir Singh* (2005) questioned the correctness of *BWSSB*, observing that its "worker-oriented approach" was "unmindful of the interests of the employer or owner of the industry".

This finds an echo in the CJI's opinion. Having hypothetically reformulated the tests in *BWSSB*, and having stated that *BWSSB* shall not be regarded as the sheet anchor for the interpretation of the IRC, the opinion of the CJI, for four judges, speaks of the judgment finally lifting a "burden" and permitting the law to "move forward unencumbered".

This again finds echo in the judgment of Justice Narasimha, who states that the interpretation of the definition of "industry" under the IRC, 2020 "must be freed of the bondage of ratio" in *BWSSB*. In this light, it is essential to recognise what "burden" of *BWSSB* causes such anxiety.

There can be no dispute about the asymmetry between capital and labour, or the imbalance in their respective bargaining power. Justice Bagchi recognises this when he reminds us that one must always "bear in mind that a workman seldom enters the field of negotiation as an equal...." The Constitution recognises this, with Article 42 requiring the state to secure "just and humane conditions of work," while Article 23 prohibits "traffic in human beings", "begar, and other forms of forced labour". The conditions that necessitated these protections have simply changed form.

Labour legislation recognised this extreme imbalance and sought to ensure a modicum of bare protection. This is not a "pro-worker" understanding of the law, but just a check against the imbalance tilting toward the employer. The fact that such bare protection is described as "pro-worker" says less about the protection than about where the baseline has been unfortunately naturalised. While the freedom to dismiss without explanation is part of the ordinary run of business, a requirement to explain is called a burden. The warning of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar rings true – liberty from the control of the state is another name for "the dictatorship of the private employer".

The 13-judge Bench decision in *Kesavananda Bharati* (1973) recognised that justice, social, economic and political, formed part of the Constitution's basic structure. The underlying inequality between employer and workman has not narrowed since 1947. In fact, the policy of "ease of doing business" has widened it. This is exactly why the social justice vision of Part IV of the Constitution calls for more protection now, not less.

The issue of labour rights

The ID Act, 1947 – to maintain industrial peace – provided basic protections and a forum for adjudicating disputes, where the labour courts and tribunals have been given wide powers to adjudicate on the same. To be excluded from its definition of "industry" is to be excluded from that bare minimum protection, and from the remedy available under it. The significance of *BWSSB*'s definition of "industry" lay in ensuring that this protection reached everyone the Act was meant to cover, rather than excluding workers from the one recourse the law offered them.

Given the overarching objective of industrial peace, there was never a reason to treat *BWSSB*'s interpretation as a burden rather than as the Act doing precisely what it was designed to do. The anxiety surrounding it has always rested on the same premise: an eagerness to remove workers from the protection of the law.

As the ID Act stands repealed and the IRC takes its place, it is necessary to return to the promise of social justice in the Constitution. The labour codes that have replaced the ID Act, including the IRC, are built on a premise of exclusion – narrowing who falls within the protection of the law – and will have to answer to that mandate.

> The top court's treatment of BWSSB highlights the enduring anxiety over the scope of labour protection

The fact is youth unemployment has a household cost

Gargi Sridharan

Economist

Basit Abdullah

Assistant Professor at the Institute of Management Technology, Hyderabad

India's youth unemployment crisis is usually told through a single statistic: how many young people cannot find work. The latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS 2025) reports an unemployment rate of 14.8% among 18-29 year-olds, rising to 29.4% among those who are tertiary educated (with a diploma, graduate or post-graduate levels). The broader picture is larger than the unemployment rate alone suggests. Unemployment as a measure captures only those people who are not working but are actively seeking or available for work. It excludes those outside the labour force, including those who may have stopped looking for work, a group that may include many young women. Against the narrower measure of unemployment, the broader picture is considerably larger: 40.1% of tertiary-educated youth are neither in employment, education nor training, commonly referred to as NEET. Among tertiary-educated young women who are NEET, 74.7% are outside the labour force – neither working nor classified as unemployed because they are not seeking or available for work.

A framing that misses another issue

Unemployment is only the most visible part of a wider problem of educated young people remaining outside employment. And for those who are looking for work, the wait can be long. Examination paper leaks, recruitment delays and debates over India's demographic dividend have kept the spotlight firmly on young jobseekers.

Yet, this framing misses an important question. Unemployment is rarely experienced by individuals alone. Behind every unemployed graduate is often an entire household that financed the degree, adjusted its spending and continues to support a young adult's job search. Looking at youth unemployment through the household rather than the individual raises a different question: what happens to families when an educated young adult cannot find work? How households experience that unemployment may depend not only on the absence of work, but also on how long the search lasts and on the resources families have to sustain it.

The households that invested in education

Around 15.4% of Indian households have a tertiary-educated young adult (18-29 years). These are households that have invested in higher education in the expectation that it would provide a pathway to secure employment and upward mobility. Yet, one in five households is supporting at least one unemployed tertiary-educated young adult (20.8%). The household consequences are measurable. Compared to households without any educated unemployed youth, those with unemployed youth spend, on average, ₹1,087 less per month on consumption overall, and ₹710 less per household member.

On average, these households have only 1.5 earning members, compared with two in households without an unemployed educated youth. For 14.4% of them, there is no active earning member at all, while 39.5% depend on a single earner. And in nearly two-thirds (62.5%), no one in the household has a regular salaried job.

The pressure on households becomes more serious when unemployment persists. Nearly three in five (58%) unemployed tertiary-educated youth have been searching for work for more than a year. Close to three in 10 (28.9%) have been unemployed for more than two years. A household supporting an unemployed graduate for a few months faces a different pressure than one financing a job search stretching across one or two years. Extended unemployment depletes savings, reduces consumption, and forces difficult choices about what employment the young adult should accept.

The data show a clear pattern: the ability to sustain prolonged job search is associated with household earning capacity. For someone in a household surviving on one earner or without a regular salary, the pressure to start earning is likely to arrive much sooner. What looks like the duration of an individual's unemployment, therefore, is also a measure of how long a family must sustain the wait. These families must push their unemployed youth toward immediate employment, even if it means accepting positions far below their qualifications. The choice is not between a 'good job' and 'bad job.' It is between 'any job' and economic insecurity.

The policy question

Current employment policy largely treats youth joblessness as an individual problem, addressed through apprenticeships, skilling and hiring incentives. The evidence here suggests that the consequences of unemployment extend beyond the individual jobseeker to the household supporting them. The length of the transition from education to work also matters, because someone is financing that wait. Recruitment delays, prolonged selection processes and extended job searches impose very different costs on a household with several earners than on one relying on a single income or without a regular salaried worker. Therefore, employment policy needs to pay greater attention to how long young people remain unemployed, and to the economic circumstances of the families supporting them during that period. Reducing avoidable delays in entry into work is not only a labour-market concern; it can also reduce the strain that prolonged unemployment places on households.

> Unemployment among educated youth in India extends beyond jobseekers, placing prolonged financial pressure on families

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AI-assisted learning

I write this letter as Professor of Medicine, Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai. While the article, "Beyond the red pen" (EducationPlus, August 24), has laid out well-known aspects of learning using Artificial Intelligence (AI) into a crisp model (PRISM-X), it does not address the practical difficulties a human brain may face when using AI for learning. The writers have rightly placed prompting efficiency first in the model since the first prompt in a conversation — which some call as the mother prompt — is critical . An AI model's response is only as good as the prompt. I have observed that AI models are progressively designed in such a way that obtaining a good response requires longer and elaborate prompts. The bottleneck is "Reflective capability" in learning through AI. Assuming that the user has good prompting skills, handling the AI output is not that easy. Reflective capability requires extensive background knowledge, a deeper understanding of current concepts, and an awareness of misconceptions and future applications. For this, the learner has to spend considerable time reading traditional books, articles and observing real-world applications. So, it takes considerable time and effort for a person to challenge an AI model, identify misinformation and find wrong concepts put forth by the AI model. This means the world is perhaps stuck at the second stage of PRISM-X — not just students, but teachers as well. I fear that using AI without the skill for "Reflective capability" will, in the long run, erode learners' thoughts and make them accept half-truths — something which AI models are very good at. We need to educate students on how to upskill on "Reflective capability" before attempting to implement methods to assess their use of AI.

Dr. Emmanuel Bhaskar,
Chennai

Vacant seats

The report, "Over 13,000 UG seats still up for grabs at Delhi University" (Inside pages, August 24), is not surprising. The vacant seats mirror the prevailing state of the education system in the country. Education no longer seems to guarantee employment or a livelihood. The National Education Policy needs a complete restructuring.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

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

Smart glasses highlight gaps in privacy laws

Sonikka Loganathan

In June, reality star Kylie Jenner posted her latest collaboration on social media – a new design for Meta's line of AI-powered "smart glasses". Images of her wearing the glasses filled social media, as did videos of her teenage self lamenting the lack of privacy she was afforded because of her fame. The irony was unmissable: how is Ms. Jenner, who was once so worried about privacy, now promoting a device that enables surveillance?

Smart glasses are the latest addition to the wearable technology space. It is also a dangerous example of how current laws are unable to keep up with today's tech innovation.

According to Meta, these glasses allow you to see and answer calls, messages, and notifications via voice command. Built-in speakers help you listen to music and an integrated camera enables you to capture photos or videos through the lenses. Meta describes these glasses as "normal-looking eyewear with discreetly integrated glasses technology." Hidden from the naked eye, these glasses contain "tiny speakers, microphones, [and] a lightweight camera." The tech giant isn't shying away from how inconspicuous these features are; rather, it is flaunting it.

Privacy and data concerns

In India, the glasses, which have been advertised everywhere, retail at around ₹25,000. Stickers that claim to completely cover the LED recording indicator are also widely available. Meta says that if the LED is covered, the glasses will block the recording until the sticker is removed. Yet, workarounds are just a Google search away. The glasses also make a shutter sound when they start and stop recording, but this is not a strong indicator that you are being recorded. Further, Meta argues that the glasses are "designed for privacy, controlled by you." But this "control" is limited to the wearer, and not the recorded subject, such as requiring additional verification before use.

The website adds, "Meta collects data needed to help ensure that your glasses and app are reliable, secure and operating normally." An investigation by Swedish newspapers *Svenska Dagbladet* and *Goteborgs-Posten* found that Meta's contracted workers, who sometimes review the data to track user experience, were able to view sensitive content filmed on the smart glasses, including wearers using the toilet. In a comment to *BBC News*, Meta said its privacy policy states that it sometimes uses contractors to review data shared with them.

In this context, concerns about women's privacy have grown. Data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) show that in 2023, before the glasses entered the market, there were 3,678 cases of women-centred cybercrimes. Of these, 2,767 cases involved the transmission or publication of sexually explicit material. Consider how much easier these glasses would make it to record people without their knowledge, including in private spaces. The potential risks to children are equally concerning. In 2023, the NCRB recorded over 698 cases related to the use or storage of child sexual abuse material. If adults cannot often recognise when the glasses are recording, a child certainly cannot.

These risks are compounded by the glasses' battery life, offering 4-9 hours of active use. This means entire movies can be recorded, university lectures can be taped, confidential documents scanned, and patient information collected. It also means that even those who are not intentionally engaging in malpractice could invariably do so – by capturing something private in the frame's periphery, for example. Ultimately, these glasses allow for the extensive, non-consensual collection of data.

> As wearable tech becomes more advanced, banning it will become increasingly difficult. Instead, laws should be framed with an understanding of how AI is changing the landscape

Lacuna in the law

India's laws today do little to protect people from this surveillance. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDPA) is technologically agnostic, making the purpose of data collection the key consideration. In a public space, people can neither grant consent nor monitor how their information is used.

Following the landmark *K.S. Puttaswamy vs. Union of India* 2017 judgment, reasonable expectation of privacy was recognised as a fundamental right under Article 21. This means that people, even in public spaces, don't generally expect to be captured in detail. But the DPDPA excludes information that is made publicly available. Hence, the reasonable expectation of privacy granted by *Puttaswamy* is not met because the Act does not regulate how someone is being recorded in public. The Act's scope is diluted further since there are minimal indicators that you could be in someone's frame, unlike someone recording on their phone.

This combination of rapid tech innovation and a lack of legal regulation and public awareness creates the perfect storm. With devices such as these glasses becoming common, people may be collecting information with little knowledge of where the data are being used. Without legal safeguards, digital accountability risks becoming an afterthought.

Banning such devices isn't practical from a business or tech standpoint. Meta might be the biggest player in this space today, but Google and Reliance are also entering the smart glasses market. As wearable tech becomes more advanced, banning it will become increasingly difficult. Instead, laws should be framed with an understanding of how AI is changing the landscape. There is a need for assessments on how technology will evolve, the risks that may accompany it, and the government's responsibility in ensuring that citizens are adequately protected.

sonikka.l@thehindu.co.in

People's Plan 2.0: an ambitious dream

A campaign which decentralised governance in Keralam is planning a comeback

STATE OF PLAY

Tiki Rajwi

On August 16, many of the best-known names linked to an 'experiment' that changed the way Keralam thought about democratic decentralisation came together in Thiruvananthapuram to celebrate a birthday. The People's Plan Campaign (PPC) was turning 30 years old the next day. The conclave, a non-governmental initiative, saw participation from elected representatives, former Ministers and bureaucrats and hundreds of activists who had lovingly nurtured the PPC and gave it direction through the intervening years. But more than a nostalgic anniversary reunion, it was meant to discuss and plan the 'People's Plan Campaign 2.0'.

The plan, as explained by Communist Party of India (Marxist) veteran and former Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac, who had been in charge of the PPC when he was a member of the Kerala State Planning Board, included student internships with local bodies and a tech-driven campaign coordinated through an online portal. Opening the August 16 event, K.M. Shaji, Minister for local self-government in the ruling Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) government, recalled how successive governments in Keralam had supported the PPC as a process of deepening democracy.

A rich history

The PPC as an idea traces its roots to the 'Gram Swaraj' concept of Mahatma Gandhi. It draws strength from the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, and the enactment of the Kerala Panchayati Raj Act and the Kerala Municipality Act which institutionalised local governance structures. Keralam officially launched the People's Plan Campaign on August 17, 1996. At the time, it was run on campaign mode as the concept of participatory planning was new to the people. Grama sabhas and urban ward assemblies were organised across the State in the months that followed. The Left Democratic Front (LDF) government also took the big step of devolving 35%-40% of the Plan outlay to local governments.

The State Planning Board's Economic Review had noted how the programme marked a major shift by placing local self-governments at the centre of development planning. With its rich history of social reformation through the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the land reforms that transformed the agrarian system, and its high social indicators in literacy and health, Keralam was ideally suited for such an experiment.

Looking back, the programme may not have been a 100% success, but it was also far from a failure. It made participatory democracy deeper and local governments stronger. The 'Kudumbashree' scheme in particular grabbed the spotlight on national and international stages. As noted by Mr. Isaac and Richard W. Franke, Professor Emeritus at the Montclair State University, in their book *People's Planning – Kerala, Local Democracy and Development*, "from a mere government-led administrative reform, the PPC has made the process of decentralisation an object of mass action and a part of the popular politics."

Modern challenges

Yet, as an updated 2.0 version is being ambitiously discussed, the challenges are many, such as waning public enthusiasm and low participation in the grama sabhas, especially in urban areas. When compared to the 1990s, attracting the younger generation to such an endeavour in a fast-paced, rapidly urbanising Keralam would prove a ponderous task, but also the most vital one. Government estimates show that 96.43% of Keralam's population could be living in urban areas by 2036. The People's Planning 2.0 would then have to factor in many things: centralisation trends in the government, changing aspirations of the people, and the increasing fiscal stress faced by Keralam.

Yet, the spirit of co-operation fostered through programmes such as the PPC remains all the more relevant today. Many of the hurdles faced by local governments in the last 30 years – unemployment, waste disposal, gender justice and issues faced by marginalised sections – persist. Moreover, more demanding problems have emerged: limited income sources, climate change, and an ageing society. In these changed times, local bodies would need to evolve a new political and fiscal culture with stronger public involvement, and elected members with impeccable credentials.

tiki.rajwi@thehindu.co.in

Hyderabad, adjoining ACs drive Telangana's record SIR deletions

Just 20 constituencies in and close to the capital city account for half of the State's deletions

DATA POINT

Pon Vasanth B.A.
Srinivasan Ramani
Areena Arora

At the end of the enumeration period of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in Telangana, the State registered a 21.7% deletion of names from its pre-SIR electoral rolls, the highest in the country so far. **Table 1** shows the percentage of deletions in the major States where the SIR has been undertaken. The draft electoral roll in Telangana will see the addition and re-entry of electors following the corrections period, but even taking that into account, the 21.7% figure is a rather large one. Only Uttar Pradesh with 18.7%, Tamil Nadu with 15.2%, and Gujarat with 14.5% come close to Telangana in the draft-stage deletion rate.

Map 1 shows the deletion rate across Assembly Constituencies (ACs) in the State. In 21 ACs, the deletion rate was a whopping 35% or more, and 19 of these fall in the "Highly Urban" band. Most were in and around the cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad – Musheerabad registered the highest deletion rate in the State at 45.2%, followed by Sanathnagar (44.9%), Malakpet (44.8%), Lal Bahadur Nagar (44.4%), Jubilee Hills (44.1%), Secunderabad Cantonment (42.8%) and Serilingampally (42.7%). The smaller map shows the 15 constituencies of Hyderabad district. Across the 21 "Highly Urban" constituencies, nearly 70% of those deleted were taken off the rolls because they had "shifted".

Unlike States such as Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Keralam, which recorded a drop in gender ratio between their 2024 Lok Sabha rolls and their final SIR rolls, Telangana's draft rolls show a slight increase – the ratio rose from 1,018 in the pre-SIR roll to 1,028 in the draft roll (**Table 2**). Tamil Nadu saw a similar bump, from 1,034 in its 2024 Lok Sabha roll to 1,044 in its final SIR roll. Telangana's figure, however, is at the draft stage and could still change.

The urban-rural split in terms of deletions was sharp (**Table 2**). In "Highly Urban" constituencies, the deletion rate was 40.4%. In "Moderately Urban" constituencies it was 29.8%, but that figure is driven by the peri-urban belt adjoining Hyderabad rather than by the district towns: Maheswaram (41%) and Rajendranagar (38.9%), both in Rangareddy district, Patancheru (31.9%) in Sangareddy district, and Medchal (31.5%) in Medchal Malkajgiri district all recorded rates at or above the "Highly Urban" range. The urban seats in the same band were lower – Warangal West at 28.9%, Nizamabad (Urban) at 27%, Khammam at 24.6%, and Warangal East at 19.5%.

In contrast, in the "Moderately Rural" and "Highly Rural" constituencies, the deletion rate was much lower – 12.37% and 11.92% respectively. In the former category, again, several of the highest deletion rates are in areas not far from Hyderabad. Among "Highly Rural" constituencies, Achampet (16%), Makthal (15.7%), Mudhole (14.9%), and Yellandu (14.6%) registered the highest deletion rates.

To classify Telangana's 119 constituencies, night-time light intensity from SHRUG database maintained by Development Data Lab was used. And for each constituency, the average brightness across its area was calculated. Because a few city seats are far brighter than the rest, the values were first converted to a logarithmic scale, then grouped using Jenks Natural Breaks – a standard mapping technique that finds the cut-off points where the data separate most naturally – into "Highly Urban", "Moderately Urban", "Moderately Rural" and "Highly Rural".

More granular analyses will follow in forthcoming articles.

(With inputs from Swathi Vadlamudi)

A great purge

Telangana is likely to witness the biggest drop in its electoral rolls compared to other major States if the ongoing 'Claims and Objections' phase of the Special Intensive Revision does not bring more voters back onto the rolls

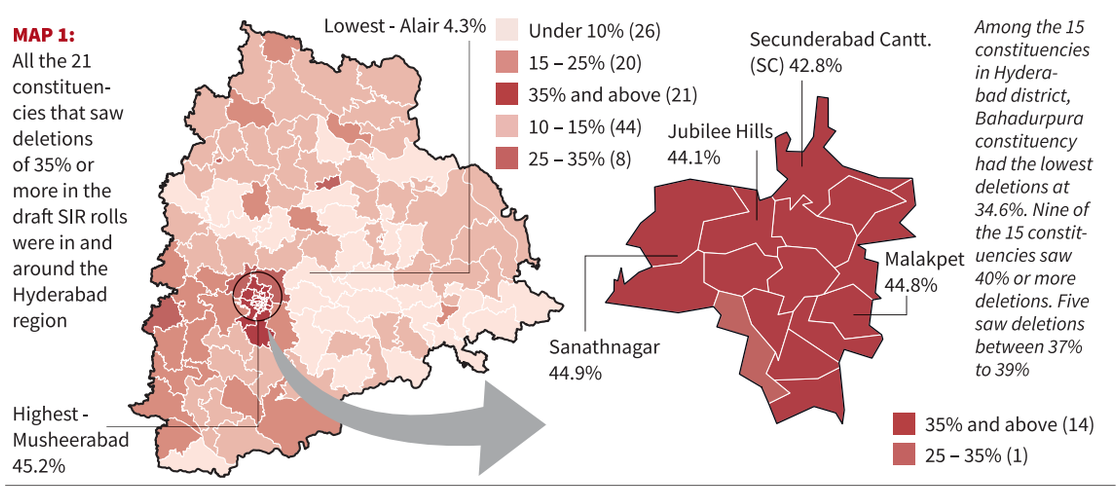
TABLE 1: Share of deleted voters did not change much in most of the major States between draft and final SIR rolls

State	Deletions % compared with pre-SIR rolls	
	in draft SIR rolls	in final SIR rolls
Telangana	21.7	-
Uttar Pradesh	18.7	13.2
Tamil Nadu	15.2	11.6
Gujarat	14.5	13.4
Chhattisgarh	12.9	11.8
Keralam	8.7	3.2
Bihar	8.2	6
Rajasthan	7.7	5.7
West Bengal	7.6	8.1
Madhya Pradesh	7.5	6

TABLE 2: Deletions were concentrated in urban areas, with 21 highly urban ACs losing roughly four out of every 10 voters

Measure	Highly Rural	Moderately Rural	Moderately Urban	Highly Urban	All Telangana
Assembly constituencies (ACs)	21	65	12	21	119
Pre-SIR share in electorate (%)	14.02	47.24	13.84	24.89	-
Share in electorate, draft SIR (%)	15.78	52.87	12.40	18.95	-
Female per 1,000 male, pre-SIR	1,044	1,052	996	954	1,018
Female per 1,000 male, draft SIR	1,025	1,038	1,027	1,004	1,028
Deletions	5,65,518	19,77,351	13,96,366	34,00,000	73,39,235
Deletion (%)	11.92	12.37	29.83	40.38	21.7
- shifted (%)	52.28	50.54	61.96	69.38	61.58
- absent (%)	7.58	12.10	20.23	19.50	16.73
- death (%)	25.42	21.18	8.46	7.11	12.57
- duplicate (%)	14.72	16.18	9.34	4.02	9.13

MAP 1: All the 21 constituencies that saw deletions of 35% or more in the draft SIR rolls were in and around the Hyderabad region



Among the 15 constituencies in Hyderabad district, Bahadurpura constituency had the lowest deletions at 34.6%. Nine of the 15 constituencies saw 40% or more deletions. Five saw deletions between 37% to 39%

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 25, 1976

Dhillon wants sustained road safety campaigns

New Delhi, August 24: Although the standard of public transport has considerably improved sustained campaigns to educate the public about road safety along with regular drives to check over-speeding, violation of traffic regulations and driving under the influence of liquor would greatly help to minimise the rising incidence of road accidents in the country.

This was stated by Dr. G.S. Dhillon, the Union Minister of Shipping and Transport, while inaugurating the 13th meeting of the Transport Development Council here this morning.

Dr. Dhillon said the procedure regarding issue of driving licence and fitness certificate would also need to be tightened so that only competent and experienced persons secured the driving licences and fitness certificate issued to mechanically sound vehicles.

He said it would have a deterrent effect on rash and negligent driving if persons responsible for accidents were to pay compensation to the victims of their families in all cases.

Referring to the national permit scheme for goods transport which aims at removal of hurdles in the free movement of vehicles, Dr. Dhillon said that out of the total number of 5,300 permits allotted in various States, nearly 3,000 permits had been issued in pursuance of this scheme which formed part of the 20-point economic programme of the country.

The Minister also drew the attention of the members to the scheme regarding mechanisation of cycle rickshaws and requested them to strive for its early implementation in order to improve the economic conditions of the rickshaw pullers.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 25, 1926

Imperial bank of India

Calcutta, August 25: The Imperial Bank of India has fulfilled its undertakings to open hundred new branches within five years. The announcement was made yesterday by Mr. H.C. Edmondson, while presiding at the annual general meeting of shareholders on the Calcutta register of the Bank. The burden of opening majority of the new branches, he said, fell on Bengal Circle which opened 66, while seven new sub-agencies and pay offices were also established.

From Page One

Maharashtra hospital fire: 3 newborns killed

"The hospital was constructed just two years back and then such a fire incident took place. It is absolutely wrong," the Health Minister said.

Eyewitnesses said that the ward's fire alarms failed and the automatic water sprinkler system did not activate even as smoke filled the ward.

Yogesh Savarkar, whose eight-day-old child was admitted on the first floor, told *PTI* that he rescued his child on his own and could "see black ashes on the other children in the hospital". He said security guards and a nurse entered the smoke-filled ward first. Earlier in the day, Maharashtra Revenue Minister and Guardian Minister for Nagpur and Amravati districts, Chandrashekhar Bawankule, posted on X that some children were shifted to the Divisional Referral Service Hospital for treatment and one of them was serious. *(With inputs from PTI)*

Karnataka SIR: 1.07 cr. names off draft rolls

Unlike the enumeration phase, when Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were instructed to hand over enumeration forms to voters and a family member above the age of 18 could fill them on the voter's behalf, BLOs, during this stage, can serve notices on anyone available at the address. The notice will also carry a QR code to submit one of the 11 documents online, but the voter alone must appear for the hearing. This could pose challenges for sections of voters such as senior citizens, single mothers, women in general, labourers and persons with disabilities, among others.

For instance, within Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits alone, 40,307 voters are above the age of 85, while 829 are above 100. More than 21,400 voters are persons with disabilities.

More polling stations

Following the enumeration phase, the number of polling stations across Karnataka increased after rationalisation. Each polling station will now have up to and not more than 1,200 voters, and where a polling station had more voters, they were shifted to another polling station within a two-kilometre radius, the CEO said. This has resulted in the addition of 1,873 polling stations across the State.

While the draft rolls were published at 12 p.m. on Monday, people struggled throughout the day to view the rolls. While voters were able to access the website, after downloading the rolls, files repeatedly threw up errors.

CRPF officer hurt, homes burnt in Manipur clashes

Amid the unrest, public transport services on NH-2 continued for the third day on Monday. More than 250 passengers, including women and children, left Imphal for Dimapur and Guwahati in five buses and seven vans under foolproof security.

A Manipur government statement said the departures were delayed due to the situation that arose in Senapati district earlier in the day. Adequate security personnel and road-opening parties have been deployed on vulnerable stretches of the highway to ensure free and safe movement of the vehicles.

"However, timely intervention by the government and the public support prevented the situation from escalating further, and the vehicles left for Dimapur and Guwahati at around 1 p.m. Both sides involved have agreed to maintain peace in the area," the statement read.

Doval set to hold border talks with China's Wang today

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

Ajit Doval

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval arrived in Beijing on Monday ahead of the 25th round of talks between the Special Representatives (SRs) of India and China on the boundary question.

Mr. Doval will on Tuesday meet with Politburo member and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, his counterpart as SR. He will also call on Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said the talks would see "in-depth communication on the boundary question". "The talks between the Special Representatives... are the main channel for negotiations between China and India on the boundary question, and also an important platform for communication between the two sides on issues of mutual interest," spokesperson Lin Jian said.

"In August last year, China and India successfully held the 24th round of talks during which the two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on the boundary question and reached a number of common understandings. During this round of talks, the two sides will continue the in-depth communication on the boundary question in the spirit of the common understandings between leaders of the two countries to jointly keep the border areas peaceful and tranquil." He said the two sides would also exchange views on bilateral relations and international and regional issues.

The visit comes ahead of next month's expected trip to India by Chinese President Xi Jinping for the September 12 BRICS Summit, and provides both sides the opportunity to take stock of the relationship.

Ties have gradually normalised following the October 2024 meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Xi in Kazan, Russia.

Manipur awaits Centre's decision on Census 2027

Many Meitei, Naga groups demand NRC to be compiled first; govt. sources say review of situation likely in coming days; Manipur HC to hear PIL petition by Kangleipak Students Association today

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Women take out a rally demanding implementation of a National Register of Citizens before the Census in Manipur on Monday. ANI

Manipur is awaiting a decision from New Delhi regarding the upcoming Census exercise, which remains in limbo in the State amid the demand by several Meitei and Naga civil society groups for a National Register of Citizens (NRC) to be compiled first. With the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI) yet to spell out the future course of action, a government source said a review of the situation is likely to be held in the coming days.

On Monday, following a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition filed by the Kangleipak Students Association, the High Court of Manipur constituted a Special Division Bench of Chief Justice M. Sundar and Justice A. Guneshwar Sharma to hear the matter on Tuesday at 2 p.m. In a notification issued on Monday, the court said the Special Division Bench would sit exclusively to hear the petition.

The first phase of the Population Census 2027, House Listing and Housing Census (HLO), is scheduled to be held in Manipur from September 1 to September 30. The training of enumerators has been halted in the State due to opposition and protests by several civil society groups.

The self-enumeration portal was scheduled to go live on August 17, but is yet to become operational.

"A decision from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is awaited. The RGI office will assess the situation and there will be some clarity soon," said a State government official.

Delimitation anxiety

Though the Census is not an exercise to determine citizenship and counts all individuals irrespective of nationality, there is anxiety among a section of people in Manipur that the next delimitation exercise, which will redraw the boundaries of electoral constituencies, may take into account the latest Census data in a manner that could disadvantage the Meiteis and small tribal communities.

Manipur has three major communities – the Meiteis, the Nagas, and the Kuki-Zo people.

At least 14 civil society groups representing Meiteis, Pangals (Meitei Muslims), and the Kom and Rongmei tribes, among others, are in Delhi to seek an audience with the Centre. The group also has representation from those displaced from their homes as a result of the ethnic violence between the Kuki and Meitei communities that started on May 3, 2023.

Former Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, who met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi last week, said people are apprehensive that the "presence of illegal immigrants in the State has affected demographic imbalance" and that while people are not against the Census, they want the NRC first.

The Congress party on August 20 sought the postponement of the Census exercise in Manipur, citing continuing violence and the displacement of thousands of people.

The Kuki-Zo Council, on the other hand, said that to rebut the "falsehoods and propaganda surrounding our population and demographic status during the Manipur conflict, an impartial Census is essential to establish facts and dispel unfounded claims".

Jaishankar meets Putin in Moscow, hands over PM's personal message

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Cordial visit: Vladimir Putin and S. Jaishankar during their meeting at Senate Palace of the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, on Monday. PTI

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday said that he plans to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the upcoming summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to be held at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

He made the remarks at the meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who called on Mr. Putin in the Kremlin.

"At the beginning of our conversation, I would like to ask you to convey my very best wishes to Mr. Modi. I hope to see him soon, as we planned, as part of our work within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation," said Mr. Putin.

"It looks like our schedules may also allow us to meet again this year," he said.

At the meeting in the Kremlin, Mr. Jaishankar briefed the Russian President about his meetings in Moscow and said, "Prime Minister Modi looks forward to meeting you at the SCO summit, then welcoming you to India for the BRICS Summit, and, in due course, as per your mutual convenience, having the annual summit, so we have a very strong picture of cooperation to present."

Mr. Jaishankar handed over a personal message from the Prime Minister to Mr. Putin.

'Imbalance in trade'

The External Affairs Minister also co-chaired the 27th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation with First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov.

"Our discussions focused on our wide-ranging cooperation in trade, investments, energy, fertilizers, nuclear, connectivity, technology, space and mobility domains," said Mr. Jaishankar after the meeting with Mr. Manturov and his team. He added that bilateral India-Russia trade should aim to touch $100 billion by 2030 but cautioned against growing imbalance in bilateral trade.

"Progress on market access, removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, strengthening payment mechanisms, and stronger business-to-business engagement will be critical for addressing this imbalance and achieving our shared objective of U.S. $100 billion in bilateral trade by 2030," he said, calling for growing engagement between Indian and Russian businesses. He referred to the "complicated international scenario" as a window for new opportunities and "de-risking".

INBRIEF

CJP announces Sept. 5 march, police say no request received

The Cockroach Janta Party on Monday called for a march on September 5, accusing the Centre of failing to honour the promises made on July 25 to convince the outfit to withdraw its 36-day agitation against exam irregularities. The march will start at India Gate and head toward the Delhi Police Headquarters, as per a statement. It said the march would be led by kin of students who died by suicide following the cancellation of the NEET exam and the re-test, and those who were allegedly subjected to police excesses during the July agitation. The police said they have not received any requests for a march. PTI

Three Bambiha gangsters deported from Malaysia: govt.

The office of the Union Home Minister said on Monday that three fugitive gangsters linked to the Bambiha Gang, wanted for multiple crimes including cross-border arms and narco-trafficking, were deported from Malaysia. Indian agencies have facilitated the deportation of 51 hardened criminals in 2026 alone, it said. "Indian agencies got three gangsters apprehended in Malaysia, deported them to India, and sent them to police custody. The fugitives, namely Jaspreet Singh, Ajay Singh and Pawandeep Singh, are linked to Bambiha Gang and are accused of multiple crimes, including extortion, cross-border arms and narco-trafficking, and a foiled grenade attack in Ludhiana," it said in a post on X.

Hopes fade for 22 sailors of sunken *MV Ocean Winner*

The search and rescue operation for the sunken Panama-flagged bulk carrier in the Bay of Bengal has been expanded to cover a wider area, as hopes of finding the 22 remaining crew members alive diminish with every passing hour. Despite days-long search operations, neither debris of the vessel nor any of its 22 missing crew members could be traced, an Indian Coast Guard (ICG) spokesperson said on Monday. The Navy and ICG are coordinating the operation about 700 km east of Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal. "On August 22, two Chinese nationals were rescued after a distress call was received from *MV Ocean Winner*, which had sailed with iron ore from Paradip for China on August 20. The vessel sank at a location where the sea is extremely deep," said Commandant Amit Uniyal, ICG spokesman.

Trinamool MP moves SC over 'eviction' from govt. residence

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra made an urgent oral mentioning before the Chief Justice of India's Bench on Monday alleging that the Nadia district administration in West Bengal has evicted her from her constituency accommodation in the dead of the night. Ms. Moitra is the MP from Krishnanagar Lok Sabha constituency in Nadia district.

Her counsel said the eviction of a sitting MP from her constituency accommodation by local officials, who took the law into their hands, was a direct attack on federalism in violation of court orders. The court said it would look into her plea for early listing.

Home Minister directs police chiefs to detect and deport illegal immigrants

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the inauguration of the 9th National Security Strategies Conference on Monday. ANI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday directed the security agencies to take strict measures against infiltration, asking the police chiefs to detect and deport illegal migrants. He was inaugurating the two-day National Security Strategies Conference-2026 (NSSC).

On Tuesday, the conference will discuss information warfare and its implications on national security and the need for a bio-security framework.

The Home Minister said an AI-based analysis of information available on Multi Agency Centres (MAC) platforms should be done to create standard operating procedures (SOPs) to counter various national security challenges. The conference held in hybrid format was attended by over 850 participants from across the country. Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Intelligence Bureau Director Mahesh Dixit, and heads of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) attended the conference in Delhi.

Directors-General of Police of States and Union Territories, young police officers working at the cutting-edge level, and domain experts from specialised fields joined the conference through virtual mode, the Union Home Ministry said.

National security

On the first day of the conference, discussions focused on critical aspects of national security, including response to counter-terrorism challenges; fusion, analysis and operationalisation of intelligence through MAC; vision document on narcotics control; detection and deportation of illegal migrants; policy framework to combat cybercrime; and proxy warfare by Pakistan.

For effective tackling of terrorism and radicalisation, Mr. Shah emphasised on training for implementation of the Ministry's PRAHAAR scheme, expediting trials by bringing back fugitives, using the trial in absentia provisions and undertaking comprehensive and integrated approach while investigating Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) cases.

The second day of the conference will focus on the threat landscape from sub-aerial systems and formulating countermeasures.

Indian polls are conducted transparently, asserts CEC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Polls in India are conducted transparently under the concurrent audit of political parties, candidates or their representatives at all stages, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said on Monday.

He was speaking at the second regional conference on 'Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELC 2.0) and ECI-NET' in Lucknow which focuses on strengthening electoral literacy and democratic awareness among young citizens through educational institutions.

He said elections in India are held strictly as per the Constitution, law and instructions issued by the Election Commission.

Congress targets Modi govt. on price rise and unemployment

The party flags rising prices of food items, including sugar, onions, and milk; party president Mallikarjun Kharge points out that graduates account for 67% of unemployed Indians aged 20 to 29; he slams govt. for absence of jobs after graduation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday targeted the Narendra Modi government over unemployment and price rise, with party president Mallikarjun Kharge accusing the government of "completely ravaging" young India's entire pathway from education to employment.

Mr. Kharge cited a recent NITI Aayog report estimating that 8.7 crore Indians in the 15-29 age group were not studying, working, or receiving training. Youth unemployment stood at 15.6%, rising to 19.5% among young women, he said, citing the Periodic Labour Force Survey for July.

"Where are the jobs after graduation," Mr. Kharge asked in a post on the social media platform X, pointing out that graduates account for 67% of unemployed Indians aged 20 to 29. He questioned the promise of creating two crore jobs every year, saying that by that calculation, 24 crore jobs should have been created in 12 years.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has accused the government of putting the youth's future at risk. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Kharge alleged that lakhs of government posts remained vacant, while secure employment was increasingly being replaced by contractual and part-time work. "Expensive and inadequate education, paper leaks, delayed recruitment, a widening skills gap, and disappearing quality jobs have put the future of an entire generation at risk," he said.

"You, Modi*ji*, promised to achieve what previous governments could not do in 70 years! You have certainly delivered on that boast: an education system that costs more, infested with RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), examinations young Indians cannot trust, and degrees that increasingly come without jobs," the Congress chief said.

The NITI Aayog report, "Reimagining skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047", based on data from the 78th round of the National Sample Survey conducted in 2021, has called for subsidised training programmes to encourage self-employment, and align skills with local demand and emerging sectors.

The Congress also attacked the government over the rising prices of essential commodities. The party's communications chief, Jairam Ramesh, cited a media report on a sharp rise in onion prices, saying prices in Nashik had increased by around 76% in a month, while wholesale rates had doubled in some States.

"After sugar, now onions too are slipping out of the common man's reach," Mr. Ramesh said on X. The government's buffer stock was empty, he said, adding that the rising prices of milk, oil, fruits, and other essential commodities were adding to the burden on households.

"The Modi government, which claims to have ushered in *achche din* (good days), should explain how the poor and middle class were expected to make ends meet," Mr. Ramesh said.

Citing vacancies, Congress chief says Modi government is trying to end reservation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday accused the Narendra Modi government of seeking to undermine reservation through what it termed a "back door" route, citing more than 8.2 lakh sanctioned posts lying vacant across civilian Central government establishments.

The figures showed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government's policy of "conspiring to end" the constitutional rights of disadvantaged communities had been exposed, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said.

The charge came amid the ongoing "reservation *hatao*" (remove reservation) campaign, seeking to end caste-based reservations in government jobs and educational institutions.

Over 8.2 lakh sanctioned posts are lying vacant across civilian Central govt. establishments

Sharing a Ministry-wise breakup of the vacancies on social media platform X, Mr. Kharge said the number had risen from 4.21 lakh in 2015 to 8.24 lakh in 2024.

According to the figures cited by him, the Railways had 2.40 lakh vacant posts, while the Defence Ministry had 2.41 lakh vacancies. The Home Ministry had another 1.10 lakh vacant posts, Mr. Kharge said.

He also alleged that 5.1 lakh permanent jobs had been eliminated in public sector undertakings, while the share of contractual workers had increased from 19% to 49%.

"The question is not just about employment, but about social justice," Mr. Kharge said. He argued that keeping government posts vacant would effectively deny reserved-category candidates opportunities, while the sale of PSUs and increasing contractual employment would further shrink the availability of jobs covered by reservation.

"To end reservations, it is not necessary to amend the Constitution – just eliminating jobs with reservations is enough," he said.

The Congress president alleged that the BJP's approach was aimed at weakening the constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, and Economically Weaker Sections.

The Congress has sought to frame vacancies and changes in public employment as part of a wider question of social justice.

'Standard practice' followed, say officials on U.S. envoy remarks

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Indian officials followed the "standard practice" of checking the modalities for public appearances by Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 summit in France earlier this year, official sources said on Monday.

This comes hours after U.S. Ambassador Sergio Gor claimed that the External Affairs Ministry had asked for the press event not to feature questions. Mr. Gor went on to say that Mr. Trump subsequently forgot about the purported request and went on to answer questions from journalists for 45 minutes.

"Discussions regarding arrangements for public appearances of leaders are normal practice ahead of any VVIP visit. In this regard, the Indian side communicated its standard practice for such visits," a source said, referring to the interaction between Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump in Evian, France, on June 17, 2026.

Addressing a media conclave on Sunday, Mr. Gor said the Ministry had an "ask" regarding making the meeting between the two leaders free of questions from the press.

Mr. Trump, however, forgot about the Indian side's "ask", Mr. Gor claimed, and proceeded to answer questions. "A 45-minute press conference followed, and everything was on the table," he said.

Sergio Gor

Official sources, however, pointed out that during the press interaction, all questions, both from U.S. and Indian presspersons, were aimed at Mr. Trump and that Mr. Modi was not asked any questions.

'PM afraid of media'

Meanwhile, the Congress said the office of the Prime Minister was being "diminished and disrespected".

In a post on X, Congress leader Pawan Khera said Mr. Gor's remarks were revealing, suggesting that avoiding questions from the media was a regular practice under Mr. Modi. "Why is Modi so afraid of facing the media?" he asked.

In another post, Mr. Khera said Mr. Trump had not taken Mr. Modi's concerns seriously. "A compromised PM is not taken seriously," he said.

Opposition raises concerns over 'weakening' of ISRO; Centre hits back

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government and the Opposition sparred on Monday over the future of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), with Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh raising concern over a reported privatisation push in the space sector, and Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh asserting that the country's space programme was being "scaled up", not scaled back.

Reports about ISRO's future role had raised "legitimate concerns", given the capabilities it built over six decades under scientists, including Vikram Sarabhai, Satish Dhawan, Brahm Prakash, U.R. Rao, and A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Mr. Ramesh said.

ISRO's role in rocket development and manufacturing could be "severely limited", he alleged, adding that a substantial part of its satellite-related assets could be transferred to private companies. He questioned the reported plan to hand over the second spaceport being developed at Kulasekarapattinam in Tamil Nadu, for which ISRO is investing about ₹1,000 crore, to a private company.

Union Minister of State for S&T Jitendra Singh says ISRO is focusing on frontier missions such as Gaganyaan. FILE PHOTO

'Over 100 resignations'

"The future of the historic Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh is itself anybody's guess," Mr. Ramesh said. He also claimed that 100-120 key ISRO professionals had left the organisation in recent months, "perhaps seeing the writing on the wall".

Responding to Mr. Ramesh, Dr. Singh accused him of being determined to "run down every Indian achievement".

"ISRO is not being weakened. It is being enabled to concentrate increasingly on the frontier missions – Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan-4, the Bharatiya Antariksh Station, and future missions to the moon, Venus and Mars," the Minister said. As India targets 50 launches a year, industry would have to emerge as the manufacturer at scale while ISRO focused on developing next-generation technologies and missions, Dr. Singh said. He described this as the "natural evolution" of the space programme.

More start-ups

Citing the expansion of private participation, he said India now had more than 440 space start-ups, and referred to the July 18 launch of Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1, which he said was the first privately developed Indian rocket to reach orbit. "That is not ISRO's legacy being diluted. That is ISRO's legacy bearing fruit," Dr. Singh said.

The government was targeting a $44-billion space economy, requiring private rocket factories, satellite manufacturing facilities, and a deeper supply chain, alongside ISRO's research and frontier missions, he said.

Sriharikota would remain central to major programmes, including PSLV, LVM3 and human spaceflight, while Kulasekarapattinam would add capacity for the growing small-launch sector, he said.

Dr. Singh also cited the increase in foreign satellites launched by ISRO from 35 before 2014 to more than 430, and Chandrayaan-3's successful landing near the Moon's south polar region, to highlight the government's space strategy.

Space sector is expanding: BJP

NEW DELHI
The BJP on Monday and said that India's space programme was expanding. Responding to MP Jairam Ramesh's charge, BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said: "I understand your frustration with India's remarkable journey in space. But the numbers tell a story that is difficult to ignore."

Rules at tribal hostels undermining dignity of students, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday wrote to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis alleging that rules governing tribal hostels were undermining the dignity and access to education of students and said Adivasi students had been on hunger strike for over 10 days.

In his letter to Mr. Fadnavis, Mr. Gandhi followed up on interactions with students in Pune during the *Chhatron ki Gunj* (echo of students) programme last Saturday. He said students from across Maharashtra had told him about hostel rules that "strip them of their dignity and shut off their path to education". Mr. Gandhi said female students returning after an extended absence were required to undergo pregnancy tests and other medical examinations to establish their "fitness".

Rahul Gandhi

This was an "attack on their dignity and humanity", he said.

He also alleged that hostels were unsafe and often lacked food, sanitation and medical care, with students suffering injuries and deaths, including from snake bites.

Earlier in the day, the party had sought a special committee to probe the deaths of tribal children allegedly due to malnutrition in Madhya Pradesh and of tribal girls following snakebite in Maharashtra. Adivasi Congress chief Vikrant Bhuria also called for a safety audit of tribal hostels.

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Project Office, Rayapudi(V), Thullur (M) Amaravati - 522237.
EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO.08/2026
Rc.No.MAU61-OPCS0CNTE(APPT)/13/2026-HR **Dt: 22.08.2026**
Notification is hereby issued for engagement of services of Four (04) Assistant Manager-Legal in the Legal Division, APCRDA, Amaravati on contract basis. Online application is available in the APCRDA website in the Careers tab and can be submitted from dt: **25.08.2026 to dt: 07.09.2026.** For further details, please visit **https://crda.ap.gov.in**
Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Amaravati.

BJP leaders question Rahul

BJP leaders have questioned Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks on the *Manusmriti*. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said he was using women's empowerment as a pretext to target Hinduism.

'PM taking forward Sant Ravidas's ideals'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP president Nitin Nabin on Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership was taking forward Sant Ravidas's ideals of social harmony, equality and selfless service, with development reaching the poorest of the poor.

He was speaking at the party's *Samrasta Sankalp Abhiyan* (Social Harmony Pledge Campaign) event, organised to mark the 650th birth anniversary of Sant Shiromani Ravidas, a Bhakti poet, who fought for the marginalised sections of society.

Mr. Nabin said that under the Modi government, development schemes were being delivered to the poor and the last person in society. About 25 crore people had been brought out of poverty, he said. He said the BJP's resolve was to unite every section of society and realise the goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Among those present were Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, BJP State president and Minister of State Harsh Malhotra. Mr. Nabin said the party's entire cadre was carrying forward the campaign.

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN PRIVATE LIMITED
(WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDAIRY OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)
Note Mudran Nagar, Mysuru - 570 003, Karnataka, India
Tel: +91 821 2582905/15/25, Fax: +91 821 2582099
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB) / OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (OTE)
BRBNMPL invites bids under two-bid systems from eligible bidders for following e-tender through MSTC portal:
1. **Tender No. 021/MYS/MMD/2026-27, MSTC EVENT No. BRBNMPL/Mysuru Press/MMD/22/26-27/ET/45[IP-PBX SYSTEM]** - Design, Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Performance Testing and Non-Comprehensive AMC of IP-PBX System (with Buy Back) at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
Last date and time of tender submission is on or before 25/09/2026 by 11:00 AM. For downloading tender documents, and other details, kindly visit our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in** and **www.mstcecommerce.com.** Any modification will be notified on above websites only.
Sr. General Manager

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA – DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC – SHAR
SRIHARIKOTA – 524124
Brief E-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender Notice No. PT-E-26-014 Date: 20/08/2026
On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:

Sl.No	Brief Name of work	Value (Rs)
1	Annual maintenance contract for CMG electrical installations at different zones of SDSC SHAR for a duration of two years (2026-28)	133.40 Lakhs

Last date for sale (Tender documents can be downloaded) upto **08/09/2026 14:30 hrs**. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro**
Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

Mail ID : sepwdbalangir@gmail.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE, BALANGIR
e-Procurement Notice - BID IDENTIFICATION No.CCE(R&B)BGR/05/2026-27
Letter No.2438 // Dtd.21.08.2026
The **Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for the construction of works detailed in the table below from **"A" & "B" Class Contractor** registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.
1. Nature of Work : **Building Work**
2. No. of tender : **Total Works - 3 No.**
3. Tender Cost : **Rs.10,000/-**
4. Class of Contractor : **"A" & "B" Class**
5. Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids : From **Dt.02.09.2026, 06.55 P.M.** to **Dt.17.09.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.**
6. Date of Opening of Bid : **Dt.18.09.2026 at 11.00 A.M.**
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website:**http://tendersorissa.gov.in.** All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.
Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir.
34001/691/2627 OIPR-34001/34131/1/26-27/0012

Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Science (Jobner), Jaipur
Estate Office
क्रमांक :- EO/RUVAS/2026-27/165 दिनांक :- 17/08/2026
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 11/2026-27
राजस्थान पशु चिकित्सा एवं पशु विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय, (जोबनेर), जयपुर की ओर से राज्य/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/विभागों में पंजीकृत संवेदको से ई–प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से आनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
निविदा से संबंधित अन्य आवश्यक विवरण वेबसाईट **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** व **https://ruvasjaipur.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखी जा सकती है।

Sr. No.	Name of Work	NIT Amount (In Lacs)	Contract Period	Tender Fee	EMD (2%)	Processing Fee
1	Building Work for Centre of Excellence & Rajasthan Institute of Veterinary Science at PGIVER Campus, Jaipur.	915.00 Lacs	18 Months	5000/-	1830000/-	2500/-

1. धरोहर राशि, निविदा शुल्क एवं प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क, संपदा अधिकारी राज. पशु चिकित्सा एवं पशु विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय, (जोबनेर), जयपुर के खाते में जमा करवानी है।

Bank Name	ICICI BANK
BRANCH NAME	RHB MANSAROVER, JAIPUR.
ACCOUNT NO.	677601702188
ACCOUNT HOLDER NAME	Estate Officer Rajasthan University of V and A Sciences Jobner Jaipur
IFSC CODE	ICIC0006776

2. निविदा प्रपत्रों/दस्तावेज दिनांक 17.08.2026 से दिनांक 09.09.2026 तक सांयः 6:00 बजे तक वेबसाईट **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखी जा सकेगी तथा निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 10.09.2026 को प्रातः 11:30 बजे खोली जावेगी।
3. प्रसारित निविदा के सम्बन्ध में किसी भी प्रकार की जानकारी Estate Office RUVAS, (Jobner) Mansarover, Jaipur कार्यालय से कार्यदिवस एवं कार्यालय समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है।
UBN No. : RVJ2627WLOB00025
राज.संवाद/सी/26/10427
सम्पदा अधिकारी
रूवास (जोबनेर) जयपुर

INBRIEF

Daily life affected as heavy shower hits Delhi-NCR region

Heavy showers in many parts of north India on Monday triggered flight diversion, waterlogging, and massive traffic disruption, especially in the the Delhi-NCR region, which received the bulk of the rainfall. Traffic snarls were the worst in Gurugram where parents carrying children on their shoulders were seen wading through flooded roads and vehicles were seen stuck on waterlogged roads. Vehicles were stuck in water around Rajiv Chowk, while school buses and ambulances were also caught in waterlogging on Sohna Road. At least 15 flights were diverted, scores delayed, and some cancelled at the Delhi airport due to inclement weather conditions. PTI

3 arrested for gang rape of teenager in Madhya Pradesh

Three men have been arrested for the alleged gang rape of a 17-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh's Pachmarhi, the police said on Monday. According to the police, the incident took place on August 19 when the survivor was waiting at a bus stop with her male friend when a vehicle driver arrived there with two other men and took them to a dense forest. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Narmadapuram Range Deputy Inspector-General of Police Birendra Kumar Singh said: "The three accused took the victims in their car by blackmailing them using their photographs. In the forest, they tied up the boy and assaulted the girl."

Bank unions call nationwide strike on September 11

The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) will begin a nationwide strike on September 11 over the delay in implementing a five-day banking week, differences over performance-linked incentive schemes, and several other pending demands, including pension related issues. The UFBU, an umbrella body of nine bank employees' and officers' unions, has also threatened a subsequent three-day nationwide strike beginning September 28, coinciding with half-yearly closure. They have also decided to go on an indefinite strike from October 26 onwards.The decision was taken at a meeting held on Sunday with the UBFU. PTI

56 in hospital after gas leak at Nagpur water treatment plant

At least 56 people were hospitalised after a leakage in a 900-kg-capacity chlorine gas cylinder at the water treatment plant of the Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran in Nagpur district on Monday, officials said. The leak was detected in the two chlorine gas cylinders at the Godhani water purification plant in the morning hours. Under the guidance of the Nagpur Collector, the Directorate of Health Services, industrial safety authorities and an NDRF team coordinated to mitigate the potential danger from the accident, said a release. At present, 45 people remain hospitalised, of whom eight are receiving treatment in the ICU. PTI

Panel will take up plaints of sexual assault by police: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday said women protesters could directly approach the nodal officer of the High Powered Enquiry Committee with complaints of sexual molestation against police personnel during the crackdown on NEET-UG protests on July 20 in New Delhi.

The nodal officer of the panel would be a judicial officer. The court's explanation came in response to an oral mentioning made by senior advocate Shobha Gupta. Ms. Gupta said there should be separate, sensitive mechanism for women protesters to file their complaints and seek legal action against police personnel.

The court suggested the panel take up, on a priority basis, allegations of targeted violence, harassment, and molestation of female protesters. It was urged to assess the grievous harm and injury allegedly caused to protesters by police authorities and security personnel.

Bills on simultaneous elections unconstitutional: Cong. leader

Chidambaram tells JPC proposed legislation violates Constitution's Basic Structure; think tanks point to infirmities; while some Padma awardees support move, others say it can lead to chaos

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister P. Chidambaram on Monday strongly opposed the proposal for simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections while appearing before the Joint Committee of Parliament (JPC) examining the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

He described the initiative as "monstrous", "mindless" and "unconstitutional".

According to sources, Mr. Chidambaram told the committee that the proposed legislation, which seeks to synchronise Lok Sabha and Assembly elections under the "One Nation, One Election" framework, violates the Constitution's Basic Structure. The senior Congress leader argued that curtailing the tenure of a legislature elected for a fixed five-year term would directly undermine constitutional principles and parliamentary democracy.

P. Chidambaram

'Govt. lacks majority'

The former Home and Finance Minister said his conscience did not permit him to support the Bills, and contended that the government lacked the required two-thirds majority needed for the constitutional amendment. Sources said the committee recorded his concerns and invited specific suggestions and recommendations for improving the legislation.

The committee, headed by BJP MP P.P. Chaudhary, held a three-part meeting on Monday. The first part was with Mr. Chidambaram, second part with Padma awardees, and third with two independent think-tanks.

A group of 10 Padma awardees, including Tarlochan Singh, Navin Khanna, Meenakshi Jain and Niru Kumar, appeared before the panel. While some supported simultaneous elections, others cautioned that the move could create "chaos" in the country.

Ms. Jain argued that repeated enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct disrupted development projects, and said synchronised elections would allow uninterrupted implementation of regional development programmes.

Dr. Saumitra Rawat said continuous election cycles affected academic calendars and entrance examinations such as NEET, while cardiologist Ashok Seth pointed to the strain recurrent polls placed on the healthcare system through repeated diversion of medical and administrative personnel.

Many of the Padma awardees recommended clearer statutory provisions governing election schedules and timelines for fresh elections.

The committee later heard submissions from Nation First Policy Research and the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, both of which suggested that the law in its present form has many infirmities. The organisations called for clearly defined and judicially reviewable grounds for postponing Assembly elections, fixed outer limits for any deferment, and mandatory parliamentary oversight.

They also stressed the need to avoid governance vacuums during election deferrals, suggesting either structured limits on President's Rule or caretaker governments restricted to routine administration.

Simultaneous polls possible in 2029, says panel chief

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Holding simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies in 2029 under "One Nation, One Election" is possible if the Constitution is amended and State governments support the move, according to P.P. Chaudhary, the Chairman of the panel examining the related Bills.

Mr. Chaudhary said on Monday that if the constitutional amendment is approved in Parliament by 2028, the rollout of "One Nation, One Election" can begin that same year.

"Under the Indian Constitution, the States are empowered to hold simultaneous polls," he said after a meeting of the panel.

Mr. Chaudhary said there may be different opinions of political parties, but the committee has to work together in the interest of the country.

Mr. Chaudhary said the Parliament mandated the committee to fix the shortcomings, if any, and make sure that the simultaneous polls are held successfully.

Centre moves to simplify medical device regulations

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has proposed amendments to the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, to promote ease of doing business. The amendments seek to simplify regulatory requirements, standardise testing fees and facilitate faster market access for eligible medical devices.

The Centre has eased regulatory requirements for medical device manufacturers by removing the need for a separate licence for outsourced sterilisation and expanding the list of countries and regulatory jurisdictions whose approvals can facilitate waiver of clinical investigation requirements in India, a release issued by the Ministry said on Monday .

Under the proposed amendment to Rule 44, manufacturers that outsource sterilisation of their medical devices to a facility holding a valid licence under the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, will no longer have to obtain a separate loan licence for the sterilisation activity.

The change is intended to balance regulatory oversight with ease of doing business.

Earlier, manufacturers had to secure a separate loan licence even when the outsourced sterilisation facility itself held a valid licence. The government said removing the duplication would reduce paperwork, administrative burden and compliance costs, particularly for manufacturers without their own sterilisation facilities.

However, a traceability requirement has been retained. Manufacturers will have to mention the licence number of the sterilisation facility on the medical device label. A six-month transition period has been provided to allow companies to modify labels, packaging and related processes.

The government said the change was intended to balance regulatory oversight with ease of doing business by retaining traceability while simplifying the licensing framework.

In another change, the amendment to Rule 63 includes the European Union (EU) among the stringent regulatory jurisdictions recognised for waiving clinical investigation requirements for medical devices that do not have predicate devices in India. The provision already recognises the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and Japan. With the EU now included, medical devices approved in the EU that meet the eligibility conditions can benefit from the waiver provisions in India. The move is expected to reduce regulatory timelines for importers and manufacturers and facilitate quicker availability of newer medical technologies to Indian patients.

Education Minister reviews 'key priorities' to strengthen CBSE

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi convened a meeting with officials of the Department of School Education and Literacy on Monday to address controversies surrounding the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

"The meeting reviewed key priorities for strengthening CBSE's academic, examination and administrative processes, with a focus on greater efficiency, transparency and improved support for students and teachers," Mr. Joshi wrote on X.

Centre lifts ban on wheat exports amid depressed local prices

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government on Monday lifted the export ban on wheat and its products with immediate effect and said the decision was aimed at boosting farmers' income amid depressed domestic prices.

Early this year, the government had allowed export of 50 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of wheat products. India, the world's second-largest wheat producer, banned wheat exports in May 2022 as part of measures to control rising domestic prices.

The government has also removed export ban on wheat flour and other products such as maida, semolina, and wholemeal atta.

SC notice to Jharkhand on plea on exam irregularities

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the State of Jharkhand and the Jharkhand Public Service Commission on a petition seeking an independent, time-bound Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into alleged malpractices in the Jharkhand Combined Civil Services Preliminary Examination.

A Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India Surya Kant was hearing a petition filed by activist Harisharan Devgan, represented by senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra and Satyam Singh Rajput.

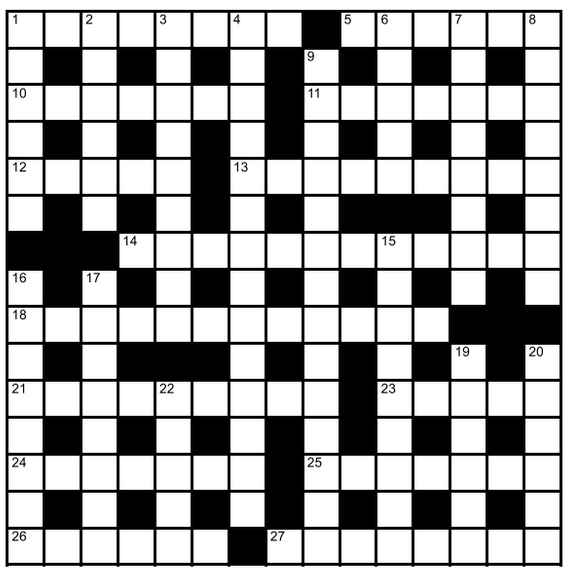
Students had been protesting for over a month against alleged malpractices in the State-conducted exam, Mr. Mishra said. It was imperative to have the allegations in the case probed by an independent agency, such as the CBI, rather than the State CID, which is currently investigating the case, he added.

TH CROSSWORD + 14881

(set by Dr. X)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Master dwelt on awful accident in nuclear reactor (8)
5 Extract from ripe cacao that's used to induce vomiting (6)
10 Mysterious moans in stately home (7)
11 Wine merchant beginning to visit model in secret (7)
12 Look at hunk, ultimately sexy (5)
13 Thievish con lures a drunk (9)
14 Cynthia baked crackers some time ago (4,2,3,3)
18 Inadequate actions that pint drinkers avoid? (4,8)
21 Love to cuddle over essentially comfortable mat in front of fireplace (9)
23 Ruffle Republican in charge (5)
24 A con is running outside institute in capital city (7)
25 Invalidate union with sick, regressive fellow in New York (7)
26 Provides vehicles to tour Tenerife on vacation (6)
27 Extremely wealthy youth at premiere consuming ecstasy in fact is naive (4-4)

Down

1 Starts to malign inept member, very upset about bloomer (6)
2 Group enthralled by alcohol, in euphoria (4,2)
3 Raised millions to acquire secluded place producing milk (5,4)
4 New tea maker with new lid worked very well (4,4,1,5)
6 British coppers in compound caught rogue finally (5)
7 Bond interrupts criminals making agreements (8)
8 Bows and arrows at first removed from terribly rusty case (8)
9 Go nude in revel, cavorting after consuming cocaine in excess (14)
15 Hydrogen and nitrogen extracted essentially in a careful manner (9)
16 Infernal leader of hoodlums restrained by chief, shot in the arm (8)
17 Straightforward copper probing violent cartel (5-3)
19 Cotton fabric turning yellow, fraying at centre (6)
20 Romped in Portugal with hot European lady (6)
22 Revolting scoundrel grabs son on base - it's shocking (5)

SUDOKU

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

No.SS6983 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

A	R	B	I	T	R	A	T	I	O	N		C	O	P
C		R		H		B		M		U		U		I
C	R	E	D	O		S	E	P	A	R	A	T	O	R
U		A		R		O		A		S		T		A
R	E	K	I	N	D	L	E	S		E	J	E	C	T
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T	R	U	F	F	L	E		E	X	A	M			
E		T		I						I		R		I
			I	N	C	H		O	L	D	H	A	N	D
L		S		G		E		L				I		E
A	P	P	L	E		A	B	Y	S	S	I	N	I	A
N		R		R		T		M		E		C		L
C	O	U	R	T	S	H	I	P		N	A	O	M	I
E		N		I		E		I		S		A		T
R	A	G		P	E	R	M	A	N	E	N	T	L	Y

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Celebrating Prophet's birth

Milad-un-Nabi, also known as Mawlid al-Nawabi, marks the observance of the birth of the Islamic Prophet Muhammed. Celebrated on the 12th day of Rabi 'al-Awwal, the third month of the Islamic calendar, this occasion holds deep spiritual significance for millions of Muslims across the globe. The day serves primarily as a sacred time for reflection, gratitude and remembrance, said Syed Meeran.

Rather than a grand, ostentatious holiday, Milad-un-Nabi is centered on honouring the life, teachings and noble character (*Akhlaq*) of Prophet Muhammed. Devotees gather in mosques, community centres and homes to listen to lectures detailing his life story, recite poetry in his praise (Nats or Mawlid compositions) and readings from the Koran.

Central to the celebration is the message of universal peace, compassion and charity. Prophet Muhammed is regarded in Islam as Rahmatan lil-Aalamin (a mercy to the worlds) and the observance emphasises his legacy of kindness towards the poor, social justice, forgiveness and community service. Across many traditions, communities prepare elaborate feasts, distribute food to the less fortunate and organise charitable drives to honour his altruistic spirit. Emulating the Prophet's concern for the vulnerable families and feeding them is a core aspect on this day. Ultimately, Milad-un-Nabi is more than a historical commemoration. It acts as an annual renewal of faith, encouraging believers to embody the Prophet's virtues – honesty, humility, patience and love – in their daily lives, strengthening social harmony and spiritual growth.

INBRIEF

SEBI unveils index for market infrastructure institutions

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced an Information Technology Resilience Index (ITRI) for market infrastructure institutions (MIIs), including stock exchanges and depositories, as part of efforts to strengthen the resilience of their IT systems. In a circular, the markets regulator said the index would assess the MIIs across nine parameters, including availability, security, integrity, governance, reliability and monitoring, business continuity, modularity and flexibility, scalability, and other relevant factors. SEBI said that the MIIs would be required to develop an Early Warning System (EWS) to detect any deterioration in ITRI parameters that could potentially lead to performance issues, system slowness or other disruptions, and take remedial measures.

Third Wave Coffee raises ₹408 crore in funding

Third Wave Coffee, a Bengaluru-based coffee and food firm, has raised ₹408 crore in a funding round led by existing investor WestBridge Capital while the round also witnessed participation from Creagis and other angel investors. The new funding is expected to fuel Third Wave Coffee's next phase of expansion, with capital directed towards geographic growth in existing markets, building greater density in high-potential cities and strengthening the brand's ability to serve a wider range of consumer occasions, according to the company. Third Wave Coffee has accelerated its national footprint by entering Ahmedabad, Mangalore and Agra last year while strengthening its presence across Delhi, NCR, Hyderabad, Chennai, Mumbai and Pune. In June 2026, it entered East India with three cafés in Kolkata. The firm is currently evaluating opportunities in other eastern markets, including Guwahati, Ranchi, Patna and Bhubaneswar.

In-principle nod for airports' privatisation

Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee approves proposal for third round of privatisation covering 11 airports in five bundles

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government's Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) has given in-principle approval to the Ministry of Civil Aviation's proposal for the third round of airport privatisation, covering 11 airports across five bundles, according to a government document.

The proposal will now move towards securing the PPPAC's final approval, following which it will be placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

The 11 airports being considered for privatisation in five bundles include Amritsar and Kangra; Varanasi, Gaya and Kushinagar; Bhubaneswar and Hubballi; Raipur and Aurangabad; and Tiruchirappalli and Tirupati.

The airports being considered for privatisation include Amritsar and Kangra; and Tiruchirappalli and Tirupati. FILE PHOTO

Responding to the PPPAC Chair's concern over the risks of oligopolistic concentration and over-leveraging in the airport sector, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said it plans to cap the number of airport bundles that can be awarded to a single bidder.

The modalities for the proposed cap are being finalised and will be submitted as part of the proposal seeking the PPPAC's final recommendation, according to the Record of Discussion dated August 20.

The issue of bidder concentration gained prominence following the previous round of airport privatisation, in which the Adani Group won bids for all six airports on offer.

At the time, the PPPAC had rejected key recommendations from the Finance Ministry and NITI Aayog, including a limit of two airports per bidder and requirement for prior airport operations and management experience.

UPI turns a decade-old, sees 13,000-fold surge in transaction volume

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI), launched on August 25, 2016 by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has completed 10 years of transforming digital payments in India.

UPI has emerged as the backbone of India's digital payments ecosystem and a critical driver of financial inclusion, the Finance Ministry said in a release.

Over the decade, UPI's annual transaction volume expanded from 1.78 crore transactions in FY17 to over 24,162 crore transactions in FY26, representing a 13,000-fold surge in transaction volume.

Transaction value rose sharply from ₹0.07 lakh crore in FY17 to approximately ₹314 lakh crore in FY26, translating into a more than 4,000-fold increase in transaction value, the Ministry said.

UPI is currently operational in 11 countries and has emerged as one of the most successful pillars of digital public infrastructure, providing an interoperable, real-time payments platform that enables seamless peer-to-peer and peer-to-merchant transactions via a single application. "By bridging the digital divide, advancing financial inclusion, and expanding access to digital financial services, UPI has empowered individuals and communities across the country while driving broad-based economic participation," it added.

Annual transaction volume expanded from 1.78 crore in FY17 to 24,162 crore in FY26.

TCS to buy out Porsche's MHP for €320 mn EV

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is planning to fully acquire MHP Management- und IT-Beratung GmbH (MHP), Porsche AG's Germany-based management and IT consulting subsidiary, for an enterprise value of €320 million, excluding customary post-closing adjustments for net debt and working capital.

The acquisition is part of a broader €1.25 billion, five-year strategic partnership between TCS and Porsche under which TCS will provide artificial intelligence (AI) services across Porsche's mobility value chain. The transaction and partnership remain subject to regulatory approvals, with the acquisition to be completed through a TCS subsidiary.

TCS will establish a dedicated AI Mobility Centre of Excellence for Porsche. The centre will focus on deploying AI-driven solutions across manufacturing, engineering, operations and customer experience.

MHP reported a CY 2025 turnover of €742 million and has 4,500 employees. Besides Germany, the company operates through subsidiaries in Romania, the U.K., the U.S., India and Mexico. "MHP brings strong automotive and industrial consulting and implementation experience, with strengths in business transformation, AI, SAP, manufacturing digitalisation, and connected mobility," TCS said.

Domestic sugar prices fall, volatility remains a concern

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE/NEW DELHI

With the Centre's announcement last week permitting import of 10 lakh tonnes of raw sugar, domestic prices are cooling down. However, the price volatility remains a matter of concern.

The current sugar marketing season that began on October 1 last year saw a substantial quantity of sugar sold at ₹38-39 a kg (ex-mill price).

Prices started going up in January, to ₹48 a kg, and stood at ₹56 a kg on Monday (Maharashtra ex-mill price).

The price was ₹58 a kg (Maharashtra ex-mill) on August 22 and ₹62 a kg on August 21.

An industry source said the ex-mill prices are likely to hover between ₹50 and ₹60 till Nov. - December.

Office-bearers of the Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) told reporters in New Delhi on Monday that the recent firmness in sugar prices should not be construed as shortage of sugar in the country.

India's sugar balance remains fundamentally comfortable, with net sugar production for 2025-2026 (sugar season) estimated at around 279 lakh tonnes (LMT) against domestic consumption of 280-285 LMT, and projected closing stocks of about 35 LMT.

Adequate stocks are available to ensure uninterrupted domestic supplies through the transition into the next sugar year.

The recent increase in sugar prices is the result of a convergence of temporary factors, including lower-than-initially-expected production, heightened festive-season demand, market sentiment, and firm international sugar prices, according to the ISMA.

Haryana: Godrej to invest ₹20,000 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Godrej Industries Group is eyeing up to ₹20,000 crore investment in the State of Haryana generating almost 40,000 jobs.

It signed a memorandum of understanding with the State government under which the firm would build upon about ₹12,000 crore it had already invested till date.

Godrej Properties Ltd (GPL) is expected to be a key driver of the Group's expansion, with plans to invest ₹16,000 crore in Haryana by FY28.

GPL currently has 18 projects across Gurugram, Sonipat, Faridabad, Panipat and Kurukshetra. Its future expansion plans are expected to extend beyond residential development.

Godrej Properties Ltd (GPL) will be the key driver of expansion.

Godrej Ventures, the Group's real estate private equity arm, has invested about ₹1,000 crore in the State so far and plans to deploy an additional ₹3,500 crore towards Grade A+ office infrastructure in Gurugram. The office investments alone is likely to generate over 30,000 direct and indirect jobs, Pirojsha Godrej, Chairperson, Godrej Industries Group said.

Tata's Oriental Hotels, IHCL set to merge

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), India's largest hospitality company belonging to the Tata Group, has announced that Oriental Hotels Limited (OHL) will be merged with it through a Scheme of Arrangement.

An exchange ratio of 25 IHCL shares for every 117 OHL shares has been set for the all-stock transaction which is targeted for completion in H2FY28.

Value creation

"The merger will drive long-term value creation by leveraging IHCL's strong balance sheet to support strategic investments, including inventory expansion and product enhancements strengthening the premium positioning of the portfolio," said Puneet Chhatwal, MD and CEO, IHCL. Oriental Hotels is an associate company of IHCL with a portfolio of seven hotels with 825 rooms.

Oriental Hotels is an associate company of IHCL with a portfolio of seven hotels with 825 rooms

OHL holds investments in several IHCL group hotel companies in India and internationally, including the St. James Court.

"The merger of OHL with IHCL will create significant value for OHL shareholders, enabling them to now participate directly in IHCL's growth journey," said Pramod Ranjan, MD & CEO, Oriental Hotels.

ALLEN eyes ₹3,800-crore IPO to fund institute's expansion

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

ALLEN Career Institute, a 38-year-old test-preparation firm, is gearing up for major expansion across India, backed by technology investments, selective acquisitions and a proposed initial public offering (IPO) of about ₹3,800 crore.

The Kota-based education firm, which has grown from a family-run coaching institute into a professionally-managed, technology-enabled education business, is looking to use the IPO proceeds to accelerate regional expansion and strengthen technology, artificial intelligence (AI) and automation capabilities.

Allen opens Mangaluru Centre.

Organic/inorganic route

The firm is also evaluating expansion into additional markets through a combination of organic growth and selective acquisitions, said CEO Nitin Kukreja.

The strategy comes as indigenous coaching industry is projected to grow from about $32 billion to $52 billion by 2030 while the K-12 supplementary education market represents an opportunity of more than $19 billion, according to sector estimates cited by the company.

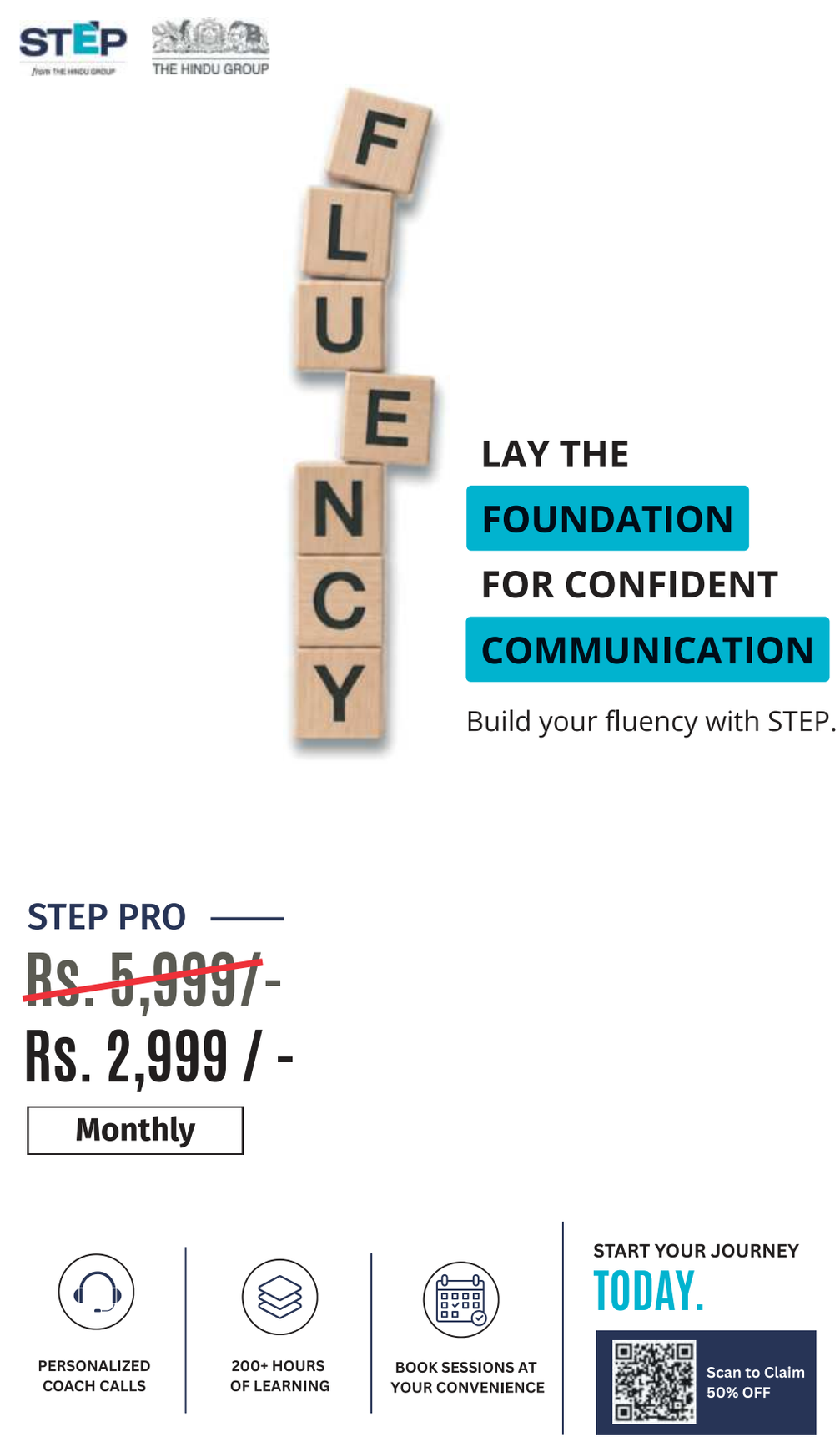
In 2022 Bodhi Tree Systems, a joint venture between James Murdoch's Lupa Systems and former Disney Asia Pacific chief Uday Shankar, acquired a 20% stake in Allen Career Institute for $600 million. The company is believed to have crossed ₹3,700 crore in revenue in FY26.

IndiGo's Gangwal to give ₹300 cr. to IIT Kanpur

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

IIT Kanpur alumnus and IndiGo co-founder Rakesh Gangwal has committed an additional ₹300 crore towards the development of the Gangwal School of Medical Sciences and Technology at IIT Kanpur.

This follows the ₹100 crore donated in 2022, which supported the institute's initial plans to set up the medical school. The project envisages a 500-bed super-speciality hospital on the campus along with a 200-bed cancer care and research centre.



DAMASCUS

Syrian court sentences Assad-era's top religious cleric to life in prison

AFP

In the latest Syrian court trial of officials affiliated with the rule of former President Bashar al-Assad, former grand mufti Ahmad Badreddine Hassoun was on Monday convicted of inciting violence and justifying murder. Mr. Assad and his brother Maher have been sentenced to death in recent weeks, many of them in absentia. AP

SEOUL

U.S. cancels joint marine drill with S. Korea, citing Iran war demands

REUTERS (FILE PHOTO)

South Korea said on Monday that United States had cancelled the Ssangyong drills, a joint amphibious landing exercise, scheduled for next month due to constraints on force availability due to the Iran war. The cancellation follows U.S. President Donald Trump's order last week to scale down the Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises. AFP

DUBAI

Yemen's Houthis claim attack on Saudi Arabian oil tanker in Red Sea

REUTERS

Yemen's Houthis said on Monday their forces hit a Saudi oil tanker in the Red Sea with a ballistic missile, as the Iran-backed rebels pursue a maritime blockade of the kingdom. The claim came hours after a British maritime agency said a tanker struck by a "projectile" caught fire 63 nautical miles west of the Saudi city of Yanbu. AFP

TOKYO

Japanese lawmakers embark on China visit with aim to mend ties

AFP

A cross-party group of Japanese lawmakers headed to Beijing on Monday seeking to mend strained ties following Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's comment on Taiwan that angered China and led to escalated tensions. "I hope we can find a clue to restart a dialogue," a CRA party spokesperson said before leaving the Tokyo airport. AP

U.S. vows 'economic asphyxiation' of Iran with new set of sanctions

Washington says expanded secondary sanctions will target Iran's digital assets, technology, gold, aviation and shipping; warns other nations to cut off financial ties with Iran; Tehran calls U.S. financial offensive 'an admission of military defeat'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON AND TEHRAN

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Monday laid out plans for the "economic asphyxiation" of Iran, expanding Washington's secondary sanctions threats and warning of dire consequences for countries that do not join the campaign.

The announcement comes almost six months into a war on Iran that has ground to a stalemate, with stalled peace talks and Tehran blocking most traffic through the crucial Strait of Hormuz.

Mr. Bessent earlier said the United States was declaring an "economic D-Day" on Iran, but his announcement named no specific countries beyond Iran and no timelines.

"Around the globe, our objective is to sever every economic lifeline that sustains this tyrannical regime until Tehran stands alone," Mr. Bessent told a press conference. "We are going to hold everyone accountable, and this is economic asphyxiation of this regime."

He added that countries not joining U.S. sanctions would "share in the isolation" of Iran, and noted that President Donald Trump was making phone calls to world leaders with requests to stop interactions with Tehran.

The Treasury Department said expanded secondary sanctions would target Iran's digital assets, technology, gold, aviation and shipping sectors.

In a post before the announcement, Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said the latest U.S. threats were an admission of military defeat, and warned countries against aiding Washington.

"Your narrative doesn't add up," Mr. Gharibabadi said, asking why, if Washington had achieved its goals, "there is a need for the largest financial invasion in history".

"Is this a victory or an admission of America's defeat?"

Iran's Parliamentary Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf brushed off U.S. threats, saying on X that "economically, the U.S. is not in a position that would allow it to further restrict its relations with other countries".

On Monday, Pakistan's Army chief Asim Munir visited Iran and met with Mr. Ghalibaf. Islamabad played a key role in brokering an April ceasefire that later fell apart.

Mural messaging: Commuters pass a giant billboard depicting U.S. President Donald Trump in Tehran on Monday. AP

U.K. to help Ukraine build long-range missiles: PM

Associated Press
LONDON

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said on Monday that the U.K. will help Ukraine make its own long-range missiles by sharing classified information for British components.

Mr. Burnham, who was in Kyiv alongside other world leaders to mark Ukraine's Independence Day, said defence firm MBDA will release details on U.K.-made parts for the SCALP missile to Ukraine to help the country assemble the weapons.

The SCALP missile is the French-produced version of the U.K.'s Storm Shadow, an air-launched, high-precision missile with a range of more than 250 kilometres.

U.S. administration proposes $1.03 lakh fee for H-1B visas

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

The U.S. on Monday proposed a $103,265 fee for all H-1B visa cap-subject applications, including those eligible for the advanced degree exemption, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said.

The new proposal came a month after a federal appeals court rejected a plea to stay a district judge's order overturning the [Donald] Trump administration plan to charge a $1,00,000 fee for H-1B visa applications.

"...DHS proposes to implement the USD 103,265 amount as a separate, additional H-1B fee rather than combining it with the existing H-1B petition fee," the notice said.

It said the fee would apply only to H-1B cap-subject petitions, including those eligible for the advanced degree exemption, but not to cap-exempt filings.

The proposed fee is specifically to recover the interagency costs described in this rule and having a standalone fee is intended to facilitate tracking, allocation, and reporting of the associated revenue, the DHS said.

The U.S. Congress set the current annual regular cap for the H-1B category at 65,000, commonly known as the "regular cap". It also set aside 20,000 additional H-1B visas for workers who hold a Master's degree or higher from a U.S. college, commonly called the Master's cap.

Mannar locals fear ecological fallout amid Sri Lanka's green energy push

Meera Srinivasan
MANNAR

For about a decade now, successive governments in Sri Lanka have sought to tap Mannar's strong winds to power the island's transition to green energy. But renewable energy projects – existing and proposed – have left local communities increasingly fearful about the possible impact on their environment and livelihoods.

Residents in villages across Mannar district, on Sri Lanka's north-western coast, report recurring flash floods in recent years, growing demand for land from both the government and private companies, the constant noise from wind turbines near their homes, and a shrinking fish catch. They fear that the growing number of renewable energy projects could be contributing to these changes. If decades of war meant contending with deaths, disappearances, and displacement, the post-war years have forced another struggle upon the people of Mannar – for development that meets their needs.

"We are often asked if there is scientific proof linking these changes to the renewable energy projects. Sometimes, everyday lived realities of people reveal more than science does," said Fr. G.A. Arulraj Croos, Director, Caritas Valvuthayam, the social arm of the Catholic Diocese of Mannar. "It is a survival issue, not merely an environmental concern."

Residents have no scientific evidence to substantiate their claims so far. But they contend that the authorities, too, have not shown them research that rules out any impact on their environment. "We can only tell you what we see and experience. The course of waterways in our village has changed. We can see the coastline eroding," said a resident of Arippu village. "Following land acquisitions in the district to accommodate wind turbines, rainwater does not drain out like before. We are frequently experiencing floods," he said. "They [the authorities] think we oppose everything".

Cause for concern: Projects such as the Thambapavani wind farm could harm local environment, islanders say. MEERA SRINIVASAN

Harnessing the winds

Thirty towering turbines line the southern coast at the Ceylon Electricity Board [CEB]'s Thambapavani wind farm – Sri Lanka's first large-scale wind project. Conceived in 2018 to add 104 MW to the national grid, the nearly $200-million project was inaugurated in late 2020 by then Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, when his brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa was President.

Less than a year later in October 2021, Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani met Mr. Gotabaya to discuss the Colombo port terminal project that Adani Ports was executing. He also discussed potential renewable energy projects and visited Mannar. Five months later, the CEB signed an agreement with Adani Green for a $500-million 500 MW wind power project. The Rajapaksa administration approved the investment without a competitive bid, triggering a prolonged controversy. The succeeding Ranil Wickremesinghe administration, too, cleared the project in Mannar and nearby Pooneryn in 2023.

One of the biggest FDIs to come into the island after a devastating economic crisis, the project soon faced challenges from environmental groups and local communities. It was in the spotlight until Adani Green pulled out in 2025, even as President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's government resisted the company's "excessive" power purchasing tariff.

In the wake of persistent protests from locals voicing fears about the apparent environmental impact of the projects, including their impact on a key bird corridor that draws seasonal flamingos, the Cabinet decided late last year to halt all new wind power projects on Mannar Island.

President Dissanayake instructed authorities not to proceed with future projects "without the consent of the people living on Mannar Island". Meanwhile, the government is pressing ahead with projects already decided upon.

Residents are reassured that new projects are on hold, but they do not know what to make of ongoing projects being executed by local firms. "The government needs to tell the local communities what these projects are about, how much land they need, what benefits they will bring to the local community and what the environmental risks are," said M.A. Ameerun Nisha, a member of the local council or Pradeshiya Sabha.

Sri Lanka's total installed energy capacity is 6,345 MW, with a peak demand of about 3,000 MW, and most of the country's demand is met by hydropower. The government aims to add 300 MW from renewable energy sources to the national grid by the end of next year, according to Deputy Minister of Energy Arkam Ilyas. Pointing to the "economic strain" from energy imports, Mr. Ilyas told *The Hindu*: "Some months we are spending nearly 30% of our foreign reserves to import fuel. Our aim is to reduce it to 10%."

On the apprehensions of locals and environmental activists, he said: "We are aware of their concerns and are taking them on board. I have been visiting the villages to better understand their issues, so we can raise awareness and respond constructively. We are working to ensure that the projects benefit locals by generating jobs and enhancing development prospects."

RAISING THE BAR

Pant is India's top wicketkeeper run-getter in away Tests

ANI

Rishabh Pant went past M.S. Dhoni to become the country's highest run-getter as a designated wicketkeeper in away or neutral Tests. The left-hander has 2,534 compared to Dhoni's 2,496. Pant also overtook Adam Gilchrist to become the third-highest six-hitter in Test cricket. He has 102 maximums while Gilchrist smashed 100.

ONE OF A KIND

Pant plays his shots and I cannot bat like him, feels Jurel

PTI

Rishabh Pant's century partnership with Dhruv Jurel helped India gain dominance in the second Test. Referring to his flamboyant batting partner, Jurel said: "Test cricket has different ways of playing. Pant plays his shots and I cannot bat like him. With his experience, he would talk about which bowler can be taken down".

PENALTY

Jaiswal and Asitha fined for breaching code of conduct

AP

India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and Sri Lanka seamer Asitha Fernando were both fined 25% of their match fee for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the second Test. The two were involved in a heated exchange on Sunday. One demerit point each has also been added to their disciplinary records.

NOT SHYING AWAY

Fulton takes full responsibility for the team's poor performance

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

I think the outcome was bigger than the performance. I think that got the better of us. If we had just gone back to our normal approach, which I was hoping we would, it would have been different. I take full responsibility for that — India men's hockey team head coach Craig Fulton after the team's World Cup exit.

Jurel and Pant turn up the heat on a rain-hit day

The two put on 112 for the seventh wicket as India declares its first innings at 503 for nine; Sri Lanka tottering at eight for two in reply; only 56 overs of play possible due to interruptions

INDIA IN SRI LANKA

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
COLOMBO

The afternoon turned grim, dark clouds hung low, skyscrapers became silhouettes and vanished entirely from view. The rain was that intense, cascading in waves, just like how Arundhati Roy wrote in *The God of Small Things*: "Slanting silver ropes slammed into loose earth, ploughing it up like gunfire."

The liquid intervention at 2.13 p.m. lasted 23 minutes. The efficient ground staff at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground covered the entire turf in sheets and the venue was not ploughed. But the showers forced a break during the second Test's second day at a time when India was coasting against Sri Lanka.

Gradually the clouds receded, the sun emerged and play resumed at 4.22 p.m., with India placed on 475 for eight and Dhruv Jurel on 95. He took his time, was stationary on 99 for a while before scampering for a single after tapping Asitha Fernando towards mid-off. Later he hoisted the seamer for a big six.

Even as Mohammed Siraj left and last-man Prasidh Krishna appeared, Jurel (115 n.o., 177b, 9x4, 2x6) ensured that India crossed 500. Aptly Shubman Gill declared the first innings at 503 for nine.

At close, Sri Lanka was struggling at eight for two with Yashasvi Jaiswal's diving catch to terminate Lahiru Udara's stint being the highlight.

India's batting effort rested entirely on two wicketkeeper-batters – the maverick Rishabh Pant and the efficient Jurel. Their 112-run seventh-wicket partnership anchored India past the 400-mark. Pant (63, 89b, 6x4, 2x6) fell off the first ball after lunch, while trying to clear long-off against off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha. Jurel, though, remained calm. He accumulated runs at a steady trot even as Manav Suthar flickered a while before edging left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya.

After Siraj walked in, Jurel held onto the strike as much as he could while the former defended. Jurel on-drove Asitha for four and then the skies opened up.

Earlier, resuming at 300 for five, India lost Saransh Jain as he awkwardly fended a short-pitched delivery from Asitha. But there were no Monday morning blues as Pant, who had retired hurt on the opening day, returned.

Lahiru Kumara steamed in and pitched it short around the leg-stump. Pant just swivelled and pulled a massive six that hit the roof. While Jurel remained patient, Pant was busy.

Host skipper Dhananjaya de Silva placed fielders at fine-leg, third-man, backward square-leg and sweeper-cover. Pacers, be it Asitha or Kumara, ran in and bounced, hoping for a miscued hit. Pant remained unruffled, and suffered a few blows too as he ducked and weaved.

He pinched some fours off Nuwantha while Jurel pulled Asitha past the ropes. Prabath found Pant drilling one straight down the ground and soon the batter reached his 50. Jurel too followed suit and then Pant whipped a six off Prabath over mid-wicket as India moved to 419 for six at lunch. Pant dominated the first act, and it was time for Jurel to flourish in the second part. He precisely did that for his second Test century.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal b Asitha 45 *(53b, 9x4)*, K.L. Rahul c Dickwella b Kumara 18 *(33b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal b Nuwantha 117 *(193b, 12x4)*, Shubman Gill c Dickwella b Asitha 50 *(108b, 6x4)*, Rishabh Pant c Udara b Nuwantha 63 *(89b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Ravindra Jadeja b Asitha 43 *(83b, 4x4)*, Dhruv Jurel (not out) 115 *(177b, 9x4, 2x6)*, Saransh Jain c Mishara b Asitha 6 *(8b, 1x4)*, Manav Suthar c Dickwella b Prabath 18 *(51b, 2x4)*, Mohammed Siraj lbw b Prabath 3 *(29b)*, Prasidh Krishna (not out) 4 *(7b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-8, lb-3, nb-3, w-7): 21; Total (for nine wkts. decl. in 138 overs): 503.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-37 (Rahul, 10.4 overs), 2-66 (Jaiswal, 16.6), 3-186 (Gill, 51.5), 4-281 (Padikkal, 76.2), 5-296 (Jadeja, 84.1), 6-307 (Saransh, 86.5), 7-419 (Pant, 112.1), 8-458 (Suthar, 124.4), 9-489 (Siraj, 136.1).

SRI LANKA BOWLING
Asitha 29-5-106-4, Kumara 20-4-68-1, Prabath 42-7-132-2, Nuwantha 38-3-154-2, Dinusha 3-0-8-0, Dhananjaya 2-0-8-0, Mishara 4-0-16-0.

SRI LANKA — 1ST INNINGS
Lahiru Udara c Jaiswal b Prasidh 1 *(6b)*, Kamil Mishara (batting) 5 *(5b)*, Prabath Jayasuriya lbw b Suthar 2 *(7b)*; Total (for two wkts. in three overs): 8.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-1 (Udara, 1.2), 2-8 (Prabath, 2.6).

INDIA BOWLING
Siraj 1-0-1-0, Prasidh 1-0-1-1, Suthar 1-0-6-1.

Perfect mix: Jurel brought up his second Test hundred with a blend of caution and aggression. ANI

Playing Test cricket is a privilege, says Jurel

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
COLOMBO

Time seemingly paused as Dhruv Jurel batted on 99. With Mohammed Siraj for company, and an anxious Indian camp watching from the dressing room, Jurel took 13 deliveries to move to his coveted hundred while surviving a run out attempt too in the process. His knock deflated host Sri Lanka in the second Test.

Speaking to the media here on Monday and recalling the nervous 90s phase, Jurel said: "When I was on 99, he (Asitha Fernando) started bowling good lengths. When I played that shot (for the hundred), I thought it was going past the fielder and that there was a gap, but then I was like oh, God!"

On a stop-start day due to the rains, Jurel seemed at ease. "I am used to it, because I was here with India-A and am aware of the situation, about the (rain) breaks. I was just trying to bat in partnerships and also assess the conditions. Even if I scored a 100 today, tomorrow I will go and start from zero, that's how it is."

When Sri Lanka turned up for the first innings, Jurel donned the big gloves.

"Right now, (Rishabh) Pant has a sore right shoulder. We are closely monitoring him. Today I kept wickets, hopefully he will be fit," said Jurel.

Among the rivals, Jurel lauded Asitha: "It was so hot and he used the short ball. It's not easy for a bowler, and he was really challenging, especially when I was on 99."

Stressing that playing red-ball cricket is important, Jurel said: "Playing Test cricket is a privilege. We want to play well both in white and in blue".

Abid's five-for puts North on top; East in command

DULEEP TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Abid Mushtaq's left-arm spin bamboozled West Zone as North secured a 64-run first-innings lead on day two of the Duleep Trophy quarterfinals at the BCCI Centre of Excellence here on Monday.

The Jammu & Kashmir tweaker excelled with a fine five for 39 as West, starting from 31 for two, was bundled out for 187, with only Shams Mulani showing a semblance of fight (52, 94b, 7x4, 1x6).

And by the time a combination of bad light and rain ended proceedings, North was 171 runs in the green with Ayush Badoni at the crease on a confident 39 (49b, 5x4), and six wickets and two days remaining.

Abid had served an appetiser late on the opening day by castling West opener Prithvi Shaw with a classic left-arm spinner's delivery. In the opening session of day two, he ran through the middle-order, bowling 11 overs, conceding 13 runs and claiming three wickets.

Chief among those dismissals was that of captain Ruturaj Gaikwad. The Maharashtra batter stepped out of the crease, only for the red cherry to dip and hold its line. Ruturaj tried to cover for his error by offering his pad first. The unimpressed umpire gave him his marching orders.

Two balls later, Urvil Patel was also trapped in front, and it was only apt that Abid provided the finishing touches by sending back No. 10 Tushar Deshpande just before tea to complete a much deserved five-wicket haul.

On the adjacent ground, the contest between East and North East moved at a more frenetic pace.

From an overnight 355 for six, East raked up 467 and then shot out its opponent for a paltry 111, with Tripura medium-pacer Abhijit Sarkar scalping five for 20 runs.

With two days to go and a mammoth 349 runs in the red, India's newest – and weakest – cricket zone has a near-impossible task.

The scores: North Zone 251 & 107/4 in 21 overs vs. West Zone 187 in 65.4 overs (Shams Mulani 52, Abid Mushtaq 5/39).

East Zone 467 in 112.5 overs (Kumar Kushagra 55, Sudip Gharami 146, Shahbaz Ahmed 167) vs. North East Zone 111 in 42.5 overs (Abhijit Sarkar 5/20) & 7/0 in one over.

Wrecker-in-chief: Abid ran through the West Zone middle-order. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

'I believe in speed and staying straight'

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

In Jammu & Kashmir's historic Ranji Trophy triumph in 2025-26, Abid Mushtaq was a silent warrior. In 10 matches, he took only 20 wickets, and in the knockout stages, just four from three games.

But on day two of North Zone's Duleep Trophy quarterfinal versus West Zone, the left-arm spinner showed his real worth by picking up his 10th First Class five-wicket haul (five for 39).

Guile and control

The 29-year-old was indeed helped by a red-soil pitch that gripped and offered sufficient turn. But Abid also displayed sufficient guile and control, without getting carried away.

"I try to bowl within the stumps and it's very difficult to play that," Abid told reporters on Monday. "My plan is to use the crease. Sometimes I bowl from height, and sometimes from the base. I believe in [higher] speed and staying straight."

Abid's methods are straight out of the Ravindra Jadeja playbook, and it was for this reason that the visiting Australians signed him up as a net bowler in 2023 ahead of the Test series. But back home in the Chenab valley of Jammu region, he had few red-soil wickets to practise on.

Abid credits his improvement to the better infrastructure now available and also to the support of those like P. Krishna Kumar, J&K's bowling coach for the last three years.

"There were more green wickets," Abid said. "Now we have a variety of pitches... red and black soil. When the wicket is of red soil, I have a lot of confidence. I get goosebumps."

No wonder he made the West Zone batters dance to his tune.

Abid celebrates a wicket with Arshdeep. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

India crashes out after another lacklustre show

HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Aashin Prasad
AMSTELVEEN

Sukhjeet Singh put his arms aloft in celebration after scoring a goal in the 57th minute. But it was his side's second to Argentina's five as its World Cup run was nearing the end. It summed up India's day at the Wagener Stadion on Monday.

Twenty three years ago, it was in this very arena, where India scripted one of its greatest comebacks, overturning a 2-4 deficit in 15 minutes to beat Pakistan 7-4 in the Champions Trophy. Needing a big win to stay alive in the men's World Cup, there was to be no repeat story from the current class as it went down 5-3.

The defeat was India's third in five games in this World Cup. The former champion also let in 16 goals. Finishing last in Pool E, India will play Belgium for the seventh place.

India got off to a dreadful start as Argentina capitalised on its defensive errors. Inside 40 seconds, a failed clearance allowed an unmarked Joaquin Toscani slot home for the first.

Four minutes later, indecision from Yashdeep Siwach resulted in the defender conceding a penalty corner, which Nicolas Della Torre pushed low and hard to make it 2-0.

India found a lifeline through Sukhjeet as he scored with a backhand finish. Better control prevailed in the second quarter before further mistakes proved to be India's undoing once again. Mohith H.S. could do nothing to stop Tomas Domene's fiercely-struck reverse-hit.

Yashdeep's day got only worse when his backpass was intercepted inside the 25 yards before the resulting shot on target struck his foot. Domene made no mistake from the spot to make it 4-1. With eight minutes to go, Lucas Toscani added a fifth.

A late resurgence saw India reduce the margin with another goal from Sukhjeet before Hardik Singh converted a penalty stroke.

Argentina progressed to the semifinals after England could only manage a 2-2 draw with the Netherlands later in the day. The Dutch will meet Spain in Friday's first semifinal while Argentina takes on Germany the same day.

The result: Argentina 5 (Joaquin Toscani 1, Della Torre 5-pc, Domene 32 & 44-ps, Lucas Toscani 52) bt India 3 (Sukhjeet 9 & 57, Hardik 60-ps).

Cashing in: Argentina made India pay for its defensive errors. HOCKEY INDIA

INBRIEF

Balaji-Anirudh pair triumphs at Cancun Country Open

N. Sriram Balaji and Anirudh Chandrasekar won the doubles title at the Cancun Country Open, defeating the Mexican-Belarusian pairing of Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela and Ivan Liutarevich 6-3, 7-6(4) in the final.

Pratitee emerges sole leader; Mayank remains on top

Pratitee Bordoloi, with six points, emerged as the sole leader in the girls' section after round seven of the Asian junior chess championship in Mumbai. In the open event, top seed Mayank Chakraborty maintained his lead with six points.

Important results (seventh round): Open: Mayank Chakraborty 6 drew with Vignesh Vemula 5.5; Artem Pingin (Rus) 5.5 drew with Daksh Goyal 5.5; Apoorv Kamble 5 drew with Madhvendra Sharma 5; A. Hommadov (Tkm) 4.5 lost to Viresh Sharnarthi 5.5; Vivaan Sardana 4.5 drew with Imangali Akhilbay (Kaz) 4.5; Ilhan Charyyev (Tkm) 4 lost to Arshpreet Singh 5; Jaiveer Mahendru 4 lost to Ahmet Gubatayev (Tkm) 5; V.S. Nandish 4.5 drew with Agnivo Chakraborty 4.5; Siddhant Salunke 5 bt Guru Prakash 4. **Girls:** Aadya Gowda 5 lost to Pratitee Bordoloi 6; Leyla Shohradova (Tkm) 5.5 drew with G. Shivambika 5.5; Mariya Kholyavko (Kaz) 5 drew with Dakshita Kumawat 5; V.C. Nivedita 4.5 lost to Prishita Gupta 5.5; Sravyasree Bheemarasetty 5 bt Shanmathi Sree 4; Sunetra Dey 5 bt Jahan Rejepova (Tkm) 4; Akshaya Sathi 5 bt Anvita Sathi 4; Kasthuri Bhai 4 lost to S. Pranavasri 5.

Bertram tournament: Loyola Whites wins kabaddi title

Loyola Whites clinched the kabaddi title in the 92nd Rev. Fr. Bertram memorial tournaments, organised by Loyola College in Chennai. In the final, Loyola Whites defeated St. Joseph's College (Tiruchi) 45-18. SIVET (Chennai) came third.

LIVE TELECAST

Duleep Trophy: Quarterfinals, Day 3, JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Sri Lanka vs India: Second Test, Day 3, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 9.45 a.m.
Champions League (play-offs, second-leg): Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & LIV, 10.15 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday).

Rain plays spoilsport again; Kovai Kings progress to Qualifier 2

Having finished third in the league stage, the Shahrukh Khan-led outfit advances as the higher-ranked side; only three overs of play possible in the Eliminator against Tamizhans

Protecting the turf: The groundsmen were kept busy as heavy showers interrupted the Eliminator on Monday. R. RAGU

TNPL

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Vida Kovai Kings progressed to Qualifier 2 of the TNPL after its Eliminator against iDream Tiruppur Tamizhans was washed out at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here on Monday.

Kovai Kings and Tamizhans were placed third and fourth on the table, with both teams on eight points. But Kovai Kings had the superior Net Run Rate of 1.638, compared to Tamizhans' -0.013, and thus advanced to the next stage.

The match had promised intriguing battles, with the Shahrukh Khan-led side boasting the tournament's two most economical bowlers in left-arm spinner M. Siddharth (nine wickets at 5.46) and leggie Jhathavedh Subramanyan (13 at 6.29).

Tamizhans' openers Amith Sathvik (striking at 212.74) and left-hander Tushar Raheja (193.08) arrived as the competition's two fastest-scoring batters.

Kovai Kings' pace duo of Deeban Lingesh (12) and G. Kishoor (10) had also been among the wickets, providing further edge to the Eliminator.

Sedate start

Asked to bat, Tamizhans made an unusually sedate start, reaching 15 without loss in three overs before a heavy downpour brought play to a halt.

Deeban, bowling with the wicketkeeper standing up to the stumps, and Siddharth kept things tight, denying the openers the kind of start they had become accustomed to this season.

The scores: iDream Tiruppur Tamizhans 15/0 in three overs vs. Vida Kovai Kings. Match called off due to rain.
Wednesday's match (Qualifier 2): Trichy Grand Cholas vs. Vida Kovai Kings (7.30 p.m.).

Singapore u-20 coach impressed with his team's India outing

FOOTBALL

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

The two closed-door friendly matches against India earlier this month offered Singapore's under-20 men's football team a valuable test of where it stands against strong opposition.

Played at the Centre for Sports Excellence here, the games were part of preparations for the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2027 qualifiers. India won the encounters 3-0 and 1-0.

For Singapore head coach Syed Azmir, however, the results were secondary to the lessons his players could take from the outings.

"We wanted to test the players against strong opposition, see how well they could execute our principles under pressure and assess different combinations within the team. It was also important to give the players international match exposure and develop their understanding of the intensity, discipline and decision-making required at this level," Azmir said.

"Ultimately, the results are important, but our bigger focus was on the performance, learning from each game and making sure we leave India better prepared than when we arrived."

Intensity

Azmir was impressed by India's performance, particularly the intensity and physicality with which the home side approached both matches.

"What impressed me most about the India under-20 side was their intensity and physicality. They were aggressive in their approach, competed very well in their duels and were able to maintain that intensity throughout both matches. They were also well organised and disciplined in the way they played," he said.

"You could see that they have been together for some time and are preparing seriously for their AFC qualifiers. For our players, it was exactly the type of opposition we wanted. They punished our mistakes and forced us to make decisions quicker, which gave us a very good reference of the level we need to reach," he added.

Asian Games: Sports Ministry firm on sticking to the selection criteria

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry is firm on sticking to the selection criteria for the Asian Games and not giving in to external pressure in clearing names that don't make the cut.

The government recently cleared a 492-member list for the upcoming edition in Aichi-Nagoya, leaving out the football and handball teams and excluding several former medallists, leading to protests.

"There is a lot of pressure from all quarters to include many sportspersons. Many parents call up to say their child deserved a chance but was not selected. But our contention is, if someone merits selection on the basis of the government criteria, he/she will not be ignored but we cannot simply clear names," ministry sources said on Monday.

"For example, if the Asian timing is 10 seconds to be even a contender in in 100m, how can we send someone clocking 15s?" they added. The ministry's criteria mandate a top-six in individual and top-eight placing in team sports in the previous edition with the government having the final say.

There has been a protest over the pruned tennis list, which has seven players including two women and no place for top-ranked Sahaja Yamalapalli, with former star Rohan Bopanna raising questions. Earlier, paddler Manika Batra had slammed her exclusion by the federation while rider Anush Agarwalla, individual and team medallist in 2023, went to court but was not granted relief.

A nationwide programme will be organised on August 27 as part of National Sports Day, celebrated on August 29.

One of the missions of GCL is to build a fanbase: Rakshit

CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar

The third edition of the Global Chess League (GCL) in Mumbai last year proved a big hit with the fans, who were able to engage with their favourite stars at the Royal Opera House. The fourth season of the league, which opens at Bengaluru on September 5, will provide even bigger opportunities for them, according to Gourav Rakshit, the GCL Commissioner.

"After Mumbai, we have a sense of what the Indian fan expects from the GCL, and we are looking forward to making it even bigger and better at Bengaluru," Rakshit told *The Hindu* over the phone. "I think our broadcast also worked extremely well, and the fans at the venue could listen to the commentary of the games through headsets. That novelty was welcomed by the fans. One of the missions of GCL is to build a fanbase of chess."

He said they could look forward to spending more time with the players at Bengaluru. "At the special sections inside the fan zone now, where players can come and actually interact with the fans," he said. "The team owners too can interact with the fans, who will get a chance to experience a close connection with all the players."

GCL commissioner Rakshit.

> This time we have got an app where the fans can actually play along with the GM. The idea is that they could do their moves before the GMs

Rakshit said the GCL was developing an app that would give plenty to the chess fans. "Most of our fans are also chess players," he said. "Now this time we have got an app where the fans can actually play along with the Grandmaster. The idea is that they could do their moves before the GMs. And they will get to actually see the live positions that are on the board. We are excited that we will give the fans at home also a different opportunity to experience GCL, not just on the stream, but in action, live inside the app".

Praggnanandhaa beats Keymer, takes the lead

Precision play: Praggnanandhaa came up trumps in a crucial game. FLICKR/GRANDCHESSTOUR

GCT GRAND FINAL

Press Trust of India
ST. LOUIS (USA)

Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa defeated Vincent Keymer of Germany in the second classical game to take a 9-3 lead and take a big step towards to qualifying for the finals of the concluding event of Grand Chess Tour.

With both players running out of time, Keymer found a way to continue but it was in the second time control that the Indian GM cashed in with the German resigning on the 55th move.

The victory meant that Praggnanandhaa is six points away from making it to the final of the $450000 tournament.

There will be two more rapid games in which the winner gets four points and four blitz games that give two points for a win.

In the other semifinal, Fabiano Caruana of United States let slip a winning position against compatriot Wesley So. Caruana called the shots from the start and showcased his brilliant preparation that led to a huge advantage subsequently. However, So's fighting qualities helped him salvage a draw.

The top three from here will get a direct invite to next year's Grand Chess Tour and this event's winner will receive $200000. The runner-up will earn $125000 and third-placed player will get $75000.

The results: semifinal: classical second game: R. Praggnanandhaa bt Vincent Keymer (Ger); Fabiano Caruana (USA) drew with Wesley So (USA).

England drops pacer Carse for second Test

Associated Press
LONDON

England pacer Brydon Carse was dropped on Monday for the second Test against Pakistan following the latest off-field incident to affect the national team. Images on social media showed Carse in police handcuffs outside a nightclub in Derby on Saturday night.

The ECB said Carse will be replaced by Sonny Baker for the second Test, which starts on Thursday.

"Following a referral from ECB, the Cricket Regulator have confirmed that they will investigate the events," the ECB said on Monday.

Carse. AFP

Raphinha, Lopez score a brace each as Barca trounces Elche

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
ELCHE

Defending champion Barcelona cruised to a 5-0 win over Elche in its LaLiga opener on Sunday, with Raphinha and Fermin Lopez scoring a brace each and Anthony Gordon setting up two goals on his debut.

Karim Adeyemi also found the net on his debut as Barcelona made light work of a vulnerable Elche side at the Martinez Valero stadium.

Manager Hansi Flick had several regular starters on the bench as they continue to get up to speed after competing in the World Cup.

Lamine Yamal, a key part of the triumphant Spain squad, did start on the right but was far from his best. It, however, did not matter given Barcelona's otherwise sparkling display.

Flick pleased

"Five goals against this team is good because Elche plays fantastic football," said Flick.

"We are really happy that we won 5-0, three points. This is a fantastic start for us. It gives us the confidence which we need for the next matches," added the chief coach.

Flying start: Raphinha could not have asked for a better beginning to the league season. AP

Brazil international Raphinha lined up as the team's No. 9 – after Robert Lewandowski and Ferran Torres left the club – and shone.

Flick's high-line defence showed the occasional sign of its frailty but goalkeeper Joan Garcia did well when called on to keep a clean sheet.

Meanwhile, Ruben Amorim made a winning start to life in Serie A as his AC Milan side opened its league campaign with a 2-1 victory at Torino.

"The most important thing is to win," Amorim told *DAZN*. "There is one goal in football, winning."

The results:
LaLiga: Elche 0 lost to Barcelona 5 (Raphinha 14-pen, 67, Adeyemi 45+3, Lopez 71, 79).
Serie A: Torino 1 (Adams 90+3) lost to AC Milan 2 (Cisse 64, Rabiot 67); Frosinone 0 lost to Juventus 1 (Bremer 22).
Atalanta 2 (Raspadori 6, Krstovic 65) bt Sassuolo 1 (Odenthal 55).

In the post-Bazball era, can Brook go from reckless to ruthless?

The England star averages 53.63 after 39 Tests and is No. 1 in the ICC Test rankings, but too often during the regime of Stokes and McCullum as captain and coach, he was prone to rash dismissals. With the steely pair of Root and Fleming taking charge in a bid to revive the fortunes of the Test team, the onus is on the middle-order batter to control his impetuosity and boost his average even further

Vivek Krishnan

With the hallowed Headingley Cricket Ground serving as a backdrop, England's Test team ushered in a new era last week. It was brought upon the Englishmen after Ben Stokes' retirement at the end of a chaos-ridden series defeat to New Zealand in June. Brendon McCullum also had to relinquish his role as Test coach in the aftermath, curtailing his authority to just the white-ball set-up. Joe Root, certainly older and hopefully wiser to the perils of captaincy after his first stint, is back in the hot seat for a second time. The 35-year-old will have another Kiwi coach, Stephen Fleming, by his side when England embarks on a tour of South Africa for three Tests over the winter.

If Root & Co. intended to start with a clean slate and not let the previous regime's ideological inclinations linger, there were encouraging signs against Pakistan in Leeds. The result – victory by an innings and 103 runs inside three days – was just as the doctor ordered for England, but the willingness to change tack was most apparent in how Harry Brook went about his business during his two hours and 22 minutes at the crease.

At a venue he knows like the back of his hand, Brook simply batted, without resorting to any of the gimmicks that entertain and exasperate onlookers in equal measure. Not once did he dance down the track to wallop the ball over extra cover. The shuffle across the stumps for the scoop to fine-leg, another trademark of the Yorkshireman, was also concealed.

Some of Brook's indiscretions shouldn't give the impression that he doesn't quite care. If that was the case, he wouldn't have pulled out of the IPL in 2025 and invited a two-year ban from the T20 league because he wanted to focus on his commitments with England

Yet, the 27-year-old raced to 91 off 93 deliveries before walking off to a rousing ovation from his home crowd. Even his dismissal was unusually soft – bowled by left-arm spinner Ali Usman while looking to nudge the ball square on the leg-side.

It raises a pertinent question: was Brook's very first innings in the post-Bazball era a pointer to the tweak in approach that Root and Fleming desire from him?

It may appear absurd to quibble about a method that has only yielded outstanding results so far. A bit like nitpicking the song-writing structure of the Beatles. After all, Brook averages 53.63 after 39 Tests. He is one of only three batters since the start of 2020 to average more than 50 in this format. He is currently No. 1 in the International Cricket Council's rankings for Test batters.

More to offer

If there is a sense then that he still isn't optimising his ability to the fullest, it is a testament to his supremely high ceiling as a batter. Such was his incandescent start to life at the highest level that he was actually averaging a remarkable 61.62 after his first 23 Tests. Granted that it is natural for the average to plateau as one plays more Tests, but Brook could have sustained that initial surge if only he had applied himself more. Too often in his Test career, the middle-order dasher, driven by an impetuous streak to unleash his eclectic range of shots, has succumbed to his impulsiveness. It has been the difference between victory and defeat on some occasions.

The most glaring example came against India at The Oval a year ago. Chasing 374 in the fifth and final Test of a series that had oscillated like a pendulum all through, Brook hammered the Indian attack with nonchalance to take England to the cusp of a storied win. With another 73 runs required and seven wickets in hand, however, Brook committed the schoolboy blunder of assuming that the contest was done and dusted. Instead of aiming to stay through to the end, he swung wildly at a length ball by Akash Deep and holed out at mid-off after a sublime 111 off 98 deliveries. Mohammed Siraj & Co. sensed the narrowest of openings, and seized the initiative to clinch an epic six-run win and level the series 2-2.

If not for that error in judgment, England may have entered the Ashes later in the year with greater impetus and avoided a 1-4 rout. As it turned out, the legacy of Stokes and McCullum as captain and coach was tarnished by the end by their inability to win a series against either India or Australia.

Another nadir in Brook's collection of forgettable dismissals came in the final Test of the last series against New Zealand at Trent Bridge. With Stokes, whose retirement became public midway through the fourth day's play, promoting himself to open in the fourth innings and bowing out with a burst of attacking shots in pursuit of a target of 373, Brook decided to follow his captain's command without hesitation.

He produced a frenetic and frankly bewildering 9-ball 21, and was caught at fine-leg while trying to loft Zak Foulkes into the stands. The hysterical reaction of the New Zealanders – the stump mic picked up Rachin Ravindra chuckling as he muttered, 'what are they doing?' – summed up the imprudence of the stroke.

During the Test against Pakistan, Stuart Broad, who has turned into a shrewd commentator after a stellar playing career, delved into the conundrum facing Brook.

At Headingley, a venue he knows like the back of his hand, Brook simply batted without resorting to any of the gimmicks that entertain and exasperate onlookers in equal measure. Not once did he dance down the track to wallop the ball over extra cover

"He can play in any way that his captain and coach require for the team. McCullum and Stokes wanted him to play in a certain style, and that did play into his strengths. But if we look for improvements in Brook, I feel he could average 60 in Tests. England needs him to get the team over the line in big games. If he had got the job done against India, the narrative would have been different for England going into the Ashes," Broad commented on *Sky Sports Cricket*.

"If he can get through little periods and win those moments, he can be averaging closer to 60. Averages won't matter to him, but it is more about being the guy who wins Test matches at important times. There are some instances when he hasn't done that. Because he is so talented, we expect much more from him," the former fast bowler continued.

Brook's knock against Pakistan may be a sign that he is coming of age. The relatively measured tempo may have also had to do with the sheer incompetence of the Pakistan attack, for he knew that he did not have to manufacture boundary-scoring opportunities when a rank bad ball was on offer in every over. Even then, it is a step in the right direction for Brook to have had that situational awareness.

The trigger

When he has displayed daredevilry on previous occasions, he has done so to usually counter either a tricky surface or a formidable bowling attack that has homed in on a stifling channel.

While there is some cricketing logic to such an outlook, there is a fine line between being proactive and plain foolish. In Brook's case, he has tended to veer towards the latter.

The recklessness has extended beyond the field too. Think of the nightclub incident in Wellington on the eve of an ODI against New Zealand last October, when Brook was at the centre of an altercation with a bouncer. It was far from adhering to the standards of professionalism expected of an elite cricketer in the 2020s, not least because he was also white-ball captain.

Even if the top honchos of the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) don't concede, it would have had a bearing on the decision to not let Brook take charge of the Test team at this point. It may be to England's detriment, for he has shown a flair for leadership in helping the ODI and T20I teams regain their mojo under his watch. He led the two-time champion to the semifinals of the T20 World Cup in March, and also spearheaded T20I and ODI series wins against India at home in July.

"Harry makes a really good captain. He has a good presence and a very good cricket brain. I personally would have preferred England going with Brook as Test captain. It would have been a forward-looking step.

There is obviously the issue of what Harry has done off the field," former England skipper Nasser Hussain observed in the discussion with Broad. Some of Brook's indiscretions shouldn't give the impression that he doesn't quite care. If that was the case, he wouldn't have pulled out of the IPL in 2025 and invited a two-year ban from the T20 league because he wanted to wholeheartedly focus on his commitments with England. "It is a really important time for England cricket, and I want to fully commit to preparing for the upcoming series. In order to do this, I need time to recharge after the busiest period in my career to date," Brook said at the time of his decision.

Now, the time is ripe for Brook, approaching the prime of his career, to show that his template last week wasn't a one-off. If he can buckle down and become ruthless, England's new era under Root and Fleming can strive to accomplish series wins against elite opponents. Something that Bazball never managed.

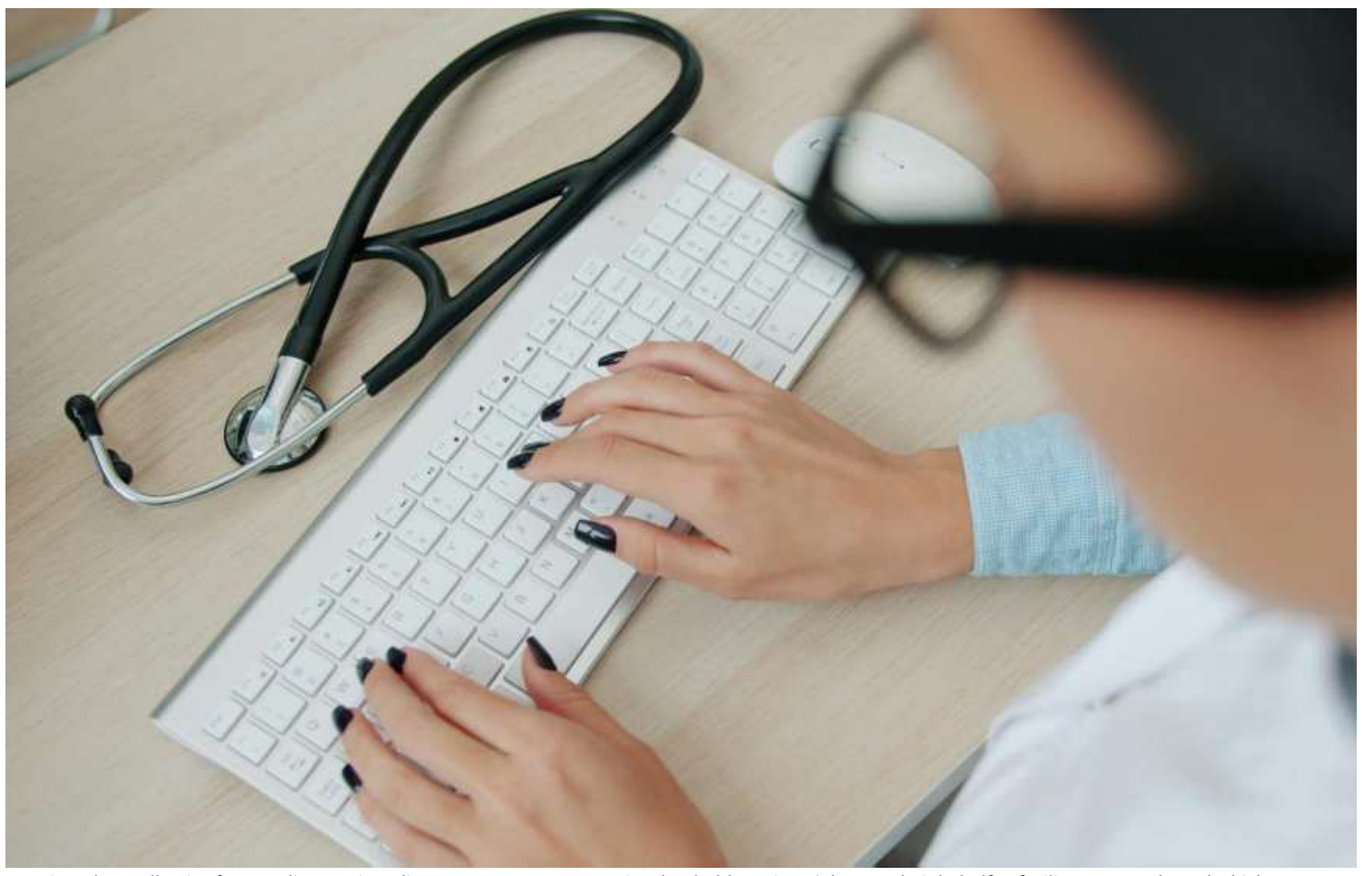
THE GIST

- Brook's knock against Pakistan may be a sign that he is coming of age. The relatively measured tempo may have also had to do with the sheer incompetence of the Pakistan attack, for he knew that he did not have to manufacture boundary-scoring opportunities when a rank bad ball was on offer in every over
- Too often in his Test career, the middle-order dasher, driven by an impetuous streak to unleash his eclectic range of shots, has succumbed to his impulsiveness. It has been the difference between victory and defeat on some occasions

What Amul can teach us about helping rare-disease patients

Just as Amul and the other cooperatives it inspired made India milk-secure and secured the livelihoods of millions of farmers, so too could a patient data collective have an outsized impact on drug discovery for most rare diseases, contributing to the health of patients with few treatment options

Alok Bhattacharya
Gayatri Saberwal



A patient data collective for rare diseases in India can serve as a cooperative that holds patients' data on their behalf to facilitate research, and which returns most, if any, of the revenue back to them. Representative image. VITALY GARIEV/UNSPLASH

Patient data, including medical records and patient experiences, are essential for scientists to develop new treatments, especially for rare diseases. The data help identify diagnostic biomarkers, predict disease progression, and help investigators design better clinical trials.

This is important because clinical trials are required to show that a new treatment is safe and effective before a country's regulators approve it. Conventional clinical trials involve a large number of participants and include both treatment and control groups. However, for rare diseases, too few people are eligible to participate, and it is not possible to have a control group.

In these situations, patient registries and natural-history studies can provide real-world data that can serve as 'external' controls. Natural-history studies record clinical parameters, including those reported by patients, over time, allowing clinicians to model disease progression in the absence of treatments. Patient data can also help scientists identify suitable participants and meaningful clinical endpoints to properly evaluate complicated treatments.

Thus, by improving trial design and reducing uncertainty, comprehensive patient datasets can help researchers develop drugs faster, increase the chances of their receiving regulatory approval, and ultimately help bring safe and effective treatments to patients with rare diseases more quickly.

Patient data collective

For example, patient information collected over many years helped doctors understand how spinal muscular atrophy – a rare genetic condition that damages the spinal cord – progresses, identify the best ways to measure improvement, design good clinical trials, prove treatments work, and show that treating patients early gives the best results.

Recent advances in artificial intelligence (AI) models now make these goals possible in new ways – provided good patient data are available. Researchers can collect this data in two steps: first, create a community of patients with a given condition; and second, collect a range of medical and diagnostic records for those patients.

To implement this, the authors propose a cooperative model to create a 'Patient Data Collective' (PDC). The inspiration comes from the dairy cooperative Amul, which serves lakhs of farmers in India and ploughs back most of the profits from milk and milk-derived products to them. Amul also offers veterinary care and at-cost feed for cattle.

Similarly, a PDC for rare diseases in India can serve as a cooperative that holds patients' data on their behalf to facilitate research, and which returns most, if any, of the revenue back to them. And the PDC can act on behalf of patients just as Amul does on behalf of farmers. It will access data from patient advocacy groups, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission, hospital records, the Centres of Excellence for Rare Diseases, clinicians, and other repositories.

In addition to its centralised repository, the PDC could have AI-based data analytics, with safeguards in place. That is, once a patient is registered, their consent to have their data collected, stored, analysed, and, indeed, protected.

Worldwide, patient advocacy groups are already helping research communities accelerate the development of drugs for rare diseases and navigate the approval ecosystem.

This movement has also reached India, and active disease-specific groups could play a critical role in setting up and operating the PDC as well.

Setting up a collective

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has already set up a rare disease registry based on data uploaded by a few experts from 19 specialised hospitals. The registry has collected data on around 4,000 patients with select diseases over the last five years.

Valuable though this resource is, it is also minuscule compared to India's population. Given Indians' experience with public registries, the data collection exercise behind the PDC should be flexible and inclusive, while maintaining accuracy and abiding by the highest ethical and legal standards.

This, in turn, is possible only as a patient-centric initiative with support from non-governmental organisations. Although setting up the proposed portal and backend database to accept data from all stakeholders while adhering to standards about accuracy, ethics, safety, and legality will be difficult, it is feasible, as demonstrated by the Citizen Health Platform operating in the U.S.

Patients' medical records are essential for scientists to develop new treatments, especially for rare diseases; the data help researchers identify diagnostic biomarkers, predict disease progression, and design better clinical trials

Once the portal is set up, patient data will need to be made easily available to the PDC through digital health records maintained by both public and private health providers. To aggregate scattered medical histories, genetic reports, and clinical notes, India can leverage its Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission: to mandate a clear governance model for a specialised, secure digital health locker or for the PDC to maintain patient records as such a locker.

Alongside a data repository, generative AI can be used as a tool to synthesise from large volumes of medical records medically relevant patterns that can inform doctors' and patients' decisions. Indeed, if an AI model is trained to engage with users in their local language, it can help analyse medical information to suggest possible diagnoses and lay out the various options, and thus encourage participation from diverse groups of patients.

Attracting drug developers

Support from the government or philanthropic organisations is needed to develop a platform with such AI capabilities, with clear governance and oversight. In fact, the PDC should deliberately attempt to generate useful data. The authors suggest encouraging natural-history registries led by patient advocacy groups to generate longitudinal real-world evidence datasets. The groups can be funded to initiate natural history studies for their target diseases, with the data then channelled to the PDC.

Aggregating granular, everyday patient-reported metrics across India's unique, genetically diverse endogamous populations could also attract drug developers from abroad seeking ethnically specific target-validation cohorts.

Rare disease revolution

With recent updates to India's New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, which embrace advanced computational modelling and non-animal testing models, Indian biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies can use the PDC to rapidly pre-screen and construct virtual synthetic control groups, making small-batch orphan drug evaluation clinically and financially viable within domestic budgets. Just as Amul and the other cooperatives it inspired made India milk-secure and secured the livelihoods of millions of farmers, so too would a PDC have an outsized impact on drug discovery for most rare diseases, contributing to the good health of many patients who currently have few treatment options.

(Alok Bhattacharya is an honorary visiting professor at the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society, Bengaluru. Gayatri Saberwal is a consultant at the Institute. alok.bhattacharya@gmail.com, gayatri.saberwal@gmail.com)

A villager seen with bottles of spring water in Gunung Batur, Indonesia, amid struggles to access groundwater due to El Niño impact. AFP

U.K. forecasts 'biggest' El Niño yet will break heat records

Agence France-Presse

This year's El Niño weather pattern will be the biggest in over a century and could make 2027 the hottest year globally, Britain's national weather agency predicted Friday.

An El Niño weather event happens when warming sea surface temperatures in the tropical eastern Pacific trigger worldwide changes in winds, atmospheric pressure and rainfall, as well as higher global temperatures overall.

Adam Scaife, head of long-range forecasting at the weather agency, told the *BBC*: "We are expecting the biggest El Niño for over a century, peaking at something over three degrees -- that is unheard of in modern climate records."

This means Pacific water would heat up more than 3 degree Celsius above the norm in the coming months.

El Niño occurs when water temperatures rise at least 0.5 degree Celsius above the baseline.

A record El Niño would be "adding to the stresses of climate change" following a summer of heatwaves across Europe, the Met Office said in a blog.

British forecasts have shown an exceptionally strong El Niño signal, where even a 2 degree Celsuis rise in temperature could be treated as a 'really big event'

Temperatures in the Pacific region are currently running about 2.6 degree Celsius above a rolling 30-year average, according to the Climate Brink dashboard based on data from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"We should be clear that this is an unprecedented event," British scientist Scaife said in a Met Office blog.

If the forecast is accurate, then 2026 "will far exceed our recent experience of El Niño and its worldwide climate influences", said the physicist who specialises in climate modelling.

"I have never seen an El Niño signal this intense in our forecasts," he added, with even a 2 degree Celsius rise considered a "really big event".

El Niño typically results in drier conditions across southeast Asia, Australia, southern Africa, and northern Brazil, and wetter conditions in the Horn of Africa, the southern United States, Peru and Ecuador. This year's anomalous warmth will have particularly strong effects throughout the Tropics, Scaife said. Forecasters "expect really severe droughts in places like South America, and the West Pacific", he added.

El Niño is already causing well below normal rainfall in India, the Met Office said.

The weather event is also expected to prompt "increased rainfall and storminess in the autumn here in the U.K. around November time", Scaife said.

Since El Niño events drive up the global average temperature, 2027 is now "very likely to replace 2024 as the warmest year on record", said Nick Dunstone, another Met Office scientist.

The British forecast for a very strong El Niño was in line with other forecasts: Carlo Buontempo, director of the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service, said in January that 2026 could be "another record-breaking year".

Peruvian and Ecuadoran fishermen coined the term El Niño ("the boy" or "the Christ Child") in the 19th century for the arrival of an unusually warm ocean current off the coast that reduced their catch just before Christmas. This phase of natural climate oscillation between high and low temperatures occurs every two to seven years, according to meteorologists.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

What Galileo missed

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

In his 1623 book 'The Assayer', which also contained his famous line about nature being written in mathematics, Galileo argued that the _____ of 1618 were optical illusions and atmospheric effects rather than real events. His opponent Orazio Grassi, whom he mocked mercilessly, was much less wrong. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

Galileo's notebooks from December 1612 and January 1613 show an object near Jupiter that he found had moved between the sightings and which he identified as a 'star'. He had actually spotted X, whose discovery is credited to Johann Galle and Heinrich d'Arrest because they identified it correctly as a planet. Name X.

QUESTION 3

The Italian nun Maria Celeste was Galileo's closest correspondent. She was placed in a Franciscan convent at 13 with poor marriage prospects. She wrote him 124 surviving letters, mended his shirts, sent him sweets, and managed his affairs during the trial. The convent destroyed his replies after she died. How was Maria Celeste related to Galileo?

QUESTION 4

The four natural satellites that Galileo found in January 1610 he christened the "Medicean stars", dedicating them to Y. It was an attempt at flattery — and it worked when Y gave him the title of Court Mathematician and Philosopher, freeing him of his teaching duties. Name Y.

QUESTION 5

In search of a job in 1588, a 24-year-old Galileo delivered two lectures on the dimensions of which imaginary structure in literature to the Florentine Academy? He estimated the structure's depth, the thickness of its crust, and even the height of Lucifer.

Visual: Name this German astronomer who found Jupiter's four largest moons independently of Galileo on January 8, 1610.

Answers to August 20 quiz:

1. When a version of a gene becomes randomly more/less common – **Ans: Genetic drift**
2. Theory to explain complex life using mitochondria, chloroplasts – **Ans: Endosymbiotic theory**
3. Eldredge's co-theorist who posited evolution could be rapid in bursts – **Ans: Stephen Gould**
4. Organs exemplified by human appendix, whale pelvis, etc. – **Ans: Vestigial bones**
5. Process that explains why animals sacrifice themselves for their kin – **Ans: Kin selection**

Visual: **Red Queen**

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

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of polling stations in Delhi after the SIR exercise

14,947 The number of polling stations in Delhi has gone up to 14,947 from 13,033 after rationalisation under the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) exercise. The number of polling-station locations has also increased from 2,696 to 2,856, according to a statement by the Delhi chief electoral officer (CEO) on Monday. PTI

Number of weeks for CPCB to fix standards for 3 new pollutants

10 The National Green Tribunal has allowed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) 10 weeks to standardise the methods for testing three new parameters or pollutants in ambient air. The three new pollutant in ambient air are aluminium, iron and silica. At present, the CPCB tracks 12 major pollutants under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). PTI

Number of airports to be awarded to private players by the govt.

11 The government plans to award 11 airports, including those at Varanasi and Tirupati, to private players in five bundles under the public-private-partnership model. The Civil Aviation Ministry has proposed the private partners for 11 airports, grouped into five bundles, with each bundle to be awarded to a single concessionaire, according to an official document. PTI

Percentage increase in average retail price of onion year-on-year

59 in per cent. Data maintained by the Centre shows that the all-India average retail price of onion rose 59 per cent year-on-year to ₹43.53/kg on August 24, from ₹ 27.37/kg a year ago. The Centre has started moving bulk onion stocks through dedicated railway rakes – the 'Kanda Express' – from Nashik in Maharashtra to major consuming centres. PTI

Bills passed in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Monday

8 Eight Bills, including the one allowing portions of park and garden land to be used for public infrastructure and utility projects, were passed by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Monday without discussion, amid the Opposition's protest demanding the resignation of Cabinet Minister B. Nagendra. PTI

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How the SC ruling redefined 'industry'

The majority held that 'industry' under the IRC must be interpreted based on its own specific text and statutory context, unburdened by the legacy of the 1978 precedent; Justices B.V. Nagarathna, Dipankar Datta, and Ujjal Bhuyan formed the minority view that a re-evaluation of the 1978 judgment was 'unwarranted'

EXPLAINER

Krishnadas Rajagopal

The story so far:
A nine-member Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India recently held that the nearly half-century-old interpretation of the term 'industry' will not automatically apply to the Industrial Relations Code (IRC), 2020, which came into force in November 2025 and replaced the legacy Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. This decision effectively severs the new labour regime from an expansive, worker-friendly precedent set in 1978, establishing a clean slate for future labour law disputes.

The scope of 'industry'
To understand the significance of this judgment, one must look back to the historic 1978 ruling in *Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v. R. Rajappa*.

Authored by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, that seven-judge Bench significantly broadened the definition of Section 2(j) under the 1947 Act. The 1978 judgment introduced the triple test, which classified systematic or organised operations based on employer-employee cooperation to provide goods or services for consumers as an industry.

This sweeping definition brought various activities, including hospitals, educational institutions, and municipalities, under the legal definition of an industry. The only exclusions were core sovereign functions of the state, such as defence, judiciary, and law enforcement. For nearly half a century, this judgment had enabled workers across diverse sectors to access legal recourse, enforce labour rights, and engage in collective bargaining against unfair practices.

The crux of the judgment
The Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, addressed the question whether the 1978 definition of 'industry' should govern Section 2(p) of the IRC.

Word of caution: Justice B.V. Nagarathna stressed that altering the definition of industry could create uncertainty and disrupt industrial peace. AFP

The majority held that 'industry' under the IRC must be interpreted based on its own specific text and statutory context, unburdened by the legacy of the 1978 precedent. Chief Justice Kant noted that while the core principles of the 1978 ruling had stood the test of time, the 1978 judgment would no longer act as the "sheet anchor" for interpreting 'industry' under the IRC.

Pending cases under the 1947 Act will continue to be governed by the 1978 Bangalore Water Supply precedent. All future disputes governed by the new Industrial Relations Code will be interpreted afresh.

Differing points of view on the Bench
The nine-judge Bench reflected nuanced positions on the balance between worker protections and modern economic realities.

An opinion authored by Chief Justice Kant, and shared with Justices Satish Chandra Sharma, Alok Aradhe and Vipul M. Pancholi, held that the 'triple test' of 1978 Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board case judgment will continue to be applied to pending industrial disputes.

The Chief Justice, however, found that the 1978 verdict could have been articulated differently and set down a "reformulated" triple test, which would operate prospectively. However, the possibility of using the recast triple test to determine if an operation was an industry or not under Section 2(j) of the repealed 1947 Act is non-existent as the new labour law, The Industrial Relations Code 2020, has already come into force. The Bench has unanimously made it clear that 'industry' under the 2020 Code will be "interpreted independently" to align with contemporary industrial dynamics, and not be burdened by the 1978 verdict.

Justices B.V. Nagarathna, Dipankar Datta, and Ujjal Bhuyan formed the minority view on the Bench that a re-evaluation of the 1978 judgment was "unwarranted". Justice Nagarathna cautioned that altering the definition could create uncertainty and disrupt industrial peace.

Justice Nagarathna argued that the 1978 judgment had offered a broad-based definition of 'industry'. She highlighted that the judgment was a child of its time, when public sector workers were transitioning into private employment due to a changing industrial landscape inspired by privatisation, liberalisation and globalisation of the Indian economy.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi supported the need for the reference to the nine-judge Bench, but expressed his inability to agree to a "reformulated" triple test. Justice Bagchi said an apprehension that the triple test conceived in the 1978 judgment converted any organised activity into an industry was misplaced.

The judge agreed with Justice Nagarathna that even the state could enter into seemingly non-sovereign functions. The concept of 'sovereignty' has itself undergone changes with the passage of time. Absence of a profit motive did not take an activity outside the realm of industry, he observed. He said it was unwise to "re-draft" Justice Iyer's triple test. Justice Datta echoed the need for judicial consistency. Sharing his opinion with Justice Bhuyan, Justice Datta remarked that institutional credibility relies on respecting finality rather than perpetuating doubt over established law.

A step towards a new era
By severing the IRC from the 1978 precedent, the Supreme Court has set the stage for a new chapter in Indian labour law, leaving it to future courts to decide where the lines between employer authority and worker protections will ultimately be drawn.

THE GIST

- A nine-member Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court recently held that the nearly half-century-old interpretation of the term 'industry' will not automatically apply to the Industrial Relations Code, 2020.
- A 1978 ruling had introduced the triple test, which classified organised operations based on employer-employee cooperation to provide goods or services for consumers as an industry. This judgment had enabled workers across diverse sectors to enforce labour rights.

Did Press Note 3 relaxations help attract more FDI?

The Centre says that 29 FDI projects worth ₹4,895.65 cr. had been reported to it under the revised framework

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far
The Union government on Friday said that India had received foreign direct investment (FDI) worth ₹4,895 over just the last few months, from companies that have benefitted from recent relaxations made to India's FDI rules.

The aim of the relaxations was precisely to ease the flow of investments that had earlier been locked out of India.

What was the earlier rule?
The Union government had issued Press Note 3 in April 2020, in which it amended India's FDI policy. The existing rule at the time stated that any entity of Bangladesh and Pakistan could invest in India only after securing Government approval. Press Note 3 widened this stipulation to include any country that shared a land border with India. So, this included Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan.

The popular perception is that the government took this decision as a result of border clashes between India and China at Galwan.

However, Press Note 3 was issued in April 2020, before those clashes took place in May.

The reason the change was made was to prevent hostile takeovers of companies ailing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. India and a few other countries had noticed that, early on in the pandemic, Chinese companies were buying up majority stakes in companies in the countries whose stock prices had plummeted due to the pandemic. The FDI restriction was aimed at curbing this.

While the origin of the rule was not directly linked to the border clashes, its extension over the years was certainly a result of the frigid relationship between India and China.

What was the relaxation?
In March 2026, the Centre eased the Press Note 3 restrictions somewhat. It said that FDI from entities would be allowed in India through the automatic route, without needing express government approval, if these entities had less than 10% stake based in countries that share a land border with India.

In other words, companies that had minority and non-controlling stakes held by these land-border countries could invest in India through the easier route.

The government did this because it said that a lot of investment into India had been held up because even companies that had tiny stakes owned by Chinese entities faced stricter restrictions on their investments into India.

"It is expected that the new guidelines will provide clarity and ease of doing business in India, and facilitate investments which can contribute towards greater FDI inflows, access to new technologies, domestic value addition, expansion of domestic firms and integration with global supply chain," the government had said in March when it eased the rules.

What has been the benefit?
The Ministry of Commerce and Industry said on Friday that a total of 29 FDI projects worth ₹4,895.65 crore had been reported to it under its revised framework up to August 10, 2026.

It added that these investments span a range of sectors, including information technology, artificial intelligence, information and communication, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, data centres and transport services, among others.

Further, the investments have come from several countries, including Mauritius, the U.S., the Republic of Korea, Japan, Singapore, Luxembourg, and the Cayman Islands.

In relative terms, this investment amount is not all that significant. For instance, it amounts to less than 1% of the total FDI India received in 2025-26. But it is still early days, and for India and FDI, every little bit helps.

THE GIST

- The Union government had issued Press Note 3 in April 2020, stipulating that any country sharing a land border with India could invest in the country only after securing Government approval.
- In March 2026, the Centre eased the Press Note 3 restrictions somewhat. It said that FDI from entities would be allowed in India through the automatic route, without needing express government approval, if these entities had less than 10% stake based in countries that share a land border with India.

CACHE

Privacy concerns: Protesters have expressed their anger against Flock by blocking cameras, reporting them to DeFlock in order to map them and pressuring clients to end their Flock contracts. REUTERS

What has fuelled the backlash against Flock cameras in U.S.?

Flock, a maker and operator of surveillance cameras and licence plate readers, has come under fire as critics accuse it of surveilling Americans and failing to do enough to curtail the misuse of data, including by some law enforcement officers

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far

The head of Flock, a maker and operator of surveillance cameras, that works with a range of clients in the United States, issued an apology this month after the *Washington Post* reported that multiple law enforcement officers had abused his product network, with at least one case involving an officer who misused Flock to stalk his ex-partner through her car's licence plates.

Across the U.S., anger is mounting against the surveillance camera firm, with critics going so far as to disrupt or even destroy the Flock cameras in their communities.

How do Flock cameras work?

Founded in 2017, Flock developed its business with the help of a two-way strategy: the sale of surveillance hardware, as well as surveillance-as-a-service subscriptions. Flock products include licence plate reader (LPR) cameras, video cameras, mobile security trailers, audio detection devices, drones, and software offerings. Instead of just buying and using a single camera, clients can join the Flock network and enable (optional) law enforcement access.

Due to this strategy, Flock's devices can help police officers collect data across wider areas and with more cameras, to detect incidents ranging from stolen cars to gun shootings.

The company's numbers certainly impress. According to its 2026 factsheet, over 2,800 crimes were solved weekly with Flock technology, while over 2,000 missing people have been located. Flock reported that it has partnered with over 6,000 "communities" across 49 U.S. states, as well as "thousands" of law enforcement agencies.

What caused the outrage against Flock cameras?

There are a number of reasons uniting the Americans who are against Flock. These range from the company's reputational challenges and the misuse of its Flock cameras, to the general anger over mass surveillance technologies.

Company founder and CEO Garrett Langley made headlines last year when he referred to a critic's anti-Flock advocacy organisation (called DeFlock) as "terroristic." He apologised for his comments this July, and promised to improve on the company's responses to the public's concerns.

Still, the *Washington Post* report in August that covered incidents where police officers misused Flock data to stalk women has added yet more fuel to the fire.

Soon afterwards, Flock announced that it was updating its safeguards, and cutting its default ALPR (Automated Licence Plate Reader) data retention period to seven days, unless legally required to keep the images for longer.

On its "Myths vs Facts" page, Flock noted that it does not carry out facial recognition, predictive policing, or demographic profiling. Flock stated that it did not contract with the U.S. agency ICE (Immigrations and Customs Enforcement) or the tech firm Palantir, both of which are associated with mass surveillance. Even so, media outlets have identified Flock cameras as being AI-powered. U.S. lawmakers have also raised questions about the possibility of ICE accessing Flock data.

Despite its outreach attempts, Flock is still facing public fury. One reason for this was a May 2025 report which alleged that Texas officials had used thousands of cameras in the Flock network to track down a woman who had an abortion, as part of an investigation. Flock dismissed these reports last year and stated that it was a missing persons case. However, later findings by the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) advocacy group support the original report.

While the verdict was pending, a simplistic version of the events entered the public consciousness: social media users began claiming that Flock had worked with the police to enforce the Texan abortion ban and target a woman.

In recent weeks, protesters have expressed their anger against Flock by blocking cameras, reporting them to DeFlock in order to map them, pressuring clients to end their Flock contracts, or even destroying Flock cameras. For example, a trending Instagram Reel with over 2 million views and 2,69,000 likes taught watchers how to dismantle a Flock camera without being detected by other cameras.

Furthermore, U.S. media outlets reported that in July, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) would not renew its original contract with Flock, due to "serious concerns" regarding civil liberties, privacy, and the data being collected from the cameras.

Does India face a similar dilemma?

Across Indian cities, more law enforcement bodies are experimenting with AI-powered cameras in order to catch traffic rules violators through their licence plates.

While these automated solutions seem encouraging, there has been a lack of human follow-up when it comes to penalising the offenders. Another challenge is in ensuring that the authorities are handling facial recognition data securely and privately.

Meanwhile, the use of CCTV cameras by both police departments and private citizens is rampant, but these surveillance efforts are fragmented.

Unlike with Flock, it is hard to share private camera feeds with the police in real time and derive useful insights from the data. Since they are owned by everyday users rather than leased by a dedicated company, these surveillance cameras are often unreliable and poorly maintained.

However, Indian citizens have become more vocal in calling out the use of smart glasses and AI-powered surveillance vans by the police, such as during the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) demonstrations in July. The potential misuse of facial recognition data to harass lawful protesters is a serious concern in these instances.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Sean Connery, the working-class Edinburgh boy who became the first actor to portray James Bond on-screen, was born on this day in 1930. A quiz on the Scottish actor

Mohammed Hidhayat

QUESTION 1
Before acting, a young Connery represented Scotland in which bodybuilding contest?

QUESTION 2
Which 1962 film introduced Sean Connery as James Bond to the world?

QUESTION 3
Connery won his only competitive Oscar for playing a tough Chicago cop in which 1987 film?

QUESTION 4
Which cause did Connery campaign for consistently, from the 1990s devolution vote through the 2014 referendum?

QUESTION 5
The Man Who Would Be King, starring Connery and Michael Caine, opens in British India and features which Indian actor in its cast?

Visual question: A still from Connery's final live-action outing. Name the 2003 film and identify the acclaimed Indian actor on the left.

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This writer became the first physically disabled author to win the Akutagawa Prize. Name the novel which won her the prize and its translator. **Ans: Hunchback by Saou Ichikawa, translated from Japanese by Polly Barton**
2. This novel won the Man Booker International Prize in 2018. Name the novel and the author. **Ans: Flights by Olga Tokarczuk**
3. This elusive Italian novelist writes under a pen name. The last book in her famous quartet series was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize in 2016. Name her, the book and the series. **Ans: Elena Ferrante's The Story of the Lost Child; Neapolitan Quartet or Neapolitan Novels**
4. This author from Keralam has won most of the major literary awards the State has to offer. Name her. **Ans: K.R. Meera**
5. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak translated short stories of this Bengali author. **Ans: Mahasweta Devi**
Visual: This translator won the 2022 International Booker Prize for her work on a Hindi novel. Name her, the book and its author. **Ans: Daisy Rockwell's translation of Geetanjali Shree's Tomb of Sand**
Early birds: Tamal Biswas| Siddhartha Viswanathan| Neil Lall| Piyali Tuli| Sukdev Shet

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

Is it correct to say "He has good command over English"? (B. Senthil, Madurai)

Careful users of the language would frown on this. They would argue that one can have command over people, but not over language. You can for example say:

"He has total command over his men. They will do whatever he wants them to."

But when it comes to language, they would prefer "of" to "over".

"We are looking for someone who has good command of English."

"Many children in the south have little or no command of Hindi."

"I am told that Prakasham has good command of French."

There is a tendency these days however, even among some native speakers, to say "have good command over English".

The purists may not like this, but as the Americans would put it, that's the way the cookie crumbles.

To be on the safe side, avoid saying "command over English".

Which of the following sentences is correct? "The Government has many problems" or "The Government have many problems"? (D.S.R. Ramaswamy, Bangalore)

Both are acceptable. It depends on how you view the Government. Do you consider the Government to be a single impersonal unit, or do you look upon it as consisting of separate small units? If you view it as a single unit, then you can use a singular verb "The Government has many problems".

If, on the other hand, you view the Government as comprising several different units, then you can use the plural verb "have" – "The Government have many problems".

There are many words in English, which can take either the singular or the plural verb – family, jury, committee, staff, team are just some of the nouns. Here are a few examples.

"The jury was/were beginning to look bored."

"The family was/were planning to move to Australia."

What is the meaning of "ground zero"? (N. Raja Mani, Secunderabad)

This is a term that has been heard quite frequently on CNN. "Ground zero" was originally used to refer to an atomic explosion; it is the site at which an atomic explosion took place. This is how dictionaries define the term: "the point on the surface of the earth or water directly below, directly above, or at which an atomic or hydrogen bomb explodes".

Today the term is used informally to mean a place of rapid development or change; a place of violent activity.

"About ten years ago no one had heard about Vasudeva Nagar. But today it has become the ground zero from which restaurants and designer shops radiate."

The term "ground zero" is also used to mean elementary level; a "starting point". For example,

"Many of my students will be starting at ground zero."

"My boss didn't like the ad campaign. Looks like I have to return to ground zero."

Published in The Hindu on September 25, 2001

Word of the day

Nefarious:
extremely wicked

Synonym: villainous

Usage: *The committee unearthed a nefarious plot to manipulate the election process.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/nefarious

International Phonetic Alphabet: /nɪˈfɛəɹi.əs/

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