



PRESIDENTIAL REFERENCE

Governor cannot act as a 'super CM': T.N.

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RARE STRIKE  
17 killed in Russian attack on Kyiv

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VIRAR TRAGEDY  
17 killed as illegal building collapses

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PARLEY  
Should States be compensated for revenue loss?

New GST reforms raise several questions

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CAUSING A FLUTTER  
Sindhu stuns Wang, enters quarterfinals

SPORT » PAGE 17

IN BRIEF



Illegal entrants: India flags 'denial, delay' by BGB

NEW DELHI

The BSF has flagged "denial and delay" by the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) in accepting apprehended "illegal Bangladeshi entrants" along the border at a conference at the level of Director-General in Dhaka. » Page 12

Paper leak: HC annuls Rajasthan S-I exam of 2021

JAIPOUR

The Rajasthan High Court on Thursday cancelled the police Sub-Inspector (S-I) recruitment exam of 2021 after finding large-scale irregularities, including paper leak and involvement of members of the RPSC in the 'scam'. » Page 3

Delhi CM sets deadline to clear landfills

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to clear three landfill sites in the city - Ghazipur, Balswa, and Okhla - by December 2026. » Page 2

## U.S. official calls conflict in Ukraine 'Modi's war'

Trump's Trade Advisor accuses India of 'arrogance' and 'profiteering'; Democrats slam extra 25% sanctions on India, noting that China buys more Russian oil; former officials call for renewed talks

Suhasini Haidar  
NEW DELHI

A day after the U.S. imposed 25% secondary sanctions on Indian goods as a penalty for India's purchases of Russian oil, in addition to the earlier 25% reciprocal tariffs, the Trump administration kept up its tirade, terming the conflict in Ukraine as "Modi's war".

The U.S. Opposition Democratic party, however, criticised the move, saying that "singling out India" would hurt the U.S. as well. Former U.S. officials, including former Ambassador Kenneth Juster, expressed hope that the situation would be resolved at the highest levels, potentially through a meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"India can get 25% off the tariffs right now if they agree to stop buying [Russian] oil and feeding the war machine," said Mr. Trump's Trade Advisor Peter Navarro, who has been leading the charge on tariffs. He accused Indian negotiators of falsely claiming that India does not charge high tariffs, and of "arrogance" in refusing to cut oil

 Everybody in the U.S. loses because of what India is doing. The taxpayers lose because we've got to fund Modi's war

PETER NAVARRO  
U.S. President Donald Trump's Trade Advisor

 I thought India could be one of the earlier deals and they kind of tapped us along in terms of the negotiations. Then there is also aspect of Russian crude purchases which they've been profiteering on

SCOTT BESENT  
U.S. Treasury Secretary

imports from Russia, while "profiteering" from refining Russian oil in partnership with Russian refiners, a reference to the Vadinar refinery in Gujarat.

"Everybody in America loses because of what India is doing. Consumers and businesses lose, workers lose because India's high tariffs cost us jobs, income and higher raises. The taxpayers lose because we've got to fund Modi's war."

Mr. Navarro told the Bloomberg news agency, accusing India of "getting in bed with the authoritarians" like Russia and China.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called India-

U.S. ties a "complicated relationship", despite good ties between Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi, and said that the issue was not just Russian oil purchases but India's failure to make a deal with the U.S. on trade.

"I thought India could be one of the earlier deals and they kind of tapped us along in terms of the negotiations. Then there is also aspect of the Russian crude purchases which they've been profiteering on," Mr. Bessent said on Wednesday, where he said the Indian rupee is at "an all-time low" due to recent developments.

Democratic lawmakers, however, attacked the

Removal of tariffs not a prerequisite for trade talks

NEW DELHI  
The removal of the additional 25% tariff on India is not a prerequisite for trade negotiations to resume between India and the United States, but a trade deal would not "be practical" if these tariffs were to remain, according to government sources. » Page 15

Trump government, pointing out that China buys more Russian oil than India. In the past month, China has increased its intake of Russian oil even as India decreased its purchases.

"Instead of imposing sanctions on China or others purchasing larger amounts of Russian oil, Trump's singling out India with tariffs, hurting Americans and sabotaging the U.S.-India relationship in the process. It's almost like it's not about Ukraine at all," the Democrats in the House Foreign Affairs Committee said on X.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 12

## Pre-test for Census 2027 to be conducted in Oct.-Nov.

Vijaita Singh  
NEW DELHI

The pre-test exercise for the Population Census, 2027 will be conducted in October and November, the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner (RG & CCI) has informed the Directorate of Census Operations (DCOs) in the States.

A pre-test is required to test the efficacy of the entire exercise that will be held in two phases - Household and Housing Schedule (HLS) and Population Enumeration - between



Mritunjay Kumar Narayan

April 1, 2026 and February 28, 2027.

This will be the first digital Census and the first to enumerate caste in Independent India.

The test will evaluate the proposed questions, data collection methodologies, training effectiveness, logistics, printing processes, and data quality assessment, and identify potential field issues, Registrar-General of India Mritunjay Kumar Narayan is learnt to have informed the DCOs in the States.

The DCOs have been told that a mobile app will be used for the first time to collect data.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 12

## India, Canada name envoys, signal end of diplomatic spat

Kallop Bhattacharjee  
NEW DELHI

In a move signalling normalisation of diplomatic relations that were scuttled by the spat over the murder of a pro-Khalistan activist in 2023 in British Columbia, Canada and India on Thursday announced the appointment of High Commissioners.

The move came around two-and-a-half months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his Canadian counterpart, Mark Carney, on the sidelines of the G7



Anita Anand

summit in Kananaskis, Canada, where both leaders agreed to appoint envoys and upgrade ties.

Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Anita Anand

said that Christopher Coote, a career foreign service officer with 35 years of diplomatic experience, will be the new High Commissioner to India.

Hours later, the Ministry of External Affairs here announced that Dinesh K. Patnaik of the 1990 Indian Foreign Service cadre will take up charge of the High Commissioner to Canada "shortly". Mr. Patnaik is currently the Indian ambassador to Spain.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 12

## 2 terrorists, soldier killed during operations in J&K

Peerzada Ashiq  
SRINAGAR

Two terrorists were killed during an infiltration bid in Bandipora in north Kashmir, the Army said on Thursday. A soldier died in the line of duty in Kupwara, it added.

Speaking on the Bandipora incident, where 'Operation Naushera Nar' was in progress, an Army spokesperson said, "Alert troops spotted suspicious activity [in Gurez Sector] and challenged, which resulted in terrorists opening indiscriminate fire. Troops res-

Gurez, located close to the LoC, used to be an infiltration route for terrorists in the past too

ponded with effective fire, neutralising two terrorists."

The operation was launched after intelligence provided by the Jammu and Kashmir Police suggested a likely infiltration attempt in the Gurez Sector. Officials said the security forces continued combing operations in parts of

Gurez Sector "to ensure more infiltrators were not hiding in the area". Gurez, located close to the Line of Control (LoC), used to be an infiltration route for the terrorists in the past too.

Soldier dies

In a separate incident, the Army's Chinair Corps said a soldier made the "supreme sacrifice during operational duty" in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. The deceased soldier was identified as Havildar Iqbal Ali. "His courage and dedication will forever inspire us," the Army said.

## Never set retirement age for anyone, says Mohan Bhagwat

Ishita Mishra  
NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday said he never said he or anyone should retire at any specific age. The statement at an RSS event in Vigyan Bhavan came months after his remark that those holding constitutional posts should retire at 75, which had sparked a political row.

Opposition leaders had claimed that the comment was a 'hint' for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who

Mohan Bhagwat speaking at an RSS event in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, on Thursday. PTI

is turning 75 in September, to step aside. Mr. Bhagwat will turn 75 this September.

DETAILS ON  
» PAGE 5

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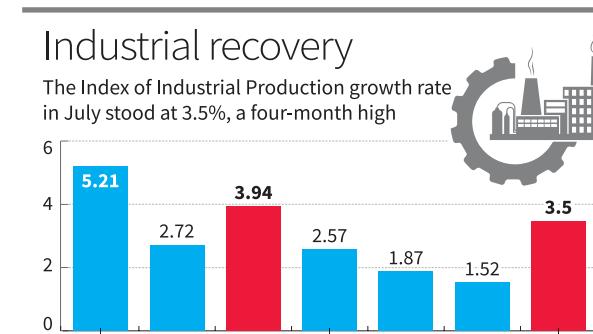
## Industrial growth jumps to four-month high of 3.5%

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Industrial growth jumped to a four-month high of 3.5% in July 2025, driven by a broad-based recovery in the manufacturing, electricity, capital, and consumer goods sectors.

However, the Index of Industrial Production for July 2025, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Thursday, grew at a slower pace than the 5% growth seen in July 2024. The manufacturing sec-

Industrial recovery



2025, compared to 7.9% in July last year.

Mining contraction

The mining sector (-7.2%), however, continued to contract in July 2025, its fourth consecutive month of contraction.

According to Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, the sector's relatively poor performance can be attributed to the monsoon as well as to subdued demand.

The capital goods sector grew by 5% in July, on top of an already high base of

5.4% in July 2025, compared to 4.7% in July 2024. The electricity sec-

tor saw growth returning in July 2025 after two months of contraction.

It grew 0.6% in July

RWAs demand Centre junk animal birth control rules

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

A delegation of Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), led by BJP leader Vijay Goel, on Thursday demanded the Centre scrap the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, citing the growing concerns over stray dog attacks and disputes in the residential areas. The ABC Rules focus on controlling rabies and reducing human-dog conflict.

This comes after the Supreme Court recently modified its August 11 order and directed civic bodies to release canines from shelters after sterilising them. It allowed the retention of those dogs which are aggressive or infected with rabies. "The stray dog menace has become a nationwide issue, and the current ABC rules have lost their relevance in the light of the recent Supreme Court directions," Mr. Goel said.

Meanwhile, the RWAs advised locals to first inform the respective associations about issues related to stray dogs, which will help in conveying the complaints to civic body for quicker resolution.

## L-G order: lawyers put strike on hold as Shah agrees to meet them

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI



Lawyers staging a protest outside Rouse Avenue Courts in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

The All District Courts Bar Association of Delhi on Thursday said lawyers have put on hold a strike against a recent notification by Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena designating police stations as videoconferencing centres for officers to provide evidence in court.

The All District Courts Bar Association of Delhi is an amalgamation of various lawyers' associations in the city.

Nagendra Kumar, president of the New Delhi Bar Association, told *The Hindu* that the decision was taken as Union Home Minister Amit Shah decided to meet the lawyers' representatives on Monday to discuss the matter.

In a related development, the Delhi police said the L-G's notification will be implemented after consulting all stakeholders. "In the meantime, the operation of the said notification on the ground would only be carried out after hearing all stakeholders," read a statement.

The notification was issued on August 13 after the

### LEGAL NOTICE

In the Court of the Principal District Judge at Thiruvallur C.O.S.No.190 of 2024  
Mr.R.Mohan,  
Son of Mr.Ramdoss Naidu,  
Proprietor of M/S.R.Mohan Agencies, Having Office at No.217/2A, Parivakkam Road, Poonamallee, Chennai – 600 056.

...Plaintiff

-Vs-  
M/s.Super India Global Logistics Pvt Ltd, Represented by its Managing Director, Having Office at Shanti Nagar Colony, No.523/21, 1st Floor NH-8, Rajiv Chowk, Gurgaon, Haryana – 122 001.

...Defendant

Sir,...  
Please take notice that the above C.O.S.No. 190 of 2024 filed by the Plaintiff is posted to 08.10.2025 at 10.30 a.m. for your appearance. You are required to appear either in person or through your counsel. Failing which, the above C.O.S.No. 190 of 2024 will be decided on merits in your absence and in accordance with law.

M.V.SESHACHARI, Advocate  
No.16, Pillayar Koil Street, Poonamallee, Chennai – 600 056  
Ph.no.98416 51699

PUBLIC NOTICE  
DECLARATION OF PROCLAMATION OF OFFENDERS

Whereas the Hon'ble Delhi State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DSCDR) has issued an order dated 28-07-2025 in Execution Petition No. EA-125/2021 titled as "Ms. Mridula Ghosh & Anr. vs Ansal Hi-Tech Township Ltd." declaring the following Director(s) of the Judgment Debtor Company namely Ansal Hi-Tech Township Ltd. as Proclaimed Offenders: 1. Mr. Arvind Kumar Mishra, Address: Half Basement, 15, Sector 15, Kailash, Community Centre, Sandhya Deep Building, New Delhi (South)-110065. The aforementioned individuals are hereby directed to appear before the Hon'ble Commission (DSCDR) within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice. Issued under Order of the Delhi State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DSCDR), Date: 04-08-2025.

Seal  
Deputy Registrar  
DSCDR

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Smt. Dulari wife of Late Shri Puran Lal, resident of R-291-A Galli No.16, Tuglakabad Extension, South Delhi, New Delhi-110019 do hereby declare that my husband late Shri Puran Lal was the absolute owner of entire built up Property bearing No.R-291-A Galli No.16 Khara No.45, Tuglakabad Extension, Delhi -19, by And built up Ground Floor Shop, info/ut Propety bearing No.R-272-A, Galli No.19, Khara No.455, situated at Tuglakabad Extension, Delhi-19. That my husband expired on 27/01/2020 vide death certificate no MCDOLR- 0220-004987131. I am the only legal heir left behind after death of my husband and there is no other legal heir except me and if any person claim to be his legal heir can claim same within 15 days from today.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website.

Executive Engineer,  
Nadaun Division,  
HPPWD, Nadaun,  
Pin Code 177033

Telephone No. 01972-298570,

e-mail: ee-pwdn@hpip.gov.in

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

HP / 2630/25-26

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On behalf of Governor of Himach

**Don't give up party ideals, Kejriwal tells AAP MLAs, councillors**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday urged his party's MLAs and councillors to remain connected with the people and not compromise on their ideals, adding that such commitment would give them another chance to serve Delhi after the next election.

The former Chief Minister was addressing elected representatives after the Enforcement Directorate raided the residence of Delhi AAP chief Saurabh Bharadwaj.

**'Stay connected to people'** "I would tell you to be among the people. In the next election, you will get a chance at governance, but till then stay with the people," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Accusing the BJP and Congress of being in a "nexus", he said that while no senior Congress leader had been arrested in the National Herald case, five top AAP leaders had gone to jail. "The 2G and coal scam cases were shut down. People are asking



Arvind Kejriwal addressing party MLAs and councillors at a meeting on Thursday.

SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

about the BJP-Congress nexus. We entered politics out of love for the nation, not for compromise," he told party members.

Reacting to his statements, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal hit back on X: "Kejriwalji: when you made allegations against politicians and were dragged to court, you apologised. Today, you make baseless allegations against the Gandhi family. Stop the bickering. Let's fight the larger battle together."

The BJP, meanwhile, accused AAP of neglecting governance for 11 years, claiming it was working to undo the failures of the Kejriwal administration.

Mamata advises people not to share data with anyone who comes for survey; says she will release a book chronicling her experiences with several PMs of India at the next Kolkata Book Fair

**Shiv Sahay Singh**  
KOLKATA

**A** lleging that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was unleashing "linguistic terror" on Bengalis, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said that she would not let anyone take away people's voting rights.

**'Keep Aadhaar'**

"Some who are envious of us have stopped our funds, targeted migrant workers and are planning NRC (National Register of Citizens). They think by starting the NRC they can take away our voting rights. As long as I am alive, I will not allow anyone to take away our voting rights," Ms. Banerjee said during the foundation day event of Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad in Kolkata. She urged people not to share any data with anyone who comes



CM Mamata Banerjee at a Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad event in Kolkata on Thursday. DEBASISH BHADURI

for survey and advised people to have Aadhaar cards.

The remarks by the Chief Minister assume significance as the Election Commission recently undertook a special intensive revision (SIR) of rolls in poll-bound Bihar and the next Assembly election in West Bengal is scheduled for 2026.

Ms. Banerjee said that West Bengal was number one in MNREGS, Awas Yojana, and Gramene Sadak

Yojana (scheme for construction of rural roads) but some envious persons who are "selfish giants", "high-loaded virus" and display "Himalayan incompetence" have stopped funds to the State. The Trinamool Congress chairperson also accused the Central agencies of being aligned with the BJP.

"You will see that when elections come, the pressure of agencies increases. Earlier, the agencies were

not aligned to any party. I was an MP seven times. I was the Railway, Coal and Mines, Youth and Sports, and Women and Child Development Minister respectively. I have seen many Prime Ministers in my career, so there is no point in teaching me anything," she added.

The Trinamool Congress chairperson said that she will release a book chronicling her personal experiences with several Prime Ministers of India at the next Kolkata Book Fair.

**'Tool to select voters'**

Trinamool general secretary Abhishek Banerjee also addressed the gathering on the foundation day. He alleged that the SIR was a "tool to select voters" instead of letting people elect governments. He warned that any attempt to delete legitimate voters will be met with protests in New Delhi.

**Rajasthan HC annuls 2021 Sub-Inspector exam over paper leak**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan High Court on Thursday cancelled the police Sub-Inspector recruitment examination of 2021 after finding large-scale irregularities, including paper leak and involvement of members of the State Public Service Commission (RPSC) in the scam. The court declared null and void the exam as well as the selection of Sub-Inspectors.

Justice Sameer Jain at the High Court's Jaipur Bench, who had earlier reserved the judgment after a prolonged hearing on a writ petition filed by 25 individuals, pronounced the verdict in the open court, while observing that the examination process was vitiated by "illegality and fraud on the system".

The court criticised the State government for its inaction, pointing out that despite glaring evidence, no decisive steps were taken. The BJP government had opposed the writ petition, saying it would be premature to cancel the exam before the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Rajasthan police completes



The High Court criticised the State government for its inaction. FILE PHOTO

its probe.

A Cabinet Sub-Committee, which examined various aspects of the recruitment exam, had also recommended against cancellation. It said only 6.3% of examinees were found to be tainted in the SOG probe, while 93.7% appeared to be clean. The recommendation was approved by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.

Multiple first information reports were registered in connection with the recruitment exam held in September 2021 to fill 859 vacancies of Sub-Inspectors and platoon commanders. A total of 122 people, including 55 trainees and two members of RPSC, were arrested in the case.

**Maratha reservation: Jarange to start Mumbai protest today**

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil is set to begin his indefinite hunger strike at Azad Maidan in

Mumbai on Friday demanding a 10% reservation for members of the community under the OBC ca-

tory as thousands of supporters arrive in the city. (By The Hindu Bureau in Mumbai)

However, the Maharash-

tra government reiterated that it is ready for talks.

(By The Hindu Bureau in Mumbai)

**ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, DHAULA KUAN RIDGE ROAD DHAWLA KUAN-110010 www.apskd.com AUCTION NOTICE**

A public auction of unserviceable material will be held at Army Public School, Ridge Road, Dhaula Kuan by the Presiding Officer on **30 Aug 2025 at 1000 hrs.** Interested person may attend the auction by paying Rs.200/- as gate money. Successful bidders have to deposit a bank draft amounting to Rs. 10,000/- within same day of successful bidding drawn in favour of APS Dhaula Kuan. Cheque/Cash will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to bring their E-Waste Certificate while attending Auction. For any queries contact Adm Officer on 9592398107. Principal, APSKD

**Delhi Weather**

max min

Delhi City 35 25

Safdarjung 35 25

Palam 33 25

**Delhi Palam Today**

33°C

The weather will be

warm. Night will be pleasant.

Spell of light to moderate rain

and thunder shower with gusty winds will occur.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**

32°C

Morning will be pleasant.

Day will be little warm. Spell of

moderate rain and thunder-

shower with gusty winds to occur.

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**WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM NO. 35/2025**  
Kindly refer this office advertised tender no. 81255343A opening date on 04/08/2025 published in advertised tender notice no. EPS/84/2025. The amendment made is as under: Tender No. & short Description - 81255343A Description: Manufacture and Supply of Pre tensioned Pre stressed Concrete (PSC) Sleeper Set. Tender Opening date - From - 29/08/2025. To - 09/09/2025. Latest terms & condition and full information available on website https://www.reps.gov.in.

(SD)

For Principal Chief Material Manager, WCR, Jabalpur

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एक कदम स्वस्थता का आर

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

**THE HINDU**

India's National Newspaper

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE**

NOTICE INVITING OPEN TENDER, Tender Notice No. 13/TRD/DNR/OT/25-26 The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway, Danapur invites sealed open tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works.

Tender No.: TRD/DNR/OT/13/25-26

1. Name of work & its location : Replacement of unmodified RE by modified 3 pulley RE and provision of attachment for anti falling arrangement over Danapur division. 2. Approx cost of the work (NIT value) : ₹ 94,39,855.72/- 3. Earnest money to be deposited : ₹ 1,88,800.00/- 4. Date & time for selling, submission and opening of tender : The tender have to be submitted online on www.reps.gov.in upto 12.00 hrs. on the date of opening i.e. 23.09.2025 and will be opened on the same day at 12.30 hrs. 5. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website : http://www.reps.gov.in & full details of notice can be seen on notice board of Sr. DEE (TRD)/E.C. Railway/Danapur. All corrigendum will be uploaded on website, if required. Divisional Railway Manager, E.C.Railway, Danapur

PR/0842/DNR/TRD/T/25-26/40

HP / 09/05/2025-2026

For and on behalf of the Governor of H.P.

Sd/-

Director Energy,

Government of Himachal Pradesh,

Tele. +91-177-2673551, Fax +91-177-2673553

E-mail: dir.doehp@nic.in

For and on behalf of the Governor of H.P.

Sd/-

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Sd/-

Executive Registrar

HP / 09/05/2025-2026

For and on behalf of the Governor of H.P.

Sd/-

Executive Registrar

HP / 09/05/2025-2026

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Executive Registrar

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For and on behalf of the Governor of H.P.

Sd/-

Executive Registrar

HP / 09/05/2025-2026

For and on behalf of the Governor of H.P.

&lt;p

## IN BRIEF



## Jharkhand House resolution for Bharat Ratna to Soren

The Jharkhand Assembly on Thursday passed a resolution to send a proposal to the Centre recommending Bharat Ratna for veteran tribal leader and former Chief Minister Shibu Soren. The resolution, moved by Transport Minister Dipak Birua, was passed by voice vote. Moving the resolution, Mr. Birua said Shibu Soren dedicated his whole life to protect the rights, honour and self-respect of tribals, farmers, labourers and the oppressed and waged a war for the creation of a separate State. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha founder died on August 4 while undergoing treatment in Delhi. He was 81. PTI

## CM launches regional version of Gujarat global summit

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Thursday launched a regional version of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit with a focus on highlighting the strengths of each region to promote local products at international, national levels and also seek investment in districts. 'Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference' will help attract investment in districts which have a favourable ecosystem for select industrial sectors, he maintained. Japan has agreed to be a partner country for the first regional conference to be held in Mehsana, said a senior bureaucrat. These conferences will be held in four different regions or zones, starting from October. PTI

# Tamil Nadu's exports hit hard by U.S. tariff hike: CM

**Stalin says the trade impact of the 50% tariff on the textile hub of Tiruppur is about ₹3,000 crore; he urges Centre for immediate relief and structural reforms to safeguard industries and workers**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

**C**hief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday said the decision of the U.S. to hike tariffs on India to 50% had hit Tamil Nadu's exports hard.

Mr. Stalin reiterated his demand to the Union government for "immediate relief and structural reforms to safeguard our industries and workers".

The Chief Minister also shared a news report that said the trade impact of the U.S. tariffs on the State's textile hub of Tiruppur was to the tune of about ₹3,000 crore.

Earlier this month, Mr. Stalin wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlighting the considerable impact of the U.S. tariffs on Tamil Nadu, including the threat of layoffs in export-oriented sectors. He had urged the Union government to take immediate measures, including a special financial relief package to support exporters.

Mr. Stalin had underlined that, based on consultations, it was evident that the textile sector urgently needed support in two as-



**Tough times:** Based on consultations, it was evident that the textile sector urgently needed support, the Chief Minister had said in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this month. FILE PHOTO

pects: correction of the GST inverted duty structure for the man-made fibre value chain by bringing the entire chain under a 5% GST slab, and import duty exemption for all varieties of cotton.

Extending 30% collateral-free loans under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) with a 5% interest subvention and a two-year moratorium on principal repayment, enhancing Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) benefits to 5%, and extending pre- and post-shipment credit to all textile exports, including yarn, were the other impor-

tant steps to strengthen export competitiveness, Mr. Stalin had said.

**PMK leader's plea**

PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss on Thursday urged the Union and State governments to immediately implement stimulus measures to prevent industrial decline and job losses following the steep tariff hike.

In a statement, the PMK leader said that with a 50% tariff, the prices of Indian products in the U.S. market had gone up. On the other hand, ready-made garments, footwear, and jewelry imported from other Asian countries such as

Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Cambodia attracted tariffs of less than 20%, making them significantly cheaper. As a result, U.S. traders had stopped purchasing Indian goods, he added.

"Tamil Nadu would be among the worst-affected States. Garment exports from Coimbatore and Tiruppur, worth ₹73,000 crore per year, have been halted.

As garments tailored to U.S. buyers cannot easily be diverted to other countries, producers are at risk of selling them at throwaway prices. This situation also puts over two lakh jobs in Tiruppur at risk," Dr. Anbumani said.



U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath (third from left) receiving the report on Sambhal violence. PTI

with the Hindu population reportedly down to 15-20% from over 40% in the 1950s. It also records that Sambhal has witnessed at least 15 major riots since Independence. The Congress demanded that the report be released in full, warning against "selective leaks".

"The mention of demographic shift appears aimed at defaming the Muslim community and stoking fear among Hindus," said Shah Nawaz Alam, Congress national secretary. Samajwadi Party MP Anand Bhadauria questioned the BJP leaders who claimed the report pointed at a "demographic shift".

"How can a confidential report be known to them? If they are to be believed, it seems they themselves got it written," he said.

## Rajasthan becomes first State to issue detailed guidelines on stray dogs after SC directive

**Mohammed Iqbal**  
JAIPUR

Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to issue a detailed framework on the management of stray dogs with the guidelines for civic bodies following a recent directive of the Supreme Court in the matter. The apex court's ruling pertained to the control of stray canine population in the National Capital Region.

The Department of Local Self Government has circulated comprehensive instructions to all municipal corporations, municipal councils, and municipalities, mandating strict adherence to the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023.

According to the guidelines, every ward and locality will have designated feeding zones for stray dogs, while new centres



According to the guidelines, every ward and locality will have designated feeding zones for stray dogs. FILE PHOTO

will be established for their sterilisation, vaccination and deworming. The instructions include the action to be taken for capture, treatment and release of dogs. The urban local bodies are required to submit compliance reports within 30 days.

**'Humane handling'**  
The guidelines ban the use of tongs, wires or nooses to capture dogs, instead mandating "humane handling"

by trained personnel who should either use nets or capture them by hand.

Jaipur-based animal rights activist Mariam Abuhaideri said Rajasthan would become a model State for animal birth control and harmonious coexistence with the new framework.

"The implementation of these guidelines is going to be important, as it is not an easy task," Ms. Abuhaideri told *The Hindu*.

## Himanta, Sonowal in Assam BJP core panel formed ahead of polls

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI

With an eye on the 2026 Assembly election, the Assam unit of the BJP has announced an 18-member core committee ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the State on Thursday to review the party's poll preparations.

"The committee was formed with the approval of the party's national president, J.P. Naddaji," Lok Sabha member and State BJP chief Dilip Saikia said.

Its key members include Mr. Saikia, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, former CM and Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister Pabitra Margherita, party national secretary Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, and State Ministers Ranjeet Kumar Dass, Ashok Singhal, and Ranoj Pegu.

Former State BJP president Bhabesh Kalita and former MP Rajdeep Roy

are also part of the panel.

"The committee's focus will be on formulating strategy, coordinating among units, and mobilising grassroots workers to strengthen the party's base," a party spokesperson said.

The BJP aims to secure a third consecutive term by increasing its tally from the 60 seats it secured in the 2021 election. The party had won an identical number of seats in 2016.

The BJP has 64 MLAs in the 126-member House. It added four seats through wins in bypolls. The party's coalition partners are the Asom Gana Parishad, which has eight MLAs, and the United People's Party Liberal with seven MLAs.

## Haryana approves monthly aid scheme for women; Saini takes a dig at Punjab AAP govt.

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Cabinet on Thursday approved the launch of the Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana, under which eligible women will receive ₹2,100 monthly assistance starting September 25.

The move fulfils a key pre-poll promise of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Announcing the decision, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini took a dig at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab and accused it of betraying women voters by failing to deliver on its 2022 Assembly poll promise of ₹1,000 monthly aid.

He said women in Punjab had lost faith in the AAP government, and people in the neighbouring State were now looking towards Haryana with hope. "Like the Congress, which

## Judicial panel submits report on Sambhal violence to U.P. CM

**Mayank Kumar**  
LUCKNOW

A three-member judicial commission led by retired Allahabad High Court judge Devendra Kumar Arora on Thursday submitted its report on the November 2024 Sambhal violence to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The panel, which also included retired IPS officer Arvind Kumar Jain and former IAS officer Amit Mohan Prasad, handed over the 450-page report during a meeting with the Chief Minister.

The violence on November 24, 2024, erupted near the Shahi Jama Masjid during an Archaeological Survey of India-monitored survey of the mosque. Four persons were killed and several injured in the clashes.

"The commission was set up in late November and has now completed its findings. The report is confidential and will be made public once approved by the government," Mr. Jain told reporters, while declining to reveal details. The panel visited Sambhal several times to record witness statements.

According to sources, the report notes a demographic shift in the town,

the Congress of "misleading voters" with false manifestos that are forgotten once elections are over.

According to the official announcement, the scheme will be rolled out on September 25, the birth anniversary of BJP ideologue Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

"As per the provisions, all women (married and unmarried) aged 23 years and above as on September 25, 2025, will be eligible to avail themselves of benefits. In the first phase, families with an annual income of less than ₹1 lakh have been included. Other income groups will also be gradually included in a phased manner," it said.

**'Misleading voters'**  
The CM added that the BJP government had kept its word. "With this scheme, we have fulfilled yet another manifesto promise," he said, while also accusing

## Few move-ins as Delhi resettlement plan puts allottees on the fringes

**Suruchi Kumari**  
NEW DELHI

Two months after 189 families from Madras Camp in Jangpura were relocated to Delhi Development Authority (DDA) flats in Narela due to the demolition of their slum cluster, fewer than 10 families have remained in their new homes, which they describe as "unsuitable, unsafe, and too far" from their workplaces.

T. Ulaganathan, 37, a former resident of Madras Camp, is one of the few who has stayed on in his allotted flat in Narela, over 40 km away from the camp. Showing over 50 house keys his neighbours had deposited with him, Mr. Ulaganathan said, "These belong to those house owners who never



moved in or left within weeks. Relocation to Narela has affected our earnings, disrupted children's schooling and taken us away from a community that we built over decades."

Mr. Ulaganathan said most of his neighbours have moved into apartments near Jangpura and

are paying a monthly rent in the range of ₹7,000-₹15,000 to stay close to their work sites.

On June 15, the DDA demolished 370 houses in the Madras Camp jhuggi-jhopri cluster following an order from the Delhi High Court. Of the affected, 189 families were allocated Economically Weaker Sec-

tion (EWS) flats in Narela under the Delhi Slum and Jhuggi Jhopri Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy of 2015, on a 99-year lease.

However, many relocated residents in Narela have found it challenging to reach their workplaces due to the long distance and poor transportation connectivity.

Said Murugan, 31, who works in a shoe store in Jangpura, "My wife, who is a domestic worker, and I leave home at dawn to catch a bus and return to Narela at 11 p.m. If we miss the bus, the autorickshaw fare is around ₹400."

Safety is another concern for the residents of Narela. Meena Devi, 52, who lives alone in her allotted flat, mentioned that she has spent over ₹35,000 to install grills and fences

due to multiple theft incidents, particularly involving electric wires, in the area. "My sons and their families rented apartments in Nizamuddin [in south Delhi] because there is no work in Narela," said Ms. Devi. She also regretted losing her community and support system at the camp where she grew up.

"Now I'm all alone. I can barely speak Hindi, and have no one to share meals with. We had shared kitchens at the camp," she said.

**Language barrier**  
Murugesan, who is the head of the camp association - nattamai panchayat - said relocation without support is "futile".

"Unless the government ensures Tamil-language schools and job opportunities near Narela, the flats will remain empty," he said.

The children at the camp were enrolled in the Delhi Tamil Education Association's (DTEA) Lodhi Estate school for a fee of ₹250 per month, where they were taught Tamil along with English and Hindi.

K. Lakshman, 34, had rented a house in Ashram to keep his 11-year-old son's education at the DTEA going. "Even if I send my son to a school in Narela, he won't be able to adjust. The schools at Narela are either English or Hindi medium," he said.

Mr. Ulaganathan is worried that he also might have to move back to a locality near the camp soon. "My children have been out of [DTEA] school for two months. I cannot afford to wait longer," he said.

The Chief Minister also said that the lawyers representing various sides in the matter will sit together and

## M.P. parties united on 27% OBC quota: CM

**Mehul Malpani**  
BOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday said that all political parties in the State have agreed to provide 27% reservation to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) after he chaired an all-party meeting on the issue.

Mr. Yadav, who held the meeting at his residence in Bhopal, said that a resolution was passed to come together and ensure reservation to the OBCs by presenting a strong case before the Supreme Court, where the matter has been pending.

The Chief Minister also said that the lawyers representing various sides in the matter will sit together and



Chief Minister Mohan Yadav

present a uniform stand by September 10, in view of the Supreme Court's decision to hold daily hearings from September 22.

**Congress claims victory**  
The Congress termed the consensus reached at the all-party meeting a victory for its efforts and that the government has accepted its mistake and is trying to remedy it.

# Never set retirement age for anyone, says Bhagwat

I will work till this organisation wants me to, says RSS chief, who is turning 75 in Sept; he clarifies that the Sangh was part of only the Ram temple movement, denies it dictates terms to its affiliates

**Ishita Mishra**  
NEW DELHI

Months after his remark that those holding constitutional posts should retire at 75, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday said at an event to mark the centenary year of the organisation that he never said he or anyone should retire at any specific age.

His previous remark had stoked a political controversy, with the Congress and the Opposition leaders saying that it was a 'hint' for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is turning 75 in September, to step aside. Mr. Bhagwat is also turning 75 this September.

"I never said I will retire or someone should retire at 75. We are swayamsevak (volunteers), we are given a job and we cannot say no to it. It is not allowed in the Sangh. I will work till this organisation wants me to," he said.

**'Dispensable'**  
Clarifying that even he is dispensable, the RSS chief said there were several people in the Sangh who could replace him. "There are at least 10 other people sitting in this hall who can be sarsanghchalak. It's just that they are very busy and cannot be spared



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat speaking at an event to mark the centenary year of the organisation at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on Thursday. PTI

There are at least 10 other people sitting in this hall who can be *sarsanghchalak*. It's just that they are very busy and cannot be spared

**MOHAN BHAGWAT**  
RSS chief

that they are very busy and can't be spared due to their valuable contributions to the organisation. I was the one who could be spared," he said in a lighter vein.

At a time when courts are flooded with Hindu groups or petitioners laying claim over various mosques in the country, Mr. Bhagwat clarified that the Sangh would not support any such movement, but "swayamsevaks can go".

He said the RSS was part of only one temple movement – in Ayodhya. "We joined the Ram temple movement and took it to its crescendo. I am making it clear that the Sangh will not join any other movement related to temples," the RSS chief said, alluding to the claim over the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura that abuts the Shahi Idgah, and the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi near the Gyanvapi mosque.

He also said people must not look for *Shivlings* everywhere and that if Mathura and Kashi temples can be given to Hindus through consensus, it will strengthen brotherhood between communities.

Speaking on the RSS's differences with the BJP, and if the organisation had

any say in the party's functioning and in choosing its president, Mr. Bhagwat denied that the Sangh dictated terms to any of its affiliates as "they all had their own expertise". "Yes, we give them suggestions but we cannot impose anything on them," he added.

Stating that struggles will always be there in the path of development as it involves many people and organisations, he said that it is rare for everyone to be on the same page on different issues, but the Sangh's affiliates try to "arrive at a consensus for the good of the nation".

"Sometimes, when consensus cannot be achieved, we let them do their own experiments. This is how the Sangh works. Even if we walk separately, we know that our destination is the same – development of the nation," he said.

**'No belief in caste system'**  
On the RSS's point of view on the caste system as described in the *Manusmriti*, the RSS chief made it clear that the organisation does not believe in the caste system and that it should be shunned.

He also urged people to be sensitive while speaking on reservation and issues related to the caste system.

## Ayyappa meet in Kerala: BJP chief dials down threat

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Thursday appeared to dial down his threat to muster "party workers and Hindus in strength" to prevent Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and his Kerala counterpart, Pinarayi Vijayan, from "setting foot" at Sabarimala to attend the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB)-sponsored Global Ayyappa Sangamam on September 10 unless the two leaders publicly apologised for "disparaging" the Hindu faith. Mr. Chandrasekhar said threats, intimidation, and violence were part of the CPI(M) toolkit, not the BJP's.

"Let them (TDB) hold the sangamam. Nevertheless, it remains a fact that the conference has more to do with politics than the welfare of Ayyappa devotees," he said.

Mr. Vijayan on Wednesday had counselled Mr. Chandrasekhar to "pocket" his "trivial threats" and strive to understand Kerala's secular and progressive socio-political legacy. BJP leaders' sabre-rattling would not intimidate Kerala and the event would proceed as planned, he said.

## Valmiki Corporation 'scam': ED attaches assets worth ₹5 cr.

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday provisionally attached assets worth around ₹5 crore in the case of alleged misuse of funds at the Karnataka Maharsi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd.

The attached immovable properties worth ₹4.45 crore belong to Nekkenti Nagaraj, Chandra Mohan, Golapalli Kishore Reddy, and Etakeri Satyanarayana. The movable property is in the form of bank balance worth ₹50 lakh kept in First Finance Credit Cooperative Bank Ltd.

The agency initiated the probe after the death of a corporation employee on May 26, 2024. It was alleged that the accused persons illegally transferred money from the corporation's account and misappropriated ₹89.63 crore by forging documents. The diverted funds were layered through shell accounts, with cash and bullion distributed among the accused, the ED said. The probe revealed that a significant portion of these funds was used in the 2024 general election, the ED claimed.

<b>TAMIL NADU RURAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECT 2.0</b>	
(Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Tamil Nadu)	
5th Floor, SIDCO Corporate Office Building, Thiru. VI, Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.	
Phone No.044 - 3443200 Email: procurement.tnrtip2@gmail.com Website: www.vkp-trnrtip.org	
File No: 228/P/C/2025 Date: 29.08.2025	
<b>REQUEST FOR INVITE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR LANDSCAPE STUDY ON BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT STRUCTURES: PRACTICES, EFFECTIVENESS AND ADAPTATION POTENTIAL FOR TAMIL NADU</b>	
The Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project 2.0 invites "Expression of Interest" from the eligible agencies to submit their interest for providing services for World Bank funded TNRTIP 2.0 Project for "Hiring of agency landscape study on Business Development Support Structures: Practices, Effectiveness, and Adaptation Potential for Tamil Nadu". Interested agencies may submit their "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST" in a sealed envelope clearly superscribed as Expression of Interest for "Hiring of agency for Landscape Study on Business Development Support Structures: Practices, Effectiveness, and Adaptation Potential for Tamil Nadu" latest by 17.00 hours on 15.09.2025. This selection will be done on Consultants Qualifications-based Selection (CQS) of the World Bank. The agencies may obtain further information and procedures for submitting the "Expression of Interest" from the official website of TNRTIP i.e., www.vkp-trnrtip.org.	
Chief Executive Officer, TNRTIP DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO2498/25-26	

<b>GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA</b> email : se_perwkjr@rediffmail.com						
<b>OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR</b>						
<b>e Procurement Notice for Bridge Work under SBY Identification No. NCB-14/RWCKJHAR/2025-26</b>						
No. 3342 / // Date : 21.08.2025 /						
1. Name of the Work : Construction of Bridge Works under SBY for the year 2024-25 in the District of Keonjhar.						
2. No. of Work : 02 (Two) Nos.						
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure in NIT.						
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : As per Annexure in NIT						
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure in NIT						
6. Other details:						
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O.O.C.E, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar.	NCB-14 / RWCKJHAR/2025-26	Dt.30.08.25 at 11:00 A.M.	Dt.15.09.25 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.12.09.25 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.16.09.25 at 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later
• Further details can be seen from the website <a href="http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in">www.tendersorissa.gov.in</a> Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar. O-646: OPR-25177/11/0091/2526						

<b>The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd</b>	
Technology & Development, Fifth Floor , Air India Building Residency Road, Srinagar 190001	
<b>Online Request For Quotation (e-RFQ)</b>	
<b>For Selection of vendor for end-to-end supply and delivery of Passive Infrastructure Fibre and LAN Cables &amp; Equipment at Bank's Datacentre</b>	

RFQ Notice along with Complete documents outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://ikbank.abcprocure.com> w.e.f. August 30, 2025, 16.00 Hrs. Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com). Last date for submission of Bids is September 15, 2025, 17.00 Hrs.

e- RFQ Ref.No JKB/CHQ/T&D/LAN-Cables/2025-1503

Dated: 27-08-2025

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India CIN : L65110JK1938SGC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkmail.com ; W : [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com)

**BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकूल)**  
विज्ञ, रोपन, दानल एवं अद्वा इफारेस्टर बैंक लिमिटेड कर्मसुक्षम संस्था औंच उत्तराखण्ड विभिन्न विभागों में उत्तराखण्ड पायथ अवधारणा विभाग नियमित विभाग अवधारणा भवन, 583-3, राजधानी आई.टी.एस. नियमित विभाग देश, राजधानीपुर रोड, राजधानीपुर 248001 ईमेलिङ्कॉम, फ़ोन : 0135-2522944 ई-मेल : [bridcul@gmail.com](mailto:bridcul@gmail.com), CIN No. U45203UR2000SCC032591

Ref: 1909/BRIDCUL-1030/25 **E-Tendering** Dated: 28/08/2025

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand, E-Tenders are invited by Managing Director BRIDCUL, from the Contractors registered with BRIDCUL only in Category-II (Rs 02 to 05 Cr.) for the work given as below:-

S. No.	Ref. No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost (In Lac Including GST)	Earnest Money (In Lac)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Time Period
1.	BRIDCUL/HQ HLD/42/2025-26	Construction of Examination Hall at Govt. Degree College Haldighat Distt. Nainital (Civil Work)	381.40	7.63	5000+ 18% GST	12 Months
2.	Pith/4/2025-26	Construction of Examination Hall at Govt. Degree College Lohaghat Distt. Champawat (Civil Work)	453.88	9.08	5000+ 18% GST	12 Months

For above tenders, document download start date is 01.09.2025 and Bid submission end date is 22.09.2025 at 1500 Hrs. The details of e-tender of above works can be obtained directly from website <https://uktenders.gov.in>

Changes, if any will be intimated only through website <https://uktenders.gov.in>

DGM (HQ)

## Kerala reports another case of amoebic encephalitis

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KOZHIKODE

kode, three are from Malappuram, and two from Wayanad. An eight-year-old girl from Kozhikode had earlier died of the infection.

### Contaminated water

This rare brain infection is caused by amoebae found in contaminated waters. Tests conducted at the State Public Health Lab in Thiruvananthapuram have reportedly confirmed the presence of the free-living amoeba in samples collect-

ed from wells on the residential premises of the infected persons.

Meanwhile, the State Health Department has invoked the Kerala Public Health Act of 2023 for launching preventive and control measures against the disease.

The government had on Monday announced a State-wide drive involving local bodies to clean and chlorinate all wells, swimming pools, and huge water storage tanks.

## SIT to probe accusations against Rahul Mamkootathil

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Police's Crime Branch on Thursday constituted a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the allegations of sexual misconduct against Palakkad MLA and suspended Congress leader Rahul Mamkootathil.

The SIT will comprise cyber forensic experts, given the digital nature of the alleged offences.

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Website: <a href="https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in">https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in</a> e-mail: rgrhclgm@gmail.com	
No. RGHCL/01/TECH(GEN)/2022-2024 दिनांक: 28.08.2025	
<b>SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)</b>	
Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited invites Short Term tenders for the following work through kpp portal from the eligible contractors.	
<b>Last date of submission of bid is Date: 15.09.2025</b>	
<b>Name of work: Place :</b> Construction of Moulana Azad Model School / College (04 No's) in different Taluk of Belagavi District" – G+2 truss and galvanized and poly carbonate sheet roofing works at second floor-Package-1 (Hukkeri -1, Chikkodi -2, Bailahongal-1) (Fixed Price No Variation)" Indent No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT3/CALL-4.	
Amount put to tender [Excluding GST] (Rs. in Lakhs): 1611.50. EMD Rs.(in Lakhs): 16.11.	
further information visit : <a href="https://kpp.karnataka.gov.in">https://kpp.karnataka.gov.in</a> <a href="https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in/">https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in/</a> General Manager (S D)	

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Health and Sanitation, BBMP Head Office, No. 408, Annex-3 Building, 4th Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.  
No: BBMP/EE/H&S/PR/1054/2025-26 Date: 28-08-2025

### ADDENDUM-1

Ref.: Tender Notification No: No: BBMP/EE/H&S/TEND/04/2025-26 Date: 25-08-2025. The following Changes have been made in the Tender Notification under reference above.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Additional Construction of Electrical Crematorium, Burial Ground and Other Allied Works in Kumbalgud (Sy.No. 30) in Kengeri Hobli under Yeshwanthpura Constituency. Amount Put to Tender (

# SPOTLIGHT



# Lost villages and other costs of coalfields

In Odisha, India's largest supplier of coal, villagers are being compensated to relocate so mining can be expanded. Scattered relocation splinters communities, with people losing their traditional sources of income and way of life, Satyasundar Barik finds in Angul district, which houses the country's largest coalfield

**A**ntaryami Pradhan, 70, lives in a house at least four times bigger than the one he owned in his ancestral village of Bhalagadia. With the 1,600-square-foot home, built in 2019, and his only child employed at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) – one of India's major coal producers – Pradhan embodied what many families in Odisha's Angul district aspired for: stability and a steady income.

The illusion of settlement was shattered two years ago when his brother died. As grief weighed on him, his inability to find a cremation ground nearby worsened his pain. The residents of Rajiharan village, Pradhan's new address, did not allow him to cremate the body on community land collectively owned by them.

"To perform the last rites, I had to travel 10 km back to Bhalagadia. The body was cremated on the edge of a coal mine," he says, adding that nothing existed in his ancestral village, which was swallowed entirely by the gaping pit of MCL's opencast coal mine.

Pradhan's story is about the disconnection that displacement brings and the realisation that rehabilitation packages offered by coal companies and governments do not offer the cushion of community. Forced to abandon Bhalagadia because of MCL's Hingula coal project in Chhendipada block, he moved to Rajiharan. Here, after the initial euphoria of a new house, he began to feel like an outsider. Bhalagadia's residents are now scattered in different parts of Angul district.

Angul – part of the Talcher coalfields, the largest in India, and one of Odisha's three – finds itself at a peculiar crossroads. Village after village in the district is vanishing, erased to fuel India's energy demand, leaving behind people who own houses but no longer feel at home. The district spans over 6.3 lakh hectares, of which 32% is cultivable and 43% is under forest cover. Coal blocks extend over 12.26% of its total area, with coal-bearing tracts running through its heart.

Sixty-six coal blocks have been identified in the district, of which 12 are operational. Two more are set to become functional. A source in the district administration says if all the blocks become operational, residents of 348 villages will have to relocate.

People part with their ancestral land for different packages: combinations of monetary compensation, land, and jobs. However, villagers say, jobs are no longer promised; residents of villages they move to do not accept them socially, and if they want to move to a town, the compensation amount falls short.

While the law stipulates providing a resettlement colony before displacement, villagers say the government has failed to do this for all.

According to the Coal Ministry, India's total estimated coal reserves (up to a depth of 1,200 metres) stood at 389.42 billion tonnes in 2024, spread across 64 coalfields. Odisha has overtaken Jharkhand to emerge as the State with the largest coal reserves. It holds 99.20 billion tonnes, accounting for 25.47% of the national reserve, while Jharkhand follows closely with 91.81 billion tonnes. In 2024, Odisha produced 269.71 million tonnes of coal, contributing 25.74% of India's total coal production of 1,047.69 million tonnes.

#### Gopiballavpur village tells the larger story

Barely 10 km away, Angad Sahoo, 38, lives with constant uncertainty. Half of his village, Gopiballavpur, has been acquired for National Aluminium Company Limited's (NALCO) Utkal D coal

block. Now, he and more than 100 other families await displacement once the adjoining Utkal E block becomes operational. Nearly 200 fellow villagers, who accepted compensation and resettled, are scattered across the district.

"For the past 10 years, we have been feeling like everything around us is temporary as the coal mine can come here any time," says Angad.

He continues to wait for better compensation that will reflect current market rates. He is also seeking a job in NALCO and a collective resettlement programme through which Gopiballavpur's identity can live on. Similar demands echo in nearby Kankarei village, where MCL is developing another mine, Subhadra.

In the past five years alone, 5,923 families have been displaced by coal mining projects in the State, Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy informed the Rajya Sabha in March this year. Many of these families belong to Angul district, the hub of coal mining in Odisha, accounting for 48.02% of the State's output.

In June 2023, the Rehabilitation and Periphery Development Advisory Committee found that 400 project-displaced families (PDFs) were eligible for compensation in Gopiballavpur. The panel is a forum with representatives of the government, people, and the company. It helps resolve land, monetary, and employment disputes.

Out of the 400 PDFs, 229 opted for rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) benefits. While 83 opted for self-relocation and received the R&R package of ₹35 lakh, including cash in lieu of employment, the remaining opted for land at an R&R site and received ₹31 lakh, including cash in lieu of employment. The R&R colony is yet to be established. Some people are living on rent in other villages, while others have returned home.

The residents of Gopiballavpur had protested against discrepancies in land compensation in 2024, when they came to Bhubaneswar, the State capital, for 45 days. Now, they continue to raise the issue across government departments and with the media. "While Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) – a government enterprise jointly owned by the Telangana government and

the Government of India in a 51:49 ratio – offers ₹70 lakh per acre as compensation just 20 km away, residents of Gopiballavpur are forced to settle for ₹11 lakh per acre," alleges Sudam Charan Gadnayak, an elderly resident of the village.

For Puspala Gadnayak, in her mid-50s, with three daughters and a son, the issue goes beyond money. "No matter how much compensation we receive, it does not guarantee acceptance in another village. It takes generations to be absorbed into a new society," she says.

Puspala says the compensation may appear substantial at first. "People fail to realise that land prices in towns are far higher than in villages. The money we get for an acre here won't even buy a guntha (0.04 acre) there. Besides, where will we find the same access to vegetables, services, and community life in a town that our villages provide at lower costs?" she says.

Jaladhar Sahoo, a milkman in Gopiballavpur, says in rehabilitation colonies, there is barely any open space for farming and cattle rearing. "Displacement is not just about losing homes – it is displacement from our professions and our way of life," he says.

Dillip Pradhan, in his mid-40s, a resident of Kosal, where rehabilitation for people displaced from Gopiballavpur has been planned, says, "The government had identified a patch from our community land for the rehabilitation colony without consulting us. It is forest category land. We have moved the National Green Tribunal against this," he says.

#### The fear of no employment

While some hold out for better compensation, others are eager to leave. The compensation packages come in amounts that few in rural households ever imagined having in their lifetime.

Rinku Sahoo, 36, a resident of Pirakhaman village, says he was promised a job in MCL. "Six years ago, I got married into a respectable family with the hope that my prospective job in MCL would ensure a smooth life. Today, I have two sons, but I can barely take care of them as I keep waiting for the coal mine to become operational,"

he says. Rinku is hoping that the compensation package will help him start a new life.

In Pirakhaman, homes stand in limbo, marked to be demolished for coal mining. The schooling of children faces abrupt disruption as their classrooms too are destined for acquisition. Fields that once sustained families are on the verge of being swallowed by the mines.

Pratap Sahoo, 51, sarpanch of Kankarei village, says, "This is perhaps the last coal mining project of MCL where every person above 18 years will be offered a job." Here, too, he points out that the valuation of land is "grossly inequitable". Like Gopiballavpur, agricultural land acquisition varies widely between villages separated by just a few metres. "In Kankarei, residents will get ₹35 lakh per acre. In Pirakhaman (adjacent to it), the same land has been valued at only ₹17 lakh."

Uday Kumar Mohapatra, Additional District Magistrate of Angul, says discrepancies often arise. "The compensation may be paid now, but the amount was decided when land acquisition was first processed," he says.

Mohapatra feels that village identities can be kept intact if communities move together "into R&R colonies being developed for them". However, people belonging to communities say they are being goaded into accepting cash instead of opting for housing.

#### The regulation of coal

According to Ashok Satpathy, a social worker based in the district who participated in a study on the impact of displacement on the lives of people, governments in the State and at the Centre provide many welfare schemes for people belonging to weaker sections. "However, once they are displaced, those schemes are automatically not transferred to the place of their relocation."

Satpathy says the "biggest casualty during displacement are pregnant and lactating women who require the services of government-appointed health workers for check-ups, delivery, and nutrition support".

Even as coal mining expands in the region, Angul has no centralised database on displacement. Land acquisition is being handled on a piecemeal basis, with separate officers appointed for different projects. Policies are not uniform; they vary from one project to another.

Despite the Centre's push to reduce reliance on non-renewable sources, power generated from coal still makes up 45.65% of the country's installed electricity capacity as of June this year, according to a report by the Union government's apex public policy think tank, NITI Aayog.

Before 2014, coal mines were allocated by the government. In 2014, as many as 204 allocations were cancelled following a Supreme Court judgment. Angul had eight of them.

In 2015, Parliament passed the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act to reallocate cancelled mines through auctions for both captive (for a company's own use) and commercial (for sale in the open market) use. Some of the cancelled blocks re-entered the auction pipeline, including the ones in the district.

In 2020, the first-ever auction of coal blocks for commercial use was launched. This opened the sector fully to private players, including foreign direct investment. Angul has several blocks like Radhikapur (East), Radhikapur (West), Nuagaon, and Utkal C on the auction list. This means more villages will be vacated for coal mines.

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A resident of Angul district's Gopiballavpur village, half of which has been acquired for NALCO's Utkal D coal block. BISWARANJAN ROUT



**Married to satire** (Clockwise from left) Stills from *Ladies Sangeet: A Musical Dramedy*; director Purva Naresh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



## Wedding meets satire

**Ladies Sangeet** uses laughter and song to explore women's resilience in contemporary India

Geetika Sachdev

In India's cultural imagination, the wedding sangeet is a scene of music, camaraderie, and colour. What if that same gathering became a stage for women to question expectations and share their truths across generations?

That is the premise of writer and director Purva Naresh's *Ladies Sangeet: A Musical Dramedy*, which blends music, humour, and social critique. Presented by the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), the play returns to Delhi-NCR after nearly a decade.

The production by Aarambh Mumbai (founded by Purva and Asmit

Pathare) features music by Vidushi Shubha Mudgal, Harpreet, Anadi Nagar, and Nishant Aggarwal.

For Purva, the play draws deeply from her formative years in the arts. Trained in Kathak and percussion, she recalls being urged by her gurus to surrender wholly to one discipline. "At home I was encouraged to question and explore," she says, "but my gurus and institutions always pushed me towards obedience and choosing one form over the other."

That spirit of inquiry, shaped further at Film and Television Institute of India



The play also mirrors her tussle between reverence and rebellion. "As a classically trained

(FTII) Pune, found a voice in the character of Rukmini.

The wedding backdrop, Purva says, came naturally.

What makes *Ladies Sangeet* distinctive is its blend of humour and seriousness. "Music and humour save the play from becoming heavy-handed," says Purva.

Her characters draw from life – Megha reflects her mother's generation, while the wedding planner was inspired by a small-town event manager she once met on tour.

What began as comedy became a metaphor: "The joke was not on him alone, it was on all of us. He showed how society makes us celebrate our own subjugation with glee."

### Women across generations

At its core, *Ladies Sangeet* is a conversation among women across generations. For Purva, this was deeply personal. "It was tough not to judge them and yet keep them from becoming unidimensional," she admits.

"I admired and empathised with them because they were brave women – resilient above all," Purva says.

The play also mirrors her tussle between reverence and rebellion. "As a classically trained

dancer and percussionist, I have deep respect for the arts and my gurus. I had to find a balance between unquestioned reverence and informed respect."

### Still relevant, still resonant

Nearly a decade on, the themes of *Ladies Sangeet* remain relevant. If anything, Purva feels weddings have only grown more ostentatious. Social media, she adds, has only fuelled the appetite for spectacle. "The only change is that middle-class parents are arm-twisted into organising lavish weddings with fewer guests, so the couple can have more room for friends or a grander celebration." The rise of ticketed 'fake weddings' and sangeet events, especially in Delhi, proves her point.

For KNMA, the production aligns with its wider cultural mission. "As we expand into new geographies, this presentation is a part of our larger effort to connect with new audiences and to create accessible and thought-provoking encounters with the arts," highlights Aditi Jaitly, senior curator for performing arts, KNMA.

For Purva, theatre remains the most powerful medium to probe such contradictions.

*The play, scheduled on August 30, 7pm, at Apparel House Gurugram is for ages of 16 and above. Tickets can be purchased on district.in.*

## Onam finds rhythm

**South Side Story** returns with an Onam Special edition



**Sadhyā goes pop** All-female hip-hop collective Wild Wild Women. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

When a harvest festival travels north, it brings more than rituals with it. This August, Delhi will welcome an Onam-inspired celebration in the form of South Side Story, Red FM's flagship cultural property that connects India's youth with the diversity of the South.

Now in its seventh edition, the festival has grown from 1,500 attendees at its debut to more than 10,000 expected this season across two days.

Music is at the core of the event. This year's line-up cuts across genres: Avial, Thakkudam Bridge, and The Raghu Dixit Project bring their distinct folk-rock and fusion sounds, while TM Krishna anchors the classical space. Dancer and actor Shobana joins with her first ever performance in the North. The stage also makes room for independent voices – Wild Wild Women, Job Kurian, Sooraj Santhosh Live, Storyteller the Band, and Attam Kalasamithi.

The festival has always been

more than its concerts. As a cultural prelude, Red FM collaborated with DC Books and the Kerala Literature Festival on Bookmarked, a literary series that has had two editions so far, the most recent featuring Dr. Shashi Tharoor. Indie film screenings and art installations will also extend the festival's scope, creating space for visual storytelling within its larger framework. The Hindu is on board as the festival's print partner.

Food remains an anchor of the Onam special. The traditional Onam Sadhya, a 20-dish vegetarian feast served on banana leaves, will be part of the experience. For many in Delhi, it may be the first encounter with this elaborate meal, which is as much about community and generosity as it is about flavour.

*South Side Story's Onam special will be hosted at K.D. Jadhav Wrestling Stadium, New Delhi on August 30 and 31. Tickets are available on Skillbox, starting at ₹499.*

come of age and need global platforms to showcase the evolution.

The idea for the uplifting artwork came to Neeraj a year ago when he felt the displacement of the living and the organic from civilisation would soon go too far with the development of tools and machine-like minds. Good art is not descriptive but a carrier of culturally distilled emotions and open to multiple interpretations, he says. The base of the sculpture features undulating curves that gradually merge into intertwined formations at the upper level.

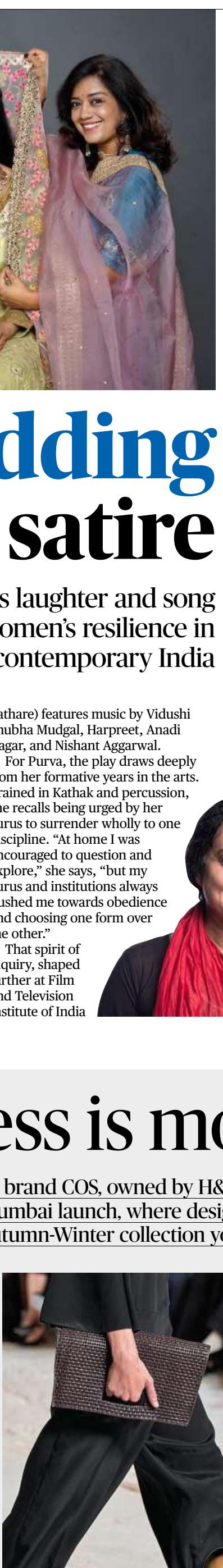
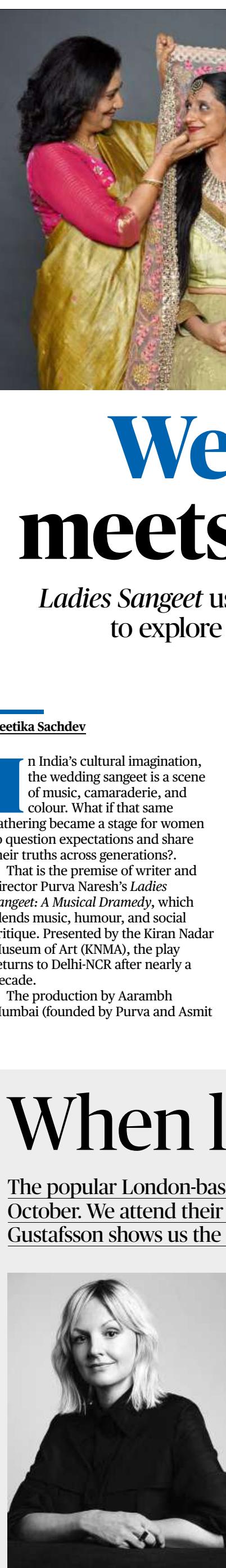
"They embody the sense of motion and churning – a metaphor for the eternal processes of creation, evolution, and transformation; the curving lines flow into each other and expand into a composition rich in rhythm and resonance," says Neeraj of his work that took him eight months to complete.

To some viewers, the sculpture evokes the cosmic churning of energies; to others, the harmony of contrasts, or the unity in diversity. The abstract yet organic form provokes thought, reflection, and dialogue.

The sculptor has deliberately combined the natural texture roughly chiselled in parts with laboriously polished surface to break the monotony and bring out the multi-layered emotions depicted in the stone. "It is a contemporary exploration of form, movement, and meaning to enhance the contemplative character," he says.

Silent but imposing, the sculpture stands as a symbol of creativity and a reminder of the timeless dialogue between tradition and modernity, harmony and continuity that shape Indian art.

The sculpture will be at Bikaner House for a year. What was hitherto an empty spot is now opening new worlds to the visitors, compelling them to pause and think of something deeper than the mundane. As Neeraj says, "I like to put an idea out there and let viewers take it however they wish to in that moment."



**Minimalist glamour** (Clockwise from far left) Karin Gustafsson; A bag and a dress from the Spring-Summer collection. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

you who lean towards classics.

Stating that India has "been on the cards for quite some time," Karin says they finally chose Delhi because they found what felt like the right location. She adds that prices will be on par with those in London.

While there are lines for men and women, the style is fairly androgynous, ideal for today's gender fluidity. Karin says men wear the women's clothes, and vice versa.

Discussing the inspiration, she says "We looked into mid-century Elizabethan fashion for the men's line. We also looked at old uniforms. The feel is utilitarian, with a lot of heritage textures and a lot of craft elements, like herringbone and leather suede. There is a rounder feel as well."

For women, there is retro glamour from the fifties. "It's an interesting silhouette," says Karin, holding up a dress and explaining how it can be draped in multiple ways.

COS typically does not do shine, so the Marilyn Monroe glamour of the new collection is a departure, and one that India is likely to appreciate. In keeping with tradition, the fabrics are luxurious: rippling cashmere, flowing silks and chenille with its subtle velvety sheen.

As for those of us hoping for an India-collab: never say never. "We haven't got anything planned. When we do it, it will be when something resonates," she says, adding seriously, "I won't say no. We would never say no."



Shonali Muthalaly

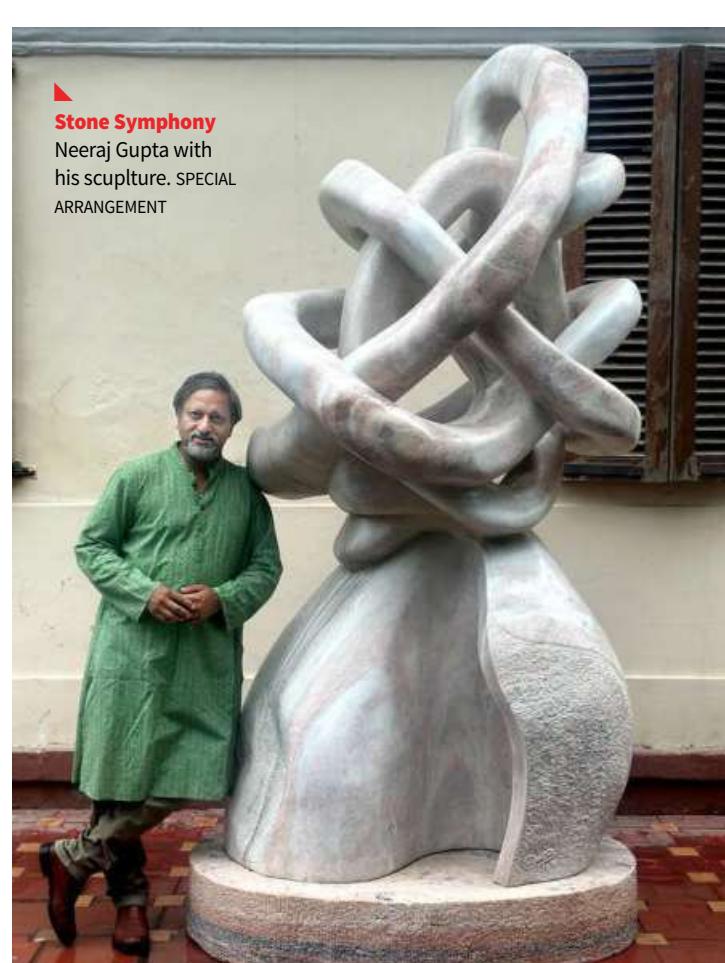
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When a minimalist brand launches in Maximum City, you expect the contrast to jar.

After all, there is nothing minimalist about India. Luxury here typically envelops you in sparkle, opulence, and chaotic colour. Yet, COS, known for its unapologetically practical aesthetic, manages to fit right in with its soon-to-be-launched Autumn/Winter collection, which is flamboyant with texture and extravagant with detail.

We are in Mumbai for COS's India launch, and the city is framed by brooding skies and lashing rain. An apt setting for the clothes, with their inky colours and liquid drapes. In October, the brand, which is an acronym for Collection Of Style, will open its first store in India, at Delhi's Saket City Walk and this is a sneak peek at the collection.

Although it is owned by the Swedish multinational, H&M Group, best known for fast fashion, COS is packaged as affordable luxury,



**Stone Symphony**  
Neeraj Gupta with his sculpture. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## A catalyst for conversation

Neeraj Gupta's sculpture in Makrana marble displayed at Bikaner House is an engaging piece of public art

Soma Basu

Artist Neeraj Gupta's sculpture titled, As the wind rises, installed at the Bikaner House is carved out of a single stone, the timeless pink Makrana marble. At a glance it tells you how the sculptor has transcended conventional boundaries to give a new dimension to Indian sculpting forms. His work of art has the ability to communicate.

What is interesting is the solo sculpture strategically placed in the open courtyard near the

entrance of Gate No. 2, makes for a full exhibition. Visitors stop by the 10-feet tall artwork weighing 4.2 tonnes, either out of curiosity or fascinated by its flowing lines.

"Art is fundamentally subjective. The intent is to enable people appreciate and remember a work of passion," says Neeraj, who is also the president of Delhi Art Society.

Pink Makrana marble from Nagaur district of Rajasthan, is not an easy material to work on. Neeraj's sculpture shows how Indian sculptural traditions have



## War cry

In Bihar, the electoral process itself is an election issue

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'Vote Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar is drawing crowds and is turning out to be a platform for Opposition unity. In 16 days, the campaign would cover 1,300 kilometres across 20 districts and is to conclude in Patna on September 1. On August 27, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M.K. Stalin, joined Mr. Gandhi, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and CPI-ML leader Dipankar Bhattacharya in Muzaffarpur. Mr. Stalin has accused the BJP of turning the Election Commission of India (ECI) into a puppet. NCP leader Sharad Pawar, SP leader Akhilesh Yadav, senior leaders of the TMC and Left parties will be in Patna on the concluding day. Its merits apart, the allegation that an ECI scheme favours the BJP and disadvantages the Opposition has rattled India's political landscape. This alleged "vote chori (vote theft)" has become the Opposition's central rallying cry. Mr. Gandhi's speeches consistently accuse the BJP of "manipulating institutions" and using the ECI as a puppet for its political ends. The Opposition has long been complaining about various aspects of the electoral process that have become less transparent and more partisan. Political battles should have been on the issues of governance and livelihoods, and not on the integrity of the elections at all.

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar and the demonstrable loopholes in electoral rolls, exposed by Mr. Gandhi through an analysis of one Assembly constituency in Karnataka, have given the Opposition allegation a strong handle. The ECI, through its conduct and responses, has added credence to the allegations. It has claimed that over 98% of the voters in the existing list have submitted an enrolment form as required in the Bihar SIR. Around 65 lakh names from the previous list have been removed from the draft list published. It took an order by the Supreme Court for the ECI to accept the Aadhaar card as an acceptable document for establishing identity. Mr. Gandhi alleges that the names being removed are predominantly those of the poor, Dalits, OBCs, Extremely Backward Classes and minorities, a larger proportion of whom vote for non-BJP parties. Electoral malpractice has united the Opposition, but the charges, much of them overblown, are a sign of institutional distrust and rot. The Opposition space has been severely restricted by the brazen and arbitrary use of central law enforcement agencies, and the ECI has done little to demonstrate its impartiality. All of this has left the Opposition with an approach of discrediting the electoral process, which in itself is a sad commentary on India's democracy.

## Déjà vu

India must cut monsoon vulnerabilities, not just build response abilities

Heavy rain has left a trail of destruction across North India. Several districts have been cut off across Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir reported over 40 deaths while swollen rivers breached flood marks in Srinagar and Anantnag. In Punjab, entire villages have been inundated and farmland has disappeared. The national capital, too, reported excessive rainfall and a surging Yamuna. The intensity and the volumes of the southwest monsoon have been swinging sharply between the extremes. August's rain has arrived in concentrated bursts, overwhelming fragile slopes in the Himalaya, bursting banks in the plains, and inundating low-lying regions. This erraticism has cut across geographies in a sign of the monsoon's increasing unpredictability. The consequences go beyond immediate damage. Intense rain over short periods amplifies local erosion. Mountain slopes destabilise and raise risks for settlements far removed. Relief, in this context, cannot be confined to reactive measures. The knowledge that concentrated, destructive rainfall is now a recurring possibility makes it imperative for States and the Centre to invest in preventive strategies. Continuing to treat such events as unforeseeable emergencies is to deny the evidence already at hand.

Indeed, framing each calamity as "unprecedented" distracts from the lessons that should already have been learnt. In Himalayan States, forest clearance and road-widening continue sans adjustments such as slope-safe engineering in eco-sensitive zones despite experts' warning of irreversibly weakened slopes. As catchments' buffering capacity shrinks, the chance of slope failure rises while silt accumulates in dams and rivers downstream, worsening the flood load. Yet, despite repeated disasters, the early warning and evacuation architecture remains underdeveloped. The capacity to forecast heavy rain has improved but it is not being translated into reliable ground-level warnings. Relief agencies mobilise once the damage has occurred, but systematic drills, pre-positioned supplies and community preparedness remain insufficient. Sadly, States and the Centre continue to pursue strategic road projects and urban expansion with urgency, even in landscapes repeatedly flagged as unstable, while climate-resilient infrastructure lags. Compensatory afforestation and rehabilitation rarely match the qualitative attributes of what has been lost. The cumulative effect is visible as denuded slopes, shrinking catchment areas, and populations at increasingly higher risk. Relief operations command headlines and budgets but unless sustainable infrastructure, landslide mitigation and early-warning systems are pursued equally seriously, the next monsoon spell will launch another cycle of loss. Shifting from proclaiming resilience, post facto, to systematically reducing vulnerabilities beforehand remains overdue.

# India's demographic dividend as a time bomb

**N**obel laureate Rabindranath Tagore once said, "Don't limit a child to your own learning, for she was born in another time." In the context of India's education system, this quote is particularly resonant today. India's education system is outdated. We are preparing students for jobs that are rapidly disappearing or evolving.

Meanwhile the future of work is being shaped by emerging technologies, led by Artificial Intelligence (AI), being the most disruptive of them all. AI is reshaping how we work and think, with our research suggesting that up to 70% of current jobs, globally, will be impacted, and up to 30% of tasks in many current jobs will get completely automated. A plethora of new jobs related to AI development and implementation are being created as we speak. This technological shift via AI is already changing the world and the job market, whereas the curriculum update cycle in our schools and colleges runs in three-year cycles. This is incremental at best, leading to many students being left behind if we do not up-skill, cross-skill and re-skill them.

India's 'demographic dividend' has long been touted as a key driver of the nation's future growth. With more than 800 million people below the age of 35, the country boasts of having one of the largest youth populations anywhere. This demographic 'asset', however, is increasingly under threat of becoming a 'liability', as the gap between education and real-world skills, and degrees and employability widens. If this gap is not addressed, India's demographic dividend could morph into a demographic time bomb – a paradox at scale.

The stark reality is that while India is producing millions of graduates every year, many of these graduates remain underemployed and are increasingly becoming unemployable. Despite popular belief, this is not merely a problem facing social science or non-STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) students. Over the past decade, data show that 40%-50% of engineering graduates from Indian universities have not been placed in jobs, highlighting the worrying gap between academic education and industry requirements. More and more youngsters are going to college or university, yet employers report increasing difficulty in finding talent with the right skills. Belatedly, educators are acknowledging the problem, with 61% of higher education leaders today agreeing that curricula are not aligned with rapidly changing job market needs.

**The mismatch begins in high school**  
As the AI revolution accelerates, India faces a deepening skills crisis. According to McKinsey, nearly seven out of every 10 Indian jobs are at risk from automation by 2030. This means a massive



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India's demographic 'asset' – its large youth population – is in danger of becoming a 'liability' as the gap between education and real-world skills and degrees and employability grows wider

and unprecedented change could be affecting the nation in just the next five years. Of course, it is not all bad news. The World Economic Forum predicts that AI and other new tech will create 170 million new jobs by 2030. The problem is that in the same period, more than half of this number of newly created jobs (92 million) will be displaced. Consequently, skilling must become a critical national priority.

The challenge lies in how Indian youth are entering the workforce. A significant number are doing so with outdated or irrelevant skills. This misalignment begins in high school, where students are largely unaware of the multitude of career paths that exist. A Mindler Career Awareness Survey from 2022 revealed that 93% of Indian students between classes 8 to 12 are aware of only seven career options, most of which are traditional roles such as doctor, engineer, lawyer, or teacher. In contrast, the modern economy offers over 20,000 career paths. Surprisingly, a mere 7% of students report receiving formal career guidance during their schooling years. This lack of awareness leads to millions of our best and brightest, pursuing degrees that do not match their aptitudes or market needs. Do not take our word for it. According to the India Skills Report 2024, more than 65% of high school graduates pursue degrees that are not aligned with their interests or abilities. This alarming reality means that students emerge from their degrees ill-equipped for the rapidly changing job market, further exacerbating India's unemployment crisis.

### Digital tools, but analog mindsets

While most students in India now have access to some technology as smartphones have become much cheaper, and the government has also tried to roll out computer and AI labs, most schools still follow traditional, examination-centric curricula. There is limited focus on career exploration or the development of job-ready skills. As a result, students graduate with degrees but lack the practical experience required by employers. In fact, the Graduate Skills Index 2025 produced by Mercer-Mettl found that only 43% of Indian graduates are deemed job-ready. In our experience with interns and fresh graduates, this figure, if anything, underestimates the scale of the problem.

EdTech platforms primarily focus on test preparation and rote learning, rather than career discovery or skill development. Coursera, Udemy and other look-alikes have tried to address this problem, but the certificates obtained from these are becoming increasingly commoditised. School curricula remain disconnected from the evolving job market, leaving students unprepared for the challenges ahead. Only a few State boards and central bodies have introduced career readiness

frameworks, and even fewer integrate emerging career pathways into their curricula.

The Indian government, to its credit, has launched several initiatives that are aimed at bridging the skills gap, the most prominent being the Skill India Mission, which aimed to train over 400 million individuals by 2022. Despite large-scale funding, the mission fell short of this target. Multiple systemic issues have contributed to this failure: besides the Skill India Mission, an acronym soup of other policies has also been launched which includes the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKK), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana (PMYY), Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP), Prime Minister's Internship Scheme, and many others.

What India needs is a cohesive strategy that aligns education and skill development with industry demands. We have undertaken deep research and devised a platform for just that. We are in conversations with NITI Aayog, the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), and the Skill Ministry to translate this solution into reality. Collaboration between the government, private sector and educational institutions will be essential to create a robust ecosystem for skill development.

### The decisive decade

India's ambition to emerge as a global digital powerhouse rests on its ability to integrate technology, education and employment into a coherent national framework. India's youth will either be equipped with the skills to thrive in an AI-driven world or be left behind. This is not just an education or employment crisis; it is a crisis where our entire social contract could come undone. The student civil disobedience during the Mandal Commission days in 1990 bear witness to the havoc that youth-led protests can create, escalating into violence, clashes with police, property destruction, and, in some cases, fatalities due to police firings. If India fails to act now, it risks creating a generation of highly literate, even educated but unemployable youth that can become a ticking time-bomb. The World Bank Economic Review has ably captured this paradox at scale in an article by Lant Pritchett, "Where Has All the Education Gone?". The ramifications of such a crisis are dire. The good news is that this is an entirely fixable problem. India must prepare its youth not for the jobs of yesterday, but for the careers of tomorrow. The clock is ticking and it is up to us to convert India's demographic dividend into an asset or a liability.

Ritu Kulshrestha supported the initial stages of the article, specifically with data content and drafting

# Building health for 1.4 billion Indians



**Sangita Reddy**

is Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Group

**I**ndia's health-care system stands at a defining juncture. The task is dual: expand access for the millions who are underserved, while ensuring affordability amid rising costs. This needs an integrated framework, strengthening insurance, leveraging scale, embedding prevention in primary care, accelerating digital adoption, enabling regulatory clarity, and unlocking sustained investment. Through a systemic, interconnected approach, India can build a health-care model that is inclusive, financially viable, and globally aspirational.

**Insurance as the foundation of affordability**  
Pooling risk remains the most effective way to make costly care accessible. Even modest premiums – ₹5,000 to ₹20,000 for individuals or ₹10,000 to ₹50,000 for families – can unlock coverage worth several lakhs, shielding households from catastrophic financial shocks. Yet, penetration remains low: only 15%-18% of Indians are insured, with the premium-to-GDP ratio at 3.7% compared to the global average of 7%. The gap is significant, but so is the opportunity, as gross written premiums already stand at \$15 billion in 2024 and are projected to grow at over 20% CAGR till 2030.

Affordability cannot rest on insurance alone. True impact comes when payers, providers and patients partner, expanding coverage, embracing prevention and making insurance a tool for everyday health security, not just a crisis shield.

India's health-care system has mastered something that the world is only now beginning to appreciate – delivering quality care at extraordinary scale. Where an MRI in the West may handle seven to eight scans a day, in India the same machine manages many times that volume. This ability to stretch resources without diluting quality is not coincidence. It is the product of decades of ingenuity in doctor-patient ratios, workflow design, and infrastructure use.

The next leap is clear: extend this efficiency to India's vast heartland. Tier-2 and tier-3 cities remain underserved, yet they represent the true

frontier. If India can replicate its urban efficiency in these geographies, it will not just close the access gap. It could set a global benchmark for how scale, innovation and inclusion can reshape health care.

Schemes such as Ayushman Bharat (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, or PM-JAY) have redefined access. Covering nearly 500 million people, with ₹5 lakh a family for advanced care, PM-JAY has enabled millions of cashless treatments in both public and private hospitals. Its impact is visible: timely cancer treatments for beneficiaries have increased by nearly 90%.

Expanding private hospital participation in government-backed schemes is essential to reach the next 500 million. But this must be anchored in fair reimbursements and transparent processes, ensuring viability for providers and real value for patients.

**Prevention as the most powerful cost-saver**  
A study in Punjab revealed a stark reality – even insured families faced catastrophic expenses on diabetes, hypertension, and other non-communicable disease (NCD) outpatient care. The solution is two-fold: redesign insurance to include outpatient and diagnostics, and launch a nationwide push for prevention. But this is incomplete without public participation.

Alongside payers and providers, people must embrace a preventive mindset – controlling risks, staying alert and raising awareness. Every rupee in healthier lifestyles saves multiples in treatment. If schools, employers, communities and citizens rally behind prevention, India can blunt the looming tsunami of NCDs and secure a healthier future.

India was early to adopt telemedicine and is now pushing boundaries with Artificial Intelligence. Tools that detect early signs of sepsis, triage diagnostic reports, or enable remote consultations are already in practice. These innovations not only improve patient outcomes but also optimise the productivity of doctors and nurses.

Digital health is also democratising access. Remote consultations mean that a cardiologist in a metropolitan city can guide treatment for a patient in a village that is hundreds of kilometres away. Combined with the government's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, such innovations could enable universal health records and continuity of care across the country.

### Regulation and trust as the missing link

Health-care innovations are promising, but challenges persist. Insurers in New Delhi are considering a 10%-15% premium hike due to pollution-driven respiratory illnesses which shows how environmental factors raise health-care costs. Without safeguards, such pressures could hit affordability for millions. This is where regulation is crucial. The Finance Ministry has urged the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to strengthen claims of settlement and grievance redress, recognising that trust drives insurance penetration. Without confidence in fair and transparent claims, households will not prioritise health insurance. Robust regulation, paired with fair pricing, is essential to deepen coverage and build confidence.

In 2023, India's health sector drew \$5.5 billion in private equity and venture capital, fuelling digital health, pharmacy networks, and hospitals. But capital remains skewed toward metros. The true test is directing this to tier-2 and tier-3 cities, building primary networks, and training specialists so that growth translates into inclusion.

India's health care is at an inflection point. Insurance must cover everyday care, providers must scale efficiently, prevention must cut long-term costs, and technology must drive access. With aligned investment and bold public-private partnerships, we can design a system that is not episodic or exclusionary, but universal, resilient, and sustainable. Health care must move from being a privilege to becoming every Indian's right.

Health care in India is at an inflection point and must move from being a privilege to becoming every Indian's right

He has not realised that the United States is getting increasingly isolated which is not, in the long run, good for the Americans. His demands are outrageous.

V. Lakshmanan,  
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

In Mr. Trump's view, India represents a disquieting asymmetry: a nation that

presents itself as America's "natural partner" yet withholds the reciprocity expected of one. India talks the language of shared values and strategic alignment, but keeps its markets closed, its diplomacy hedged, and its commitments deliberately vague. Unlike Europe or Japan, it does not pay an alliance premium. Unlike China, it is not a rival powerful enough to command respect. This in-between posture, benefiting from partnership without fully embracing it, makes India run contrary to Mr. Trump's transactional instinct. New Delhi's balancing act may impress diplomats, but to Mr. Trump it looks like opportunism.

He finds the pinch sharp enough to whip up tariffs and keen to extract concessions.

R. Narayanan,

Navi Mumbai

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The shock of U.S. tariffs

While India fervently believed that U.S. President Donald Trump would roll back his plan to slap a 25% tariff for the second time, it is disappointing that he has gone ahead with his decision. It only shows that Mr. Trump is obdurate and fuelled by arrogance. He does not seem to take

# Should States be compensated for revenue loss from GST reforms?

PARLEY



Manoj

Mishra

Partner at Grant Thornton Bharat



Pratik Jain

Partner at Price Waterhouse &amp; Co LLP

**D**uring his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a "Deepavali gift" to the people in the form of next-generation Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms. The Ministry of Finance subsequently said that a large part of these reforms involved moving GST from the current mainly four-tier system to a predominantly two-tier structure of 5% and 18%, along with an overall lowering of the average tax rate. What impact will this proposal have on revenues? And should the States be compensated for revenue loss? Pratik Jain and Manoj Mishra discuss these questions in a conversation moderated by T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan. Edited excerpts:

**With the average tax rate set to come down, how do you think the government will maintain revenue?**

**Manoj Mishra:** Whenever we talk about GST rate cuts, there is always an immediate concern of how much revenue we are really giving up. If you look at the proposals on the table, whether it is rationalising multiple slabs into just two, or cutting the 28% or 12% slab to 18% or 5%, the short-term impact is real. As per current estimates, that cut may impact ₹60,000 crore-₹1,00,000 crore per year, which is roughly 0.2-0.3% of India's GDP. In the first year of implementation (FY2025-26), when the new structure may only apply for part of the year, the likely hit would be closer to ₹45,000 crore. But this is not a permanent loss. A higher rate of around 40% on sin goods and luxury goods will help recoup some of the revenue. Second, when tax rates go down on essential goods and durables, consumption generally goes up. If you put more people into the formal billing system, you reduce leakages. We have seen this before. So, in my opinion, initially there will be a dip, but growing compliance and an increase in demand will make up for it to a large extent.

**About 70% of GST revenues come from the 18% slab. That slab is not going to change materially, so the impact from these overall rate cuts is not likely to be very big. Do you agree?**

**Pratik Jain:** You are right. That is the reason why the 18% slab is not being changed. One of the proposals was to merge the 12% and 18% slabs. But that is not happening because the government did not want to touch the 18% slab, given the revenue implications.

There are revenue implications with items moving from the 12% slab to the 5% one, and



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

with many products moving from the 28% slab to the 18% one. But these implications would not be as severe as if the 18% slab was reduced to, say, 13% or 14-15%.

**What would the average rate of GST be after the cuts?**

**PJ:** Before GST came in, the average tax incidence was apparently around 15%. This got reduced to around 11.5% after GST came in and after the rate cuts. Currently, it is around 11.5%. The estimate is that it will be close to 10% after the rate cuts proposed by the Centre are implemented. That puts India with the best of the developed economies. To my mind, 10% is a very moderate rate. That should really put us in good stead, as we want to attract more manufacturing over a period of time.

**GST revenues are divided between the Centre and the States. But are they divided equally among the States? In other words, will the revenue hit from the tax cuts be divided equally?**

**MM:** The revenue distribution is not equal. When we talk about GST rate cuts, the impact is never going to be uniform. For example, States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are manufacturing and service-heavy States with strong urban centres. If GST is reduced on appliances or electronics, the immediate revenue collection from GST for these States would take a visible hit. On the other hand, States that are more dependent on agriculture, such as Bihar or Uttar Pradesh, may not see the same proportion of dent in revenue. This is simply because their consumption basket



As far as taxation is concerned, the States will have to start looking at their own systems and processes. They need to think of how they can plug leakages, increase the tax base, and attract more investment, so that they are self-sufficient in tax.

PRATIK JAIN

is tilted towards essentials, which are already exempted or are at a lower slab. When the GST Council cut rates in July 2018, there was an almost 3-4% dip in the monthly collections of States such as Maharashtra and Karnataka. But the smaller States, such as those in the north-east, barely felt any impact because their tax base is narrower.

**Should the States' revenues be protected?**

**PJ:** When GST was launched in July 2017, the Centre provided to the States a compensation guarantee for five years. At that point, they believed that five years is a long period for a transition and so, the States would start standing on their feet after that period got over. Five years have gone by and therefore, technically, there is no compensation (to be given). I think it is very difficult for the Centre to keep compensating the States for a regular tax. There are, of course, ways of looking at allocating more funds for, say, infrastructure development. But as far as taxation is concerned, the States will have to start looking at their own systems and processes. They need to think of how they can plug leakages, how they can increase the tax base, and how they can attract more investment, so that they are self-sufficient in tax. For a country such as ours, a regular compensation provided to the States for any loss on taxation is perhaps not an option.

**MM:** Whatever Pratik is saying is absolutely correct, but we have to understand that there is no equal distribution of GST revenue. So, the bigger States with larger manufacturing facilities receive a larger share of GST, while the smaller, less industrialised States receive a negligible share of total GST collections. There has to be some mechanism by which these States are compensated. Not necessarily by means of a compensation cess or something like that. There could be another mechanism. There could be a mechanism within the Consolidated Fund of India. I think in many of the developed countries which implemented a GST, initially this kind of process was followed. On the one hand, these countries provided a compensation

that came from GST itself, such as the compensation India's Centre gave the States, and on the other, these countries also provided support through their consolidated funds in the form of special packages.

**PJ:** I think that a separate fund could be created. A few years ago, Kerala had imposed a flood cess to raise funds for recovery. So, maybe a part of GST could go to a contingency fund where, depending on the specific situation in a State, the GST Council may decide to allocate funds. I think the States will have to see this (the rate cuts and rationalisation) as a larger reform: as a step towards ease of doing business in India and attracting more manufacturing and more investment into India. Yes, economic theories and past experience will tell you that when you reduce the tax rate, your tax base increases. But, obviously, the States will really want to see how this evolves. So, at this point in time, of course there will be some nervousness, but they must come together and appreciate and understand the long-term benefits of any tax reform.

**So far, the GST Council has taken all decisions by consensus save maybe twice in its history. How optimistic are you that the GST Council will actually go ahead with the changes that the Centre is proposing and that it will not get derailed by the States which are not agreeing to this?**

**MM:** I believe that they have already done their homework. Otherwise, the Prime Minister would not have announced this in his Independence Day speech. So, it is highly unlikely that GST Council will oppose these rate cuts. There could be some discussions around the compensation to make up for the losses, but the possibility that they will not go ahead with the rate cuts seems highly remote to me.

**PJ:** The Prime Minister made this statement and then it was reiterated by several government officials, so there already seems to be some consensus. I think that there could be discussions about some products, about whether they should fall in the 5% or 18% slab, for instance. Or there could be discussions about when this should be made effective. But I think they will go ahead with the decision – if not with a consensus, maybe with a vote. I see a very strong possibility of it happening in the next upcoming GST Council meeting.



To listen to the full interview  
Scan the code or go to the link  
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NOTEBOOK

## Coding, community, and collaboration

Learning to code, being part of Open Data movements, and using Gen AI tools are all important for data journalists

Srinivasan Ramani

**T**he first line of code that I ever wrote was in a language called BASIC. That was more than three decades ago, at a summer class in Salem in Tamil Nadu, conducted by college graduates who wanted to teach code during their free time. The instructor, a woman in her twenties, was thrilled to see my excitement at the output – the first 50 numbers of the Fibonacci series.

While I was fascinated with coding then, it took me a few more years to become a software programmer. That career lasted four years. The fascination persisted even when I was bit by the journalism bug. However, after I became a journalist, code was no longer a routine job requirement; it became a side hustle.

As a data journalist, though, knowing how to program is a decisive advantage for extracting structured data from websites, such as the Election Commission of India's, which publishes detailed electoral data. But to be a good coder/programmer, a journalist had to stay in touch with the activity. It was not easy to remember syntax, programming techniques, and procedures to repeat tasks much after they were done the first time. This is why data journalists always leaned on full-time programmers and coders to help with more difficult tasks.

In India, the free and open source (FOSS) movement has always allowed for voluntary help by enthusiasts in public interest. In line with the FOSS ethos, another voluntary group emerged in the mid-2010s, the 'Open Data' community, which included programmers, data scientists, GIS experts, and hobbyists besides journalists. The Indian community dedicated to promoting Open Data is Datameet. While programmers in the community help retrieve data for journalists, journalists help them in turn by publishing data-based stories in public interest.

My colleagues and I not only relied on the Open Data community to access data sources, but also took the help of talented

programmers to create web interactives and do investigative journalism. Prominent examples of these collaborations include several 'Data Point' stories on these pages, hosting the live State-wise vaccination tracker from the CoWIN database, and downloading data and analysing it to calculate excess deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, journalists have been further assisted by Gen AI tools. It is no longer necessary to remember exact syntax or procedures to write robust programs; we have to think algorithmically. By using Gen AI prompts effectively, we can 'vibe code', that is, ask a Gen AI model to write code according to specific instructions.

Vibe coding has helped journalists like us scale new heights. We can now write intricate interactive code in JavaScript to analyse in depth the Lok Sabha election results, learn how to leverage open source hardware (Arduino Nano) to collect primary data on issues such as the heat impact in Chennai, and scrape thousands of image PDFs to study electoral rolls for aggregated information.

Does that mean we no longer need to leverage the help of the Open Data community? Certainly not. When we found that it took hours to parse image PDFs of one Assembly Constituency (and its nearly 400 parts) using OCR (Optical Character Recognition) libraries recommended by Gen AI large language models, we reached out to a Datameet volunteer who promptly optimised the code to significantly speed up the process.

The lesson? It helps to have learned to code to function as a journalist, particularly a data journalist, today. It helps to partake in the AI revolution by using Gen AI to help with coding tasks. But it is even more gratifying to have been part of the FOSS and Open Data movements and to lean on voluntarism for the sake of public interest. My first coding teacher, wherever she is, would be even more proud today.

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## PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Swept away



A vehicle damaged by the flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall near the Peer Kho area in Jammu. Over 40 people, mostly pilgrims, have died in landslips and flash floods in the past few days in Jammu and Kashmir. Though waters have started receding in most of the rivers, schools will remain closed in Jammu region till August 30. ANI

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

**The Hindu**

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 29, 1975

### Details of IT raid on Gwalior palace

New Delhi, Aug. 28: Income-tax raids at the premises belonging to Mrs. Vijaya Raje Scindia of Gwalior and other members of the former ruling family have revealed "extensive tax evasion and concealed wealth", says an official press release.

Documents indicating transfer of "substantial amounts" of funds in a "surreptitious manner" out of India have been seized.

During the search of the Gwalior Palace, the tax men discovered silver and silver articles weighing 53 quintals, which would be worth about Rs. 53 lakhs.

The jewellery found in the strong room in the palace is being valued by the registered valuer from a reputed firm. So far about 40 per cent of the total quantity of jewellery found has been valued at Rs. 35 lakhs.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 29, 1925

### Unani exhibition

Chief Minister opens

An interesting function was witnessed this morning when the Hon. Chief Minister performed the opening ceremony of the Unani Tibbi Exhibition at the Shadi Mahal, Triplicane. The exhibition is the first of its kind in Madras and has been got up in connection with the South India Unani Tibbi Conference which commences its sittings tomorrow under the auspices of the Eastern Medical Association of Southern India.

# Text & Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### Land sanctioned for new IIM in Pimpri Chinchwad

**70** In acres. The Maharashtra government has sanctioned the land in Moshi, Pimpri Chinchwad, near Pune, to set up a new Indian Institute of Management (IIM). Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule said the decision followed directions from Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. PTI

### Number of Gazans facing famine conditions

**5.1** in lakhs. The World Food Programme (WFP) says it currently delivers 100 aid trucks daily into Gaza which is far below 600 trucks that entered during the ceasefire. WFP chief Cindy McCain warned that the modest food aid increase is "not nearly enough" to stop starvation. REUTERS

### Deaths in northern Thailand from Typhoon Kajiki

**5** Typhoon Kajiki has killed five people and injured 15 in northern Thailand, where flash floods and landslides have struck 12 provinces. More than 6,300 residents and 1,800 households have been affected, with at least seven people reported missing. Authorities warn water levels may rise as heavy rain is forecast to continue through next week. REUTERS

### Civilians including children killed in Kyiv attack

**14** The overnight barrage also damaged the European Union mission's building in Kyiv. Residents sought shelter in subway stations. Ukraine's air force reported Moscow launched the second-largest overnight barrage so far. President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned the strikes as "deliberate killings". AFP

### Number of persons displaced in eastern Pakistan due to floods

**2.5** in lakhs. Rescuers in boats raced to reach stranded families in Pakistan's populous eastern Punjab province on Thursday, after three major rivers burst their banks because of heavy rain and the release of water from overflowing dams in neighbouring India. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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# Which sectors are worst hit by tariffs?

How high are the new U.S. tariffs on Indian exports? Which sectors are likely to feel the most pain? What has been the immediate impact on shrimp, textiles, and jewellery? Which sectors are likely to face only a modest impact? What short-term support is the government planning?

## EXPLAINER

### T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

#### The story so far:

The 50% tariffs imposed by the U.S. on imports from India came into effect on August 27, sending ripples through the Indian economy and the government. Several sectors, many of them labour-intensive, have the U.S. as a major export destination, and many are already seeing a significant dip in demand. The government is cognisant of this and is devising a plan to support these sectors, at least in the short term.

#### How do we know which sectors will be worst affected?

The intensity of the impact of tariffs can be arrived at by looking at three metrics in combination: the amount exported to the U.S. in absolute terms, the share of the U.S. in that sector's total exports to the world, and the final tariff that sector is facing.

If a sector exports a large amount to the U.S., the U.S. forms a major part of its total exports, and the tariffs are high, then the pain felt by that sector will likely be high. However, if the U.S. forms a small share in a sector's total exports, then the impact is likely to be limited.

#### Which sectors are likely to see a severe impact?

According to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India exported about \$2.4 billion worth of shrimp to the U.S. in 2024-25, making up 32.4% of its total shrimp exports. Earlier, the U.S. only imposed a 10% countervailing tariff on shrimp from India. However, the addition of the 50% tariff now takes this total to 60%.



**Major impact:** Several sectors, many of them labour-intensive, have the U.S. as a major export destination, and many are already seeing a significant dip in demand. GETTY IMAGES

Reports indicate that exporter purchase prices of shrimp in Andhra Pradesh – the source of the majority of India's shrimp – fell by about 20% following the 25% tariff imposed on August 7. Prices are likely to fall further due to the current 60% tariff.

India exported \$10 billion worth of diamonds, gold, and jewellery to the U.S. in 2024-25, accounting for 40% of total exports in this sector. Tariffs have now risen from 2.1% to 52.1%. Reports from hubs like Surat already show that production cuts are underway. Surat's diamond polishing industry itself employs about 12 lakh people.

One of the worst-hit sectors is likely to be India's textiles and apparel exports sector. These exports to the U.S. stood at \$10.8 billion in 2024-25, with apparel alone accounting for \$5.4 billion. Further, the U.S. accounts for 35% of India's apparel exports. The sector now faces a 63.9% tariff, up from the previous 13.9%.

"Tiruppur exporters are rushing shipments while cancelling new styles," said the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) in its report. "Noida-Gurugram has frozen planned capacity expansions and is considering downsizing. Ludhiana reports a slump in yarn and fabric demand, with working capital under stress, and Bengaluru units are preparing for shift cuts as buyers push for offshore production."

India exported \$1.2 billion worth of carpets to the U.S. in 2024-25, which makes up 58.6% of total carpet exports. Tariffs have increased from 2.9% to 52.9%.

Other significantly affected sectors include handicrafts, leather and shoes, furniture and bedding, and agricultural products such as basmati rice, spices, tea, pulses, and sesame.

#### Which sectors will see a more modest impact?

India's export of organic chemicals to the

U.S. stood at \$2.7 billion. This made up 13.2% of India's total exports. The sector now faces 54% import tariffs, up from the previous 4%. The exporters' body, CHEMEXCIL, and industry bodies have already approached the government for some intervention.

India exported \$4.7 billion worth of steel, aluminium, and copper to the U.S. in 2024-25, about 17% of India's total exports of these metals.

"While the U.S. is not the largest market for Indian metals, it is critical for hundreds of SMEs in the Delhi-NCR engineering belt and eastern foundry hubs," GTRI said.

"The tariff threatens to disrupt jobs in stainless steel, aluminium casting, and copper semi-finished goods, putting severe pressure on small and medium exporters reliant on U.S. orders."

India exported \$6.7 billion worth of machinery and mechanical appliances to the U.S. in 2024-25, making up 20% of its total exports. This sector is also expected to face a drop in demand.

#### Is the government planning to help these sectors?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal have been repeating the 'swadeshi' mantra and asking Indians to 'go vocal for local', so that the economy can reduce its dependence on exports. Apart from this, *The Hindu* reported on August 13 that the government is working on a multi-ministry plan to ease the short-term pain of exporters.

In the medium to long term, the government is working with exporter bodies to diversify their export destinations and make better use of existing free trade agreements. The Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra has also said that the central bank stands ready to provide whatever help it can.

## THE GIST

Severe impact is expected on shrimp, diamonds and jewellery, textiles and apparel, and carpets due to tariffs rising up to 60%, with reports of production cuts, price falls, and downsizing.

Moderate impact will be felt in organic chemicals, metals, and machinery exports, with SMEs and exporters' bodies seeking intervention.

The government is working on a multi-ministry plan, promoting the 'swadeshi' and 'vocal for local' push, while also aiming to diversify export destinations.

# Why U.S. is ending duty-free imports of low-value goods?

What does this mean for global trade and businesses?

### Garimella Subramaniam

#### The story so far:

Postal and courier services worldwide are bracing for logistics disruptions, as the U.S. eliminates duty-free imports of low-value goods, effective August 29. Set at a maximum purchase threshold of \$800 per person per day, shipments of merchandise ranging from textiles to toys, cosmetics, and electronic accessories have until now been covered under the de minimis exemption – Latin for "too small to be trifled with". These imports will now face tariffs based on the country of origin. The duty exemption was reversed in May for imports from China, which accounts for over 50% of de minimis imports, according to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency. This dealt a severe blow to the country's leading e-commerce platforms, like Temu, and textile retailers such as Shein. The latest move is part of the barrage of measures the Donald Trump administration has embarked upon to narrow the U.S. trade deficit with the biggest economies,

prevent intellectual property theft, and block the influx of counterfeit products. Opponents claim that the abolition of the duty exemption would reduce aggregate welfare by between \$11-\$13 billion and disproportionately hurt the poorer, citing a National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) study.

**What is the de minimis regulation, and how did it work?**  
The de minimis regulation, rooted in Section 321 of the 1930 Tariff Act, allowed American tourists to send home souvenirs without incurring taxes. In the 1990s, the rationale of the provision was recast as a trade facilitation and liberalisation tool designed to reduce transaction costs for businesses and consumers. When Congress quadrupled the value of exempted goods from \$200 to \$800 in 2016, the number of items that were eligible for coverage was also expanded.

An important consideration behind the move was to balance administrative costs with potential revenue earnings in the wake of the exponential rise in imports into the country in recent years. Fresh

tariffs during President Trump's first term may have paradoxically contributed to the proliferation of trade via the postal route. About four million deliveries were estimated to be processed daily under the de minimis exemption scheme. The volume of imports had increased from 1.34 million in 2015 to 1.36 billion in 2024, according to the White House.

**How does this fit into previous international agreements?**  
The removal of the duty-free exemption recalls a 2019 bargain that Mr. Trump extracted from the 192-nation-strong Universal Postal Union (UPU) 2019 in a bid to block other nations from free-riding on the American economy.

The UPU conceded to the U.S. demand to hike postal rates applicable for exporters from developing nations, which Washington maintained were substantially lower than the costs incurred by domestic customers. The administration further reasoned that the anomaly had incentivised the flood of Chinese goods into the U.S., putting domestic importers at a disadvantage.

## Are there international parallels?

The European Union has proposed a handling fee of €2 for products directly imported by individuals, and a €0.5 fee received by warehouses. The aim is to crack down on dangerous and illegal goods flooding the single market and distorting competition in the 27-country bloc. Crucially, the reform shifts responsibility for direct purchases made by individuals onto Chinese e-commerce platforms, which must furnish additional data to customs officials for closer scrutiny. In a related move, imports into the EU last year of 4.6 billion low-value parcels – a four-fold increase over 2022, 90% of which were from China – have brought to the fore the termination of the €150 duty-free threshold, offering greater protection to consumers and businesses.

#### What does this indicate about global trade?

Together, the U.S. and EU actions on low-value imports are a most telling statement that the basic pillars of the post-war world order, exemplified among others by the World Trade Organization, are being systematically undermined by its founding architects.

Evidence that the multilateral framework is near collapse can be gathered from the inability of sovereign and independent nations to formulate a concerted response to Mr. Trump during recent negotiations over bilateral trade agreements with Washington. Most notable of these is the EU's trade pact with the U.S.

*The writer is Director, Strategic Initiatives, Agnoshin Technologies*

## THE GIST

Postal and courier services worldwide are bracing for disruptions as the U.S. eliminates duty-free imports of low-value goods, affecting shipments of merchandise such as textiles, toys, cosmetics, and electronic accessories, and impacting e-commerce platforms like Temu and retailers such as Shein.

The actions signal that the basic pillars of the post-war world order, exemplified by the World Trade Organization, are being systematically undermined, as sovereign nations struggle to coordinate responses to these unilateral trade measures.

## IN THE LIMELIGHT



The music room portraits from 'Dandadan' season 2. CRUNCHYROLL

## Why yokai refuse to die: Japanese folklore reimagined in the age of *Dandadan*

**Yukinobu Tatsu's hit series scavenges the detritus of Japanese folklore, reanimating the occult as a maximalist punk-rock spectacle for the 21st century; it transforms traditional yokai and urban legends into outrageous, hyper-stylised characters that thrive in the digital age**

**Ayaan Paul Chowdhury**

**F**or centuries, Japanese folklore has seethed with shapeshifters, grotesques, tricksters, vengeful ghosts, and objects that come alive when left alone too long. But the word *yokai* – a neat compound of two kanji meaning “suspicious” and “doubtful” – has resisted the simple taxonomy of goblins and ghouls. They are not quite demons, not quite gods, but emissaries of animism, or the belief that anything and everything might house a restless soul. Priests developed rituals to pacify these forces, separating the benevolent *nigi-mitama* from the violent *ara-mitama*. When the latter went untended, they curled into yokai, requiring rites of *chinkon* to soothe them back into balance.

Sometimes they're mischievous foxes or long-necked women, sometimes a sandal or a teapot that suddenly develops eyes and limbs. Edo-period artists such as Toriyama Sekien catalogued these *yokai* into detailed bestiaries, while scholars like Kunio Yanagita famously collected tales of such entities in *Tōno Monogatari*, but the truth is that the line between invention and tradition has always been blurry.

By the 20th century, modernisation eroded the daily intimacies that once made *yokai* seem plausible. Many of the old spirits relied on a pre-industrial familiarity with land and ritual. Who, after all, still feared a haunted inkstone, or the bucket that drew water from a well? Yet new technologies were quick to refill the vacuum. Kamishibai storytellers, penny manga rental shops, and television carried *yokai* into mass consciousness. Shigeru Mizuki, creator of *GeGeGe no Kitaro*, codified an entire new bestiary in print. Others, like Arifumi Sato, conjured fresh monsters – like the skeletal *gashadokuro* or the vampiric *jubokko* –

and sold them to children in encyclopedias. Purists grumbled that such inventions cheapened tradition, forgetting that Sekien himself was guilty of the same game.

Rather than ossifying, Japanese occult lore has proven remarkably elastic. Old ghosts jostle beside new urban legends, with schoolgirls whispering about Hanako in the bathroom, or Kuchisake-onna, the slit-mouthed woman asking if she's beautiful. Today, for most young Japanese, *yokai* live in phone screens and horror manga panels.

### Hyper-stylised punk folklore

It is precisely in this atmosphere of constant mythological remix that Yukinobu Tatsu's *Dandadan* felt inevitable. The manga, and its riotous anime adaptation, operate as a series of carnivalesque séances. Ghost stories, UFO conspiracies, exorcism rites, and juvenile romance all collide at maximum decibel, producing a hyper-stylised punk folklore for the 21st century. Where earlier storytellers sought to render spirits legible, *Dandadan* thrives on exaggeration, spectacle, and the absurd impossibility of it all. It is a story about how superstition survives in the digital age by remixing itself until it feels contemporary again.

Among its rogue's gallery of spirits, there's Turbo Granny, a hag-turned-drag racer who skewers the old Japanese famine-era practice of abandoning the elderly in the mountains. She's crass, vindictive, and impossibly quick, but also oddly protective – doling out tenderness to the ghosts of abused girls and castrating any man foolish enough to trespass on her turf.

Meanwhile, the Acrobatic Silky is a red-draped mother in a plate-like bonnet, leaping rooftops in search of her lost child. It's an Edo-period legend re-skinned for the parkour generation.

Then there's the vertical pupils and serpentine dances of the Evil Eye, reducing mortals to suicidal impulses. The *yokai* doubles as a riff on the Internet-era specter of the *Kunekune* – a thin, writhing figure spotted from afar that supposedly drives onlookers insane if they approach.

One of the oldest schoolyard rumours in Japan is that the portraits in the music room – of Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin, etc. – watch you after dark. *Dandadan* takes the joke literally, turning them into tulpa assassins who hurl weaponised symphonies. Also soon to make an appearance in the anime is Reiko Kashima, *Dandadan*'s version of the Kuchisake-onna, re-imagined as a muscular, crown-wearing rival with a complicated relationship with vanity.

The series digs deeper into cryptid territory as well. The rural snake-thing Tsuchinoko gets a *Dune*-inspired makeover as the Mongolian Death Worm, worshipped as Orochi-sama and fed with human sacrifice. The Loch Ness Monster or “Nessie” drifts in too, reborn in the radioactive image of *Shin Godzilla*. And when the real-life pulp journal *Super Mystery Magazine MU* pops up, the show knows it's part of the same cottage industry of curated weirdness.

One recent episode from the anime features the HAYASii – parodies of traditional *hayashi* festival musicians – recast as leather-clad headbangers channeling a Slipknot-like bombast. Their exorcism is powered by decibels alone, with feedback, double-kick drums, and shrieking guitars that rattle yokai into submission. The English dub doubles down on the gag with tracks laid down by members of DragonForce and Megadeth, turning the ancient *chinkon* rite meant to soothe restless souls into a full-blown death-metal séance that doubled, accidentally, as an homage to the late Ozzy Osbourne.

The anime's viral opening theme from its first season, *Otonoke* by Creepy Nuts, also captured this mood board of contemporary occultism perfectly. It's crammed with Easter eggs and references to modern horror stories like *Sada-chan* and *Kaya-chan*, Internet legends like “*Kinkisaki*”, and numerological taboos around 4:44 AM. Even M. Night Shyamalan manages to sneak in.

### Esoteric doctrine'

The title itself plays with the suffix *-dan*, meaning “story,” recalling *kaidan* (ghost stories) or *kidan* (strange tales); and its repetition – “Dan-da-dan” – has the rhythm of a chant, a drumbeat, or the stutter of a retro anime sound effect. Later revelations in the manga even tie its cosmology to Buddhist texts on the Womb Realm and enlightenment. In other words, the show shifts seamlessly from pop-cultural parody to esoteric doctrine.

This willingness to collage is, in its way, faithful to how *yokai* have always worked.

Most of the creatures we think of as “traditional” today were popularised by artists, novelists, and kabuki playwrights.

Folklore was always protean. It was

imagined to be consumed, laughed at,

feared, and recycled. The sense that it

functioned as a closed canon is a modern illusion. *Dandadan* simply continues the

process, updating the imagery for a

generation that spends more time on

YouTube than in Shinto shrines. Where

*yokai* were once invoked to explain why

crops failed or children fell sick, they now

serve as vessels for adolescent anxieties

about friendship, sexuality, and

belonging. They are alive because they

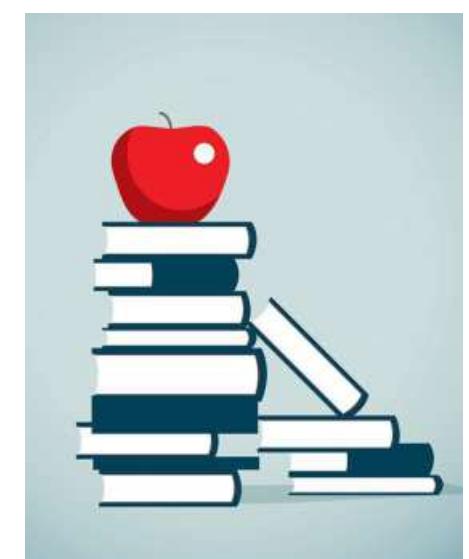
are believed in, and because they are still

fun to tell stories about. Which, for

folklore, is the only kind of immortality

that matters.

*Dandadan* is currently streaming on Crunchyroll



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Know your English

**K. Subrahmanian  
S. Upendran**

Let us look at some Australian terms and the normal usual terms in English.

**General**

- \* backblocks/outback: remote country areas;
- \* billabong: waterhole in a drying river;
- \* bludge: to shirk; to scrounge; an easy task; a period of idleness;
- \* bombora: submerged reef, or the turbulent water above it;
- \* brumby: wild horse;
- \* chunder: vomit;
- \* cobber: mate, friend;
- \* coolgardie safe: dampened box or cupboard for keeping food cool;
- \* digger: Australian soldier, Australian;
- \* dilly bag: bag of woven grass or reed fibre;
- \* dinkum: genuine; honesty;
- \* drongo: fool; worthless or clumsy person;

- \* furphy: unfounded rumour;
- \* galah: fool, dunce;
- \* glory box: bottom drawer, trunk for a trousseau;
- \* kelpie: sheepdog breed;
- \* larrakin: hooligan;
- \* the mallee: bush country;
- \* ocker: matey, unpolished Australian male;

- \* pavlova: meringue cake with fruit;
- \* sheila: woman;
- \* Shiralee/swag/bluey: tramp's bundle of belongings;
- \* skite: to boast;
- \* squatter/pastoralist: large-scale sheep or cattle farmer;

- \* strine: broad Australian English;
- \* swagman: tramp, vagrant, or itinerant worker;
- \* tucker: food;
- \* waddy: club or stick;
- \* warrigal: dingo, or wild horse;
- \* wobble board: fibreboard sheet that booms when shaken, used as a musical instrument;

- \* wowsers: puritan, killjoy, prude

**Plants and wildlife**

- \* bandicoot: rat-like marsupial;
- \* barramundi: long edible lungfish;
- \* casowary: large flightless bird;
- \* coolabah: eucalyptus tree on river banks;
- \* dingo: wild dog;
- \* echidna: burrowing, egg-laying mammal, the spiny anteater;
- \* emu: large flightless bird;
- \* eucalyptus: gum tree;
- \* galah: pink and grey cockatoo;
- \* goanna: monitor lizard;
- \* kookaburra/laughing jackass: raucous kingfisher;
- \* kurrajong: evergreen tree;
- \* lorikeet: small, brightly coloured parrot;
- \* lyrebird: pheasant-like bird;
- \* platypus: egg-laying mammal with a broad bill and webbed feet;
- \* taipan: venomous snake;
- \* tasmanian devil wombat: small, fierce, flesh-eating marsupial furry burrowing marsupial.

Published in The Hindu on November 11, 1997

## THE DAILY QUIZ

Michael Jackson was born on August 29, 1958. Here is a quiz on the ‘king of pop’

**Vighnesh P. Venkitesh**

**QUESTION 1**

Name the music group with which Michael Jackson began his music career.

**QUESTION 2**

Name Jackson's autobiography, which is also one of his iconic dance moves.

**QUESTION 3**

In which music video did Jackson first feature the step that his autobiography is named after?

**QUESTION 4**

Which of Jackson's works, one of his biggest hits, features zombies?

**QUESTION 5**

Name the movie studio that Jackson is reported to have almost bought, and the superhero character from the studio which he wished to play.



**Visual Question:**

Name the sporting event where the viewership attracted by this performance by Jackson in 1993 marked a turning point and paved the way for a popular trend. GETTY IMAGES

**Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz:**

**1.** It is the only championship not cancelled for any reason since its inception. Other championships were cancelled for which reasons in history? **Ans: World Wars I and II, COVID-19**

**2.** From 2022, revised tiebreak rules were initiated and standardised in the final set for all four majors. What is this extended tiebreaker? **Ans: First to ten points, win by two**

**3.** In 1973, the championship became the first to do this with the winners. **Ans: It became the first Grand Slam tournament to award equal prize money to men and women**

**4.** Who is the only individual to have won the U.S. Open singles titles on all three surfaces? **Ans: Jimmy Connors**

**5.** In the Open Era, three players have won the most Singles titles, at five. **Ans: Jimmy Connors, Pete Sampras, Roger Federer**

Visual: Identify this player. She has also achieved another feat, tied with Serena Williams. **Ans: Chris Evert, most Singles titles in the Open Era**

**Early Birds:** K.N. Viswanathan | Mahendra Singh Charan | Tamal Biswas | Erfanly Oosmany | Sumana Dutta

## Word of the day

**Altruism:**

the quality of unselfish concern for the welfare of others

**Synonyms:** compassion, kindness, generosity

**Usage:** She showed altruism by helping the poor.

**Pronunciation:** newsth.live/altruismpro

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /æltruɪzəm/

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

**From Page One****U.S. official calls conflict in Ukraine 'Modi's war'**

Meanwhile, a number of former U.S. officials who have dealt with India in the past expressed their disappointment with the situation leading to the U.S. slapping 50% tariffs on Indian goods from August 27.

"Unfortunately, the United States and India have managed to convert what appeared to be a true and unprecedented win-win on trade into a remarkable lose-lose," said Mark Linscott, former U.S. trade negotiator, who is now an advisor for The Asia Group and the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum, calling for "cooler heads who understand the value of the relationship" to prevail.

**'Stay open to talks'**

Mr. Juster, also a former U.S. Commerce official who served as Ambassador to India during the first Trump term, told the Council for Foreign Relations that Mr. Trump believes the U.S.-India economic relationship has been "out of balance" for many years.

"Given the vibrant political discourse in India, [Mr.] Modi needed to respond publicly and firmly to the new tariffs. But he should also be careful not to paint himself into a corner and to remain open to discussing ways to resolve the current trade dispute," he said, expressing the hope that the two leaders would meet on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September.

Indian government officials, however, said that there were no plans for Mr. Modi to visit the U.S. for the UNGA at present.

**Pre-test for Census 2027 to be done in Oct.-Nov.**

Other aspects such as self-enumeration, digital mapping tools, and a web-based portal for real-time monitoring and management will also be tried out during the pre-test, the DCOs were informed.

This is the first Census since 2011 as the exercise that was scheduled for 2021 was delayed, initially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will now be completed in 2027.

The pre-test for the planned 2021 Census took place in 2019, covering more than 26 lakh people in 76 districts of 36 States and Union Territories.

Around 6,000 enumerators and 1,100 supervisors from State governments were engaged in 2019.

That exercise included questions on household amenities from the first phase, and queries for the National Population Register (NPR) and population enumeration from the second phase, tested in succession from August 12 to September 30, 2019.

Unlike the previous instances, however, this year's pre-test this time will only cover questions about the first phase and not the second population enumeration phase where caste is to be tabulated.

On July 29, the Union government informed the Lok Sabha that no decision has been taken to update the NPR during the upcoming Population Census 2027 exercise.

The NPR is the first step for the creation of a National Register of Citizens (NRC), according to the Citizenship Rules, 2003 under the Citizenship Act, 1955. The NRC was first created in 2010 and data was collected simultaneously during the first phase of the 2011 Census.

The NRC database, which has the details of 119 crore residents, was updated in 2015-16. The RGI had earlier informed the States that the boundaries of administrative units will be frozen by December 31, noting that if any changes are to be made to the limits of tehsils and districts, they should be completed before the end of the year.

**India, Canada signal end of diplomatic spat**

"The appointment of a new High Commissioner reflects Canada's step-by-step approach to deepening diplomatic engagement and advancing bilateral cooperation with India. This appointment is an important development toward restoring services for Canadians while strengthening the bilateral relationship to support Canada's economy," said Ms. Anand on Thursday.

India and Canada engaged in a tit-for-tat diplomatic spat after relations deteriorated over Canadian authorities blaming Indian agents for the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey, on June 18, 2023. India on October 14, 2024, withdrew its High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma and other senior diplomats stationed in Canada's capital Ottawa. Before that, last September, India had expelled Canada's High Commissioner Cameron MacKay.

In January 2025, Liberal Party's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who had made dramatic allegations in the Canadian parliament in September 2023, about India's alleged involvement in the killing of Nijjar, resigned in the backdrop of increased political uncertainty at home. Despite facing setbacks earlier, the Liberal Party led by Trudeau's successor Mr. Carney won the election in April defeating conservative leader Pierre Poilievre. A beginning towards restoring the relationship was made on May 25 when External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar spoke with Ms. Anand and conveyed his best wishes for a successful tenure ahead. This was followed by Mr. Modi's arrival in Kananaskis on June 16 for the G7 summit.

**Governor cannot act as 'super CM', Tamil Nadu tells Supreme Court**

The Governor is at best a 'lubricator' or 'facilitator' but not a legislator, says Tamil Nadu's counsel A.M. Singhvi; how can Governor be interpreted as having the last word on a Bill, he asks a Presidential Reference Bench headed by CJI Gavai

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The State of Tamil Nadu on Thursday countered in the Supreme Court the version of the Centre and BJP-ruled States that gubernatorial discretion is "wide", saying a Governor cannot act as "super Chief Minister" and there cannot be "two swords in the same scabbard".

Appearing before a Presidential Reference Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi said the Governor is at best a "lubricator", a "facilitator", but not a legislator.

Tamil Nadu argued that a Chief Minister and his Cabinet must, in the best interest of democracy and the parliamentary form of governance, be responsible for the good governance of a State.

"A Governor is a part of the legislative process, but



Court proceedings: A.M. Singhvi argues before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai. YOUTUBE@SUPREMECOURTOFINDIA

he is not part of the legislation of the State. He is not a legislator. He may have a role in the legislative process, but that too on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers," Mr. Singhvi submitted.

He referred to the submissions raised by the Centre and States supporting the Presidential Reference, which has raised questions about the time limits prescribed by the apex court in an April 8, 2025 judgment in the Tamil Nadu Governor case,

noting that many doomsday scenarios were portrayed if the Governor's discretion under Article 200 (assent to State Bills) was curtailed.

"Hypothetically anything may happen. The sky may fall on our heads. Constitutional interpretations cannot be done in the backdrop of doomsday predictions... A Governor cannot have a dominating role over the State executive or legislature," Mr. Singhvi contended.

He said a Governor's discretion to return a Bill to the Assembly or refer to the President were both guided by the State Cabinet.

"There would be situations in which the government would want a rethink. There could be a change of policy – all these are possibilities for the Governor to return the Bill to the Assembly. There may be cases where the government itself knows the Bill

Singhi said. Tamil Nadu asked the Bench how a Governor could be interpreted as having the last word on a Bill.

"The power to assent, withhold, return Bills by the Governor is only to facilitate law-making in the State... In responsible governments, there is no room for the 'general' discretion of the Governor... General discretion to Governor would create chaos," Mr. Singhvi explained.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, made additional submissions on the question whether a State could move the top court under Article 32 complaining of violation of its fundamental rights by the Governor.

"A State is the bearer of constitutional duties, not the holder of fundamental rights. Therefore, a State cannot maintain a petition under Article 32 on the footing that its own fundamental rights have been infringed. A State cannot use Article 32 to litigate fundamental rights in a representative capacity," Mr. Mehta argued.

He said a Governor enjoyed "complete immunity" under Article 361 for his performance in office.

Both nations must jointly ensure peace: China military

**Press Trust of India**  
BEIJING

China and India must jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in their border areas after the recent positive and constructive round of border talks between them during which a 10-point consensus was reached, the Chinese military said on Thursday.

The Special Representatives, NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, held the 24th Round of Talks on the India-China Boundary Question in Delhi on August 19.

A 10-point consensus was reached, and the two sides agreed to utilise the border management and control mechanisms, China's Defence Spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang said.

The Doval-Wang talks produced five concrete outcomes that included setting up an expert group under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination to explore an "early harvest in boundary delimitation".

**India flags 'denial and delay' by Bangladesh in accepting undocumented migrants**

**Vijaita Singh**  
NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force (BSF) has flagged "denial and delay" by Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) in accepting apprehended "illegal Bangladeshi entrants" along the eastern border at a three-day conference at the level of Director-General in Dhaka.

At the meeting held from August 25 to 28, the BSF stressed the need for early construction of a single-row fence without any defence potential, which has been opposed by the BGB at multiple locations after political changes in Bangladesh in August 2024.

The BSF delegation said the fence would prevent cross-border crimes and the entry of undocumented migrants. A government source said the BGB



claimed it was raising awareness among the border population not to cross into India, but no concrete steps, such as putting up a fence, had been taken by it.

The BGB raised concerns on "pushback" of undocumented Bangladeshi migrants, Myanmarese nationals and even Indians along the border saying that nearly 2,500 people had been pushed into the country.

After the April 22 Pahal-

gam terror attack, on the directions of the Union Home Ministry, the States began a crackdown on undocumented Bangladeshi migrants who were then sent across the border to avoid legal procedures that take years to complete. The Indian government has not acknowledged the "pushbacks".

Asked about the pushbacks at a press conference in Dhaka, Daljit Singh Chaudhary, Director-General, BSF said, "...exfiltration is happening, people are returning through proper channels, they are also coming back through gaps..."

The BSF raised attack on BSF personnel and other Indian nationals by Bangladesh-based criminals, need for joint efforts to prevent trans-border crimes and action against Indian insurgent groups.

State Disaster Management and Water Resources

**17 dead as portion of illegal 4-storey building collapses in Maharashtra; builder held**

**Purnima Sah**  
MUMBAI

Seventeen people, including a one-year-old girl, died after a portion of an illegal four-storey apartment collapsed early on Wednesday at Virar (East) in Palghar of Maharashtra. The builder has been arrested.

A spokesperson of the Vasai Virar Municipal Corporation said the building, Ramabai Apartment, which was constructed in 2012, was unauthorised. It had about 50 flats, of which 12 collapsed.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday expressed grief over the tragedy and announced an assistance of ₹5 lakh each to the families of the deceased. A statement from the CMO's office said nine people had been rescued.

State Disaster Management and Water Resources



Ground zero: Rescue operation underway at the site of collapse at Virar, in Palghar district on Thursday. PTI

Minister Girish Mahajan said the entire cost of treatment of the injured will be borne by the State. "Temporary shelters, food, and essential supplies have been arranged, and all possible support will be extended for rehabilitation," he said.

District Disaster Management Officer, Viveka-

nanda Kadam, said the incident happened when a birthday party of a one-year-old girl (now deceased) was under way. He said the building collapsed on a tenement.

"Since the chawls and nearby buildings were also at risk, the residents were immediately evacuated," Mr. Kadam said.

**Security agreement, business pacts, bullet train ride on PM's Japan agenda**

**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart, Shigeru Ishiba, will travel together on a bullet train during his two-day visit to Japan from Friday.

In a statement shortly before leaving for Tokyo on Thursday night, Mr. Modi said the visit would "expand the scope and ambition" of economic and investment ties, and "advance cooperation in new and emerging technologies, including AI and Semiconductors".

During the visit, the two Prime Ministers will hold the much-delayed 15th annual summit, and are expected to upgrade the 2008 Declaration on Security Cooperation, including defence hardware purchases, launch an "Economic Security" initiative to build resilient supply chains in areas such as critical minerals and artificial intelligence, and increase Japan's investment



targets to about \$68 billion. They will also discuss the India-Japan Indo-Pacific plans for the Quad summit due to be held in India, in the face of growing India-U.S. tensions.

The leaders will attend a business event on the sidelines of the visit, and officials estimate that nearly 100 business-to-business (B2B) agreements are likely to be signed. While bilateral trade between India and Japan is relatively low at about \$22.8 billion, Japan is India's fifth-largest source of foreign direct in-

vestment, with \$43.2 billion cumulative investment up to December 2024. The two sides are also expected to discuss Mr. Modi's travel from Japan to China to attend the SCO Summit, where he will hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

**Meeting with diaspora**  
Mr. Modi will arrive in Tokyo on Friday morning. Mr. Modi is also expected to meet with some members of the Indian diaspora that

**SC declines to quash FIR against journalist Abhisar Sharma**

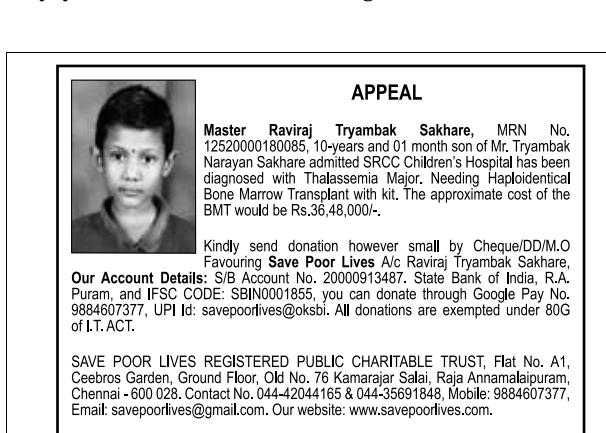
**Aaratrika Bhaumik**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday granted a four-week interim protection from arrest to journalist Abhisar Sharma, and directed him to approach the Gauhati High Court to challenge an FIR lodged against him by the Assam Police over a video post allegedly criticising the State's policies.

The FIR had invoked Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS),

which criminalises "acts endangering the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India".

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the journalist, argued that Section 152 had become an "omnibus provision" that was being indiscriminately invoked to stifle dissent. However, a Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and N. Kotiswar Singh questioned why the petitioner had approached the court directly, "bypassing" the Gauhati High Court.



**APPEAL**  
Master Raviraj Tryambak Sakhare, MRN No. 1252000160085, 10-years and 01 month son of Mr. Tryambak Narayan Sakhare admitted SRCC Children's Hospital has been diagnosed with Thalassemia Major. Needing Haploidentic Bone Marrow Transplant with kit. The approximate cost of the BMT would be Rs.36,48,000/-

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/DD/M.O. Favouring Save Poor Lives A/c Raviraj Tryambak Sakhare, SBI Account No. 2000913497, State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN001855, you can donations through Google Pay No. 9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@okbsi. All donations are exempted under 80G of L.T. ACT.

**SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST**, Flat No. A1, C-Block, Ground, Green Flora, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Pala Amman Nagar, Chennai - 600 028. Contact No. 044-2444165 & 044-3561840. Mobile: 9884607377, Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com.

# CPI(ML), RJD file 82 objections against draft electoral rolls

The Bihar SIR list can be challenged till September 1; so far, CPI(ML) and RJD have filed 79 and three complaints, respectively, says the poll body

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Thursday said it had received 82 claims and objections from booth-level agents (BLAs) of political parties in the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar as against 1,95,802 from individual voters.

Out of these 82 complaints, 79 have been filed by the CPI(ML) and three by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), both Opposition parties.

Challenges to additions and deletion of names on the draft electoral rolls, which were published on August 1, can be filed till September 1.

Last week, the Supreme Court, while asking political parties to assist the people who have been excluded from the draft electoral rolls, had expressed surprise that though there were over 1.6 lakh BLAs, only two objections had been filed, according to the poll body.

On August 22, the top court, while hearing challenges against the SIR, had observed, "We are surprised at inaction of political parties. After appointing BLAs, what are they doing... Why distance bet-



**Under review:** BLAs assess forms submitted during the Special Intensive Revision of voter rolls in Bihar's Saran on July 11.

ween political workers and the local people?" The court though had also noted the submission of the political parties that BLAs were not being allowed to submit their objections.

Out of the total 1.6 lakh BLAs, the RJD has 47,506, CPI(ML) 1,496, BJP 53,338 and Congress 17,549 among others.

## Ongoing tug-of-war

The poll body and the political parties have been engaged in a tug-of-war over complaints filed. While the political parties had claimed that they had filed complaints and got those countersigned as receipts, the EC had said, in press statements till August 21, that the BLAs had filed no

claims and objections.

The poll panel's statement on August 18, for the first time, mentioned in a footnote that the BLAs should file claims and objections in the requisite Form 6 and Form 7 along with prescribed declaration, and that generic complaints, without the prescribed forms or declaration, would not be counted.

While 7.24 crore voters made it to the draft electoral rolls, the EC had deleted 65 lakh names from the July 2025 voter list citing deaths, migration and duplicate entries among other reasons. The figures for claims and objections filed include those from among the deleted list.

## INTERVIEW

### K.C. Venugopal

Amit Bhelari  
DARBHANGA

The Voter Adhikar Yatra (rally for voters' rights) is a crucial milestone in the country's fight against "vote theft" and the people of Bihar are eagerly waiting for a chance to throw out the National Democratic Alliance in the Assembly election, says Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal. In an interview after taking part in a massive public meeting held at Muzaffarpur on Wednesday, Mr. Venugopal said it was unfortunate that the Election Commission was destroying its own credibility. Excerpts:

#### What is your take on the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra'?

It has been a phenomenal public movement across Bihar. The Tughlaqi SIR [Special Intensive Revision] exercise started by the EC [Election Commission] under the BJP's directions has caused widespread havoc in Bihar. Conducting this SIR three months before elections in such a rushed manner, without allowing Aadhaar and ration card as



SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

valid proof, and during floods, has spread panic in a society that is already living in very difficult circumstances. The yatra is a lifeline for the people of Bihar who were lost and confused about the future of democracy in Bihar.

**The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is saying Rahul Gandhi is misleading the people in the name of SIR and wants to allow infiltrators to vote.**

I challenge the BJP to give a list of 'infiltrators' they have identified through this SIR. The talk of 'infiltrators' is the typical polarisation bogey of the BJP, when they run out of ideas. The truth is, the BJP/NDA is highly unpopular, with record migration out of Bihar, their complete failure to address extreme poverty,

ty, a completely collapsed health and education system, and murders happening in broad daylight. When they have no answers to these grave issues, they bring up the 'infiltration' issue to distract and divert attention.

**Why do you think that the EC, which is a constitutional body, has failed to uphold transparency?**

The EC's conduct over the last many years has been unbecoming of a constitutional body that must maintain neutrality and objectivity in its conduct. For many years, we have been demanding transparency regarding the voter rolls process, EVMs, and even the manner in which decisions regarding Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violations are taken. The

EC's approach has been dismissive and combative against the Opposition. Why did the EC refuse to disclose the names of 65 lakh voters struck off during the SIR process? Don't the people have a right to know if, and why, their name has been struck off the electoral rolls? When Rahul Gandhi ji made such damning revelations about vote theft in Mahadevapura, the EC sought an affidavit, instead of taking up the issue and doing a thorough inquiry on its own. That shows their true intention. It is unfortunate that a constitutional body that once enjoyed trust across political lines is now acting like a BJP agent.

**Amit Shah has raised questions on the moral stance of the Congress, asking why Rahul Gandhi tore the Ordinance brought by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that sought to overturn a Supreme Court order on disqualification of convicted lawmakers...**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was excommunicated from Gujarat for his acts as Gujarat Home Minister, should be the last person to give lessons on morality. During the UPA [United Progressive Alliance] regime, Rahul ji

took a principled stance that if a politician is convicted, after due judicial process, they should not be allowed to hold office. The 130th Constitution Amendment Bill has no due process whatsoever. If the ED or CBI one day wakes up and arrests a CM and keeps him in jail for 30 days, the BJP gets a window to topple an elected State government. We know the BJP's track record of hounding and targeting Opposition leaders. 98% of ED's cases involving politicians are against Opposition leaders and have an abysmal conviction rate. This shows that the Home Minister's true intentions with this Bill are not moral but political. This is a Damocles' sword constantly hanging over not only the Opposition but all the alliance partners of the BJP, including Nitish Kumar ji and Chandrababu Naidu ji. Toe the line or else...

**What is your prediction for the Bihar election as far as the performance of the INDIA bloc is concerned?**

The people of Bihar are eagerly waiting for a chance to throw the NDA out. The INDIA bloc is united, marching on, and growing from strength to strength.

(Full interview is at [newsth.live/venugopal](http://newsth.live/venugopal))

Additional U.S. tariffs will lead to job losses, says Kharge

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The additional 25% tariff imposed by the U.S. over its initial 25% tariff is a result of the "superficial foreign policy" of the Narendra Modi government, and as a result India is estimated to lose over ₹2 lakh crore, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has said as the new tariff regime kicked in.

The additional tariff, announced by U.S. President Donald Trump, came into effect on Wednesday.

"Narendra Modi ji, your dear friend 'Abki Baar, Trump Sarkar' has imposed 50% tariffs on India starting today. We will lose an estimated ₹2.17 lakh crore as the first jolt to this tariff, across 10 sectors to a post on X."

Noting that "our farmers, especially cotton farmers, have been badly hit", the Congress chief said: "You had said you are ready to pay any 'personal price' to protect them, but you have done absolutely nothing to soften the blow and protect their livelihoods."

Mr. Kharge said the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) suggests that almost 1% of India's GDP could be impacted, and that China would benefit from it.

## Job losses

"Several export-oriented important sectors, including MSMEs, will experience massive job losses. A snapshot – which is just a tip of the iceberg – reveals the Indian textile export sector is facing potential job losses of about 500,000, including both direct and indirect employment..." Mr. Kharge said.

# Row erupts in Bihar over video of 'minor' using abusive words against PM during yatra

**Amarnath Tewary**

PATNA

**Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav were not present at the event**

apology, and said it should not have happened as Mr. Modi was the Prime Minister of the whole country.

"It happened when I was not present on the dais. It should not have happened. A minor did it and his mic was immediately snatched, and he was also slapped by elders for speaking such derogatory words against the Prime Minister. I sincerely apologise for this," Mr. Naushad said.

Mr. Gandhi and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav were not present when the alleged words were spoken

at Bithauli village in the Jale Assembly constituency. Mr. Gandhi was said to be on his way to Muzaffarpur from Darbhanga.

**Indecent language: BJP** BJP leaders strongly condemned the incident and criticised Mr. Gandhi over it. The party's Bihar executive working committee member Krishna Singh Kallu lodged a complaint against Mr. Gandhi at Patna's Gandhi Maidan police station.

On its official X handle, the BJP said, "Extremely indecent language was used from Rahul and Tejashwi's yatra stage against the revered late mother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Such vulgarity has never been seen before in politics."

BJP president J.P. Nadda said on X: "The so-called Vote Adhikar Yatra of the Congress, in which the late mother of the country's illustrious Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji was abused from the Congress-RJD platform, is highly condemnable and reprehensible... Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav should immediately apologise for this heinous act."

Home Minister Amit Shah criticised "the use of abusive language filled with expletives". He said, "...Under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, the Congress's politics has reached its lowest level. They cannot tolerate that a poor mother's son has been sitting in the Prime Minister's chair for the past 11 years and is continuously taking the coun-

try forward under his leadership." Mr. Shah said this clearly showed that the Congress had returned to its old ways and character, through which it had always poisoned the country's political culture.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the "use of indecent language against Mr. Modi's late mother was extremely shameful and condemnable" and it reflected "the peak of hatred against PM Modi by Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav, and the entire INDI alliance".

At a press conference, BJP spokesperson Samit Patra called Mr. Gandhi "the new Mani Shankar Aiyar", and accused Congress leaders of targeting constitutional institutions without any basis.



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann visiting a flood-affected area in Gurdaspur on Wednesday. ANI

**Flood relief efforts on: Mann; 'man-made disaster', says Cong.**

**The Hindu Bureau**

CHANDIGARH

With several roads, low-lying areas, and farmland left inundated in Punjab due to the Sutlej, Ravi, and Beas rivers breaching their banks following heavy rains in their catchment areas in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday described the situation as "unprecedented" and assured all assistance from the State government.

Most of the flood-hit villages are in Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Fazilka, Kapurthala, Tarn Taran, Ferapur, Hoshiarpur, and Amritsar districts.

During his visit to the affected areas on Wednesday, Mr. Mann had reviewed the relief and rescue efforts. He directed Deputy Commissioners to intensify measures to provide assistance to the stranded families.

In Jalandhar, State Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring said "the devastation caused by floods was a man-made disaster" as the Aam Aadmi Party government failed to take timely action to release water from dams despite anticipating heavy rainfall.

"The government failed to take preventive and precautionary measures against floods, which left large parts of the State submerged and caused humongous losses to crops and property," he said.

# Questions in Justice Nagarathna's dissent remain as two SC judges to be sworn in today

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

NEW DELHI



Justice B.V. Nagarathna

Questions raised by Justice B.V. Nagarathna in a dissent to the elevation of Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi to the Supreme Court remain even as Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai is scheduled to read the oath of office to the judge and Justice Alok Adarhe on Friday.

In her dissent, Justice

Nagarathna had asked the Supreme Court Collegium to call for the minutes of its meeting in which Justice Pancholi's transfer to Patna was proposed.

She had queried why Justice Vikram Nath, currently a collegium member and formerly Gujarat Chief Justice, had summoned Justice Pancholi to reprimand him. It also appears that Justice Nath had expressed reservations, alongside Justice Nagarathna, when Chief Justice Gavai proposed the elevation of Justice Pancholi on May 25.

**Opinions of judges** She highlighted that the opinions of Justices Shah,

Nath and J.B. Pardiwala of the Supreme Court and Justice Arvind Kumar, who was Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court then and currently an apex court judge, were sought about Justice Pancholi's transfer to Patna High Court. They had all agreed to the transfer proposal.

However, the opinion of Justice Pardiwala was not sought during Justice Pancholi's elevation as the Patna High Court Chief Justice by a three-member Supreme Court Collegium.

A source close to the development said Justice Nagarathna's dissent emphasised the need to have a "really high" threshold in place while recommend-

ing judges to the Supreme Court, especially those who would be in line for future Chief Justiceship of India.

**Claims on elevation** Statements have appeared in the public domain linking Justice Nagarathna's elevation to the top court to her father and 19th Chief Justice of India E.S. Venkataramiah. However, Justice Nagarathna was elevated to the Karnataka High Court Bench in February 2008, a decade after her father had died in September 1997.

The judge's elevation to the top court came nearly 24 years after the former CJI passed on.

While Mr. Mann said he was monitoring the situa-



## MARKETS

## MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,091	-0.87
US Dollar	87.58	0.12
Gold	1,01,570	0.29
Brent oil	67.64	—

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	2275.20	3.20
Adani Ports	1315.40	0.00
Apollo Hosp.	7728.00	-65.50
Asian Paints	2489.00	7.60
Avis Bank	1051.90	1.80
Bajaj Auto	8689.50	-2.00
Bajaj Finserv	1917.60	-6.60
Bajaj Finance	876.85	0.60
Bharat Elec	363.85	-2.00
Bharti Airtel	1881.10	-23.60
Cipla	1580.30	0.50
Coal India	374.30	1.85
Dr Reddys Lab	1259.80	-3.40
Eicher Motors	6133.00	-18.00
Eternal Ltd.	315.50	-2.40
Gasim Ind.	2784.30	-11.90
HCL Tech.	1449.80	-43.00
HFDC Bank	957.80	-15.60
HFDC Life	775.35	-1.25
Hero MotoCorp	5091.70	18.30
Hindalco	701.40	-4.30
Hind Unilever	2654.40	-38.20
ICICI Bank	1399.10	-17.50
IndusInd Bank	746.60	-9.80
Infosys	1500.10	-29.50
ITC	400.90	-2.45
Jio Financial Servic- es Ltd.	310.10	-5.65
JSW Steel	1035.80	-11.30
Kotak Bank	1944.70	-21.00
L&T	3560.10	18.80
M&M	3295.30	-35.50
Maruti Suzuki	14752.00	38.00
NTPC	330.80	-2.40
ONGC	233.39	-0.80
PowerGrid Corp	274.45	-5.45
Reliance Ind.	1385.90	1.00
SBI Life	1816.80	0.20
State Bank	801.95	-5.90
Shriram Finance Ltd.	571.65	-23.05
Sun Pharma	1585.70	-14.60
TataConsumerPro- duct	1062.40	-17.50
Tata Motors	675.45	-6.20
Tata Steel	153.63	-1.40
TCS	3093.70	-63.50
Tech Mahindra	1495.60	-6.60
Titan	3637.70	43.70
Trent Ltd.	5235.50	-59.50
UltraTech Cement	12521.00	-89.00
Wipro	250.65	-1.38

# With 50% tariffs in place, U.S. trade deal not 'practical': official

With the overhang of the additional tariff, it was not practical to have official level discussions on the BTA package with the U.S., says an official

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

NEW DELHI

The removal of additional 25% tariff on India is not a prerequisite for trade negotiations to resume between India and the U.S., but a trade deal would not "be practical" if these tariffs were to remain, according to a highly placed source in the Commerce Ministry.

They added that while negotiators from both sides are in contact, formal negotiations have not yet resumed and the date for the next round has not been decided. The government is also working to address the liquidity-related near-term concerns of exporters, they added.

"The formal round that was scheduled for the end of August has been postponed," a source said. "We have not finalised the date yet because with the overhang of the additional tariff, it was not practical to



The date for the next round of talks has not been finalised yet, an official says, hoping for a return to the table soon. REUTERS

have official level discussions on the entire BTA package."

"Everything is on the table, but we understand that both (the 25% reciprocal tariff and the 25% penalty tariff) will have to be resolved together," the official added. "We hope to get back to the table soon."

However, they stressed that the Indian government did not see the removal of the 25% penalty tar-

riffs as a "precondition" to resume the BTA talks.

#### Support for exporters

"The export bodies have asked for various types of support such as interest subvention, moratorium, and credit support, which we are considering," the source said. "One main issue they raised was on liquidity, and the government is working on ways to address this."

## Auto sales slide 8% as buyers defer purchases anticipating tax cut

Lalatendu Mishra

MUMBAI

Overall automobile sales declined by over 8% year on year in the 13 days between August 16 and 28, as a segment of buyers are seen postponing their purchase decisions anticipating a steep cut in goods and services tax (GST).



A total of 7,57,165 vehicles were registered between August 16 and 28. PTI

down 11%. In the three-wheeler category, 40,902 units were registered compared with 43,145 units a year ago, down 5%.

In the light commercial vehicle segment, 1,40,515 units were registered compared with 1,43,404 units a year ago, down 2%.

However, light passenger vehicle registrations saw a 5% increase to 11,997 units, compared with 11,393 units in the year ago period. Several other segments too have reported growth.

All automobile companies *The Hindu* spoke to declined to comment or share any numbers.

(With data inputs from Ashokamithran T.)

## IN BRIEF



### Gangwal's family trust sells stake in IndiGo for ₹2,933 cr.

IndiGo promoter Rakesh Gangwal's family trust on Thursday sold a 1.3% stake in the country's largest airline for ₹2,933 crore through open market transactions, cumulatively offloading shares worth ₹44,497 crore so far this year. With the latest sale, the cumulative divestment by Rakesh Gangwal, along with his wife Shobha Gangwal and their family trust — the Chinkerpoo Family Trust — stood at ₹39,532.79 crore, translating to around \$4.51 billion. PTI

### Mislabelling: Unichem recalls muscle relaxant in U.S.

Unichem Laboratories subsidiary Unichem Pharmaceuticals (USA) Inc. is recalling one lot of muscle relaxant drug Cyclobenzaprine Hydrochloride Tablets USP 10 mg at the consumer level in the U.S. in the wake of mislabelling. "The Cyclobenzaprine 10mg (90 count) label was inadvertently placed on a bottle containing Meloxicam 7.5 mg tablets," the subsidiary cited as the reason for initiating the voluntary nationwide recall to the U.S. FDA.

### U.S. tariffs to slash diamond polishers' revenue by 28-30%

The imposition of 50% tariffs by the U.S. on gem and jewellery is expected to lead to a revenue fall of India's natural diamond polishing industry by a steep 28-30% to \$12.50 billion this fiscal, compared with \$16 billion last fiscal, Crisil Ratings said in a note. The consequent reduced operating leverage could erode the operating margin of diamond polishers by 50-100 basis points and pressurise their credit profiles, the ratings firm added.

## Delhi firm moves court against online gaming regulation law

**The Hindu Bureau**

BENGALURU

Online gaming company, Head Digital Works Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, which offers online games in the

name of A23, on Thursday moved the Karnataka HC challenging the constitutional validity of the newly enacted Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, which has banned all online Real Money Games (RMGs), be it games of skill, chance or both. The petitioner specifically challenged the validity of Sections 2(l)(g), 5, 6, 7 and 9 of the Act, which not

only bans online games of

skills like rummy and pok-

er but also prohibits banks,

financial institutions facil-

itating financial transac-

tions or authorisation of

funds from permitting any

transactions towards pay- ment for any online money game of skill, involving risking of money or otherwise, are 'not things outside commerce' but a legitimate activity protected under Art. 19(l)(g) of the Constitution.

Blupendra Patel. Mr. Vaishnav said that the 'state-of-the-art plant' pilot line would start producing chips "very soon" and will have a capacity of five lakh chips per day.

A pilot line is used to make "qualifying" chips, which are sent to potential customers before full scale manufacturing starts, which at full capacity amounts to millions of individual chips a day. The facility in Sanand will make chips for everything from "refrigerators to automobiles to consumer elec-

tronics", Mr. Vaishnav said.

(The author was hosted in Gujarat by CG Semi.)



Ashwini Vaishnav at the inauguration of the facility in Sanand on Thursday. PTI

₹76,000-crore ISM to open its pilot line. Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav participated in the inauguration along with Gujarat Chief Minister

## BSE proposes pre-open for equity derivatives

Ashokamithran T.

MUMBAI

Bombay Stock Exchange has proposed to introduce pre-open session for index & stock futures in the equity derivatives segment from December 8, 2025, according to its circular.

Exchange already supports Pre-Open Session trading in the Equity Segment; now same message structures and field definitions will be applicable for Pre-Open Session trading in the Equity Derivatives Segment," the BSE said on Thursday.

Sahaj Agarwal of Kotak Securities said the move will reduce uncertainty for participants.

#### RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY, JAIPUR GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN

RajKaj Ref No.: 16664488 Date: 13.08.2025

NIT No. 25/2025-26 INVITATION OF BIDS FOR TOLL COLLECTION

Bids for Collection of user fee through fee collecting agency on the basis of open competitive bidding in the state of Rajasthan toll plazas located at Jhunjhunu - Raigarh Section of SH-41 from km 49+750 to 83+000 in Jhunjhunu district and 28+000 to 0+000 (Ch 0/0 at Raigarh) in Churu district (Total Length 62 km) in the state of Rajasthan are invited from interested bidders upto 12:30 AM on 15.09.2025. The last date and time of submission of proposal will be 22.09.2025, 6PM. For more details please visit: www.cleankeralacompany.com Sd/- Managing Director

Regd: Office: TC/29/1732, 11th Floor, State Municipal House, Vazhachaud, Trivandrum-695 101, Kerala Email: cleanerkeralacompany@gmail.com CIN - U90000KL79125G093624

Notification No: P/C/KL/3833/2025 Dated: 26.08.2025

E TENDER NOTIFICATION

Clean Kerala Company Limited Regd: Office: TC/29/1732, 11th Floor, State Municipal House, Vazhachaud, Trivandrum-695 101, Kerala Email: cleanerkeralacompany@gmail.com CIN - U90000KL79125G093624

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Notice Inviting Bid

07/2025-26

Bids for Nit No 07/2025-26, 10 Nos. Road Work are invited from interested bidders upto Date 09.09.2025, 06:00 A.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sprr.rajasthan.gov.in>) of the state, and - departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 3454.88 Lacs

NIB code & UBN No.

NIB code. PWD2526A2689

NIB code. PWD2526WLSOB09925

UBN No. PWD2526WLSOB09926

UBN No. PWD2526WLSOB09927

**STOCKHOLM**

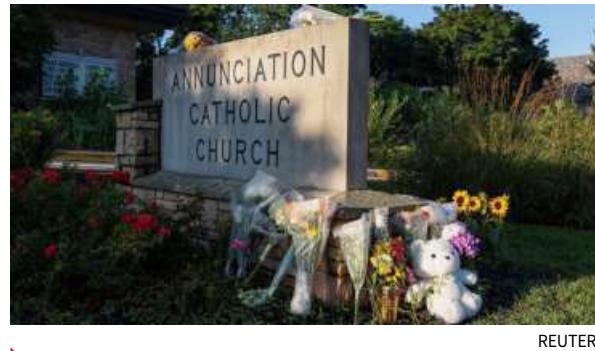
**Sweden and Netherlands call for EU sanctions on Israel, Hamas**



Sweden and the Netherlands have urged EU sanctions on Israel and Hamas, including suspending the EU-Israel trade deal. Their letter to foreign chief Kaja Kallas called for targeting Israeli Ministers, settlers, and Hamas leaders. The issue will be discussed by EU Foreign Ministers on Saturday. AFP

**MINNEAPOLIS**

**Motive probed for U.S. shooting that killed two children, injured 17**



A heavily armed shooter attacked a Minneapolis church school service, killing two children and wounding 17, before dying by suicide. Investigators are probing domestic terrorism motives. Identified as Robin Westman, 23, the attacker fired a rifle, shotgun, and pistol, which he legally bought, the police said. AFP

**WASHINGTON**

**U.S. govt. fires health agency head Monarez after she refused to quit**



The Trump administration confirmed on Wednesday it had fired CDC director Susan Monarez after a stand-off with Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Ms. Monarez refused to resign, sparking legal disputes and backlash. Five senior CDC officials also resigned, accusing Mr. Kennedy of politicising public health. AFP

**CAIRO**

**Sudan's RSF shells besieged Darfur city, killing 24 and wounding 55**



Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) shelled el-Fasher, Darfur's besieged capital, killing 24 and wounding 55. The city, military's last regional stronghold, faces famine and dire humanitarian conditions with 2,60,000 civilians trapped. The conflict since 2023 has killed 40,000, displaced millions, and sparked war crimes probes. AP

# Russian strike at Kyiv kills at least 17, damages EU diplomatic offices

Russia launched 598 strike drones and decoys and 31 missiles of different types across the country, said Ukraine's Air Force; among the dead were four children; the Kremlin said Russia remained interested in peace talks despite the latest air attack

**Associated Press**

KYIV

A major Russian air attack on Kyiv early on Thursday, including a rare strike in the city centre that damaged the European Union's diplomatic offices, killed at least 17 people and wounded 48, authorities said.

The bombardment of drones and missiles was the first major Russian attack on Kyiv in weeks as U.S.-led peace efforts to end the three-year war struggled to gain traction. It also prompted Kaja Kallas, the European Union's top diplomat, to say she planned to summon Rus-



**Major strike:** Rescuers work at the site of a building which was hit by Russian missile in Kyiv on Thursday. REUTERS

sia's EU envoy to Brussels.

The Kremlin said Russia remained interested in continuing peace talks despite Thursday's air attack, which was one of the war's

bigest since it began in 2022.

Among the dead were four children between two and 17, said Tymur Tka-

chenko, the head of Kyiv's

city administration. The numbers are expected to rise.

**100 buildings damaged**

Ukraine's Air Force said Russia launched 598 strike drones and decoys and 31 missiles of different types across the country early Thursday, most of them striking Kyiv. At least 33 locations across all 10 of the city's districts were directly hit or damaged by debris, Mr. Tkachenko said.

Thousands of windows shattered as nearly 100 buildings were damaged, including a shopping mall in the city centre.

European Commission president Ursula Von der Leyen said two strikes landed 20 seconds apart about 50 m from the EU Mission to Ukraine building in Kyiv. She said no staff were injured in the strike.

The British Council, which promotes cultural relations and educational opportunities, also said its Kyiv office had been "severely damaged" in the attack and was closed to visitors until further notice.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Russian President Vladimir Putin was "sabotaging" hopes of peace following the "senseless" strikes. The Russian Ambassador to London was summoned to the foreign office.

China and North Korea are friendly neighbours and Mr. Kim's visit – his first since 2019 – will mark a new chapter in the traditional friendship between the two countries, China's Assistant Foreign Minister Hong Lei said at a press briefing here on Thursday.

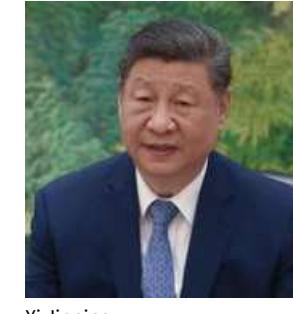
China is ready to work with North Korea to "advance socialist development and continue close coordination for peace, stability, and justice", he said.

"Upholding, consolidating, and developing the traditional friendship between China and the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) is a firm position of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government," Mr. Hong said.

# Kim, Putin to join Xi to commemorate war victory

**Vighnesh P. Venkitesh**

BEIJING



Xi Jinping

South Korea's Parliament Speaker Woo Won-shik is also expected to attend the event.

The event also marks the strengthening of the Global South amid the 'Liberation Day' tariffs imposed by Mr. Trump. The Global South is no longer a silent majority of a group of countries lagging behind, but represents a "new hope", Mr. Hong said, adding that China stands ready to work with the Global South for inclusive economic globalisation and world peace.

While Japan has been reported to have told world leaders to "carefully consider" their participation in the event due to its "anti-Japanese overtones", Mr. Hong accused Japan of seeking to distort history, honour war criminals, and justify their crimes. Japan's increased defence budget and ease of arms export aroused strong scepticism about whether it is genuinely committed to defence-oriented policies and peaceful development, he said, urging Japan to pursue peaceful development and friendship.

*The writer is in China at an invitation from the China Public Diplomacy Association*

## Trump moves to limit U.S. stays of students

**Agence France-Presse**

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump's administration on Thursday moved to impose stricter limits on how long foreign students and

journalists can stay in the United States, the latest bid to tighten legal immigration in the country.

Under a proposed change, foreigners would not be allowed to stay for more than four years on

student visas in the United States.

Foreign journalists would be limited to stays of just 240 days, although they could apply to extend by additional 240-day periods – except for Chinese

journalists who would get just 90 days.

A group representing leaders of U.S. colleges denounced the latest move as a needless bureaucratic hurdle that intrudes on academic decision making.

UN rights experts voiced alarm on Thursday at reports of "enforced disappearances" of starving Palestinians seeking food at distribution sites run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHP), urging Israel to end the "heinous crime".

The seven independent experts said in a joint statement they had received reports that a number of individuals, including one child, had been "forcibly disappeared" after going to aid distribution sites in Rafah, southern Gaza.

Israel's military was "refusing to provide information on the whereabouts of persons they have deprived of their liberty", in violation of international law, the statement said.

**Aeronautical Development Agency (Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India)**  
PB No. 1718, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-560017

**CORRIGENDUM-2**  
**EoI for Development of Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**  
ADA/AMCA/FSED/EoI/01-2025 Date: 28<sup>th</sup> Aug 2025

EoI No.	Brief Description	Existing Due Date and Time	Revised Due Date and Time
ADA/AMCA/FSED/EoI/01-2025, dated 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	EoI for Development of Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2025, 5:00 PM	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2025, 5:00 PM

Response to be submitted in hardcopy only, either to be deposited in the tender box at ADA or to be sent by Speed Post only to address below. The responses received after the due date & time will be treated as late submission and will not be considered.

Director (Materials Management) Aeronautical Development Agency, P.B. No. 1718, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560017.

HOKMB-TVM/1117/2024-E1

I/55772/2025

**Kerala Maritime Board**  
(A Statutory Board of Govt. of Kerala)

### Re-Tender Notice Request For Proposal

Development of Kerala Maritime Education and Edutainment Hub, Neendakara, Kollam, Kerala

RFP Reference No: 01/2025-26-HOKMB TVM/1117/2024-E1

Dated: 26-08-2025

Due Date of Submission: 17-09-2025

For Details,  
Visit: [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)

[www.kmb.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kmb.kerala.gov.in)

**PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY**  
**e-TENDER CALL NOTICE No. EM/PED-25/2025**  
No.: EM/PED/TECH/44/2025/709,  
Date: 27/08/2025

Name of the work : "Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Night Navigation System at Paradip Port Authority for a period of 03 years".

Estimated Cost : Rs.1,44,44,319/-.

Last Date & time of submission of bid : dt:19/09/2025 up to 18:00 Hours

Refer our website for details : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

Executive Engineer (E), (PED-II)

PPA/PR/35/2025-2026, dt:28/08/2025

**THRISSUR CORPORATION**  
**ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT**

ESS-418/25, ED1-4029/25

Dated: 27.08.2025

**e-TENDER NOTICE**

ESS-418/25 - Supply, laying, installation,

precommissioning and

commissioning of 3 RMU's

ED1-4029/25 - Supply A type Steel Posts

[www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)

Email Id : [kmb.kerala@gmail.com](mailto:kmb.kerala@gmail.com)

Sd/- Asst Secretary

**Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.**  
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
M-194 / 2025-26	CE / MM	Supply of tubular type Lead Acid Stationary Batteries

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit the websites [www.tnpsc.org](http://www.tnpsc.org), [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in), [www.tnpsc.tn.gov.in](http://www.tnpsc.tn.gov.in)

DIPR/4722/Tender/2025

APSFL

**Andhra Pradesh Drone Corporation Pvt Ltd**

(An Enterprise of the Government of Andhra Pradesh)

Vijayawada-520013, Andhra Pradesh.

Notice No: Apdc/RPF/05/2025, Dt: 29-08-2025

Andhra Pradesh Drones Corporation Pvt (APDC) invites proposals from Potential Applicants for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Defence Drone manufactures Empanelment of Agencies for providing Drone-as-a-Service (DaaS). Interested firms are requested to submit their proposals. The EoI document & other details can be downloaded from the website: [www.apdc.in](http://www.apdc.in)

DIPR 4381PP/CL, Dt:28/08/2025

Sd/- Chairman & Managing Director

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH ANDHRA PRADESH MARITIME BOARD**

Notification No.1/APMB/2025-26 Date:26.08.2025

Applications are invited from interested candidates for the below positions to work on contract basis for one year in Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board.

Name of the Position	No. of Positions
General Manager Ship Building	1
General Manager Logistics	1
General Manager Business Development	1
Total	3

Interested candidates may please go through the website [https://apmaritime.in/careers](http://apmaritime.in/careers) for further details.

Sd/- Praveen Adithya CV, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, AP Maritime Board

**Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage & Infrastructure Corporation Limited**

Office of the Project Director (Housing), 4-5-24, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur-302004 (RAJ.)

Tel & Fax : 0141-4001187, Email : [rudsco.housing@rajasthan.gov.in](mailto:rudsco.housing@rajasthan.gov.in)

No. :- RUDSICO/PD (H.)/Jpr/2025-26/6177/460 Date :- 27/08/2025

**Notice Inviting Bid**

Bid for Architectural Consultancy Services for the Construction College Building at Salumbar & Dungarpur invited from interested bidders up to 12:00 PM on 02/09/2025 under two bid system. For NIT 08/2025-26 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> of the state. The total approximate value of procurement is Rs. 11,50 L

**DJOKOVIC SPEAK**

One can think that there is nothing more to achieve, but that's relative



Novak Djokovic believes he still has something to prove every time he steps on court as he reached the U.S. Open third round for a record-equalling 19th time. "One can always think that there is nothing more to achieve because you've done it all, but it's quite relative," said Djokovic. "It's about trying to find a way to win."

**TOP PRIORITY**

India keen to seal World Cup spot at Asia Cup, says Fulton



"If we qualify (for the hockey World Cup), we already have a year's programme set. Otherwise, it will be some time probably in March (the qualifiers), which really complicates a very busy schedule. That's something we want to avoid at all costs — India head coach Craig Fulton on the eve of the Asia Cup in Rajbir Singh

**Sport****BIG LESSON**

Most important thing is to be alert after scoring a goal: Harmanpreet



The most important thing is to be alert in the two-three minutes after scoring a goal because that is the time when there is a danger of conceding a goal or rushing too much. We also need to be alert at the start of the third and fourth quarters — lessons we learnt from the Pro League — India hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh

**IMPRESSIVE**

Pragg is runner-up in Sinquefield Cup, qualifies for GCT finale



Indian GM R. Praggnanandhaa sealed his spot in the Grand Chess Tour finale after finishing runner-up at the Sinquefield Cup in St. Louis, where American Wesley So clinched the title with a dramatic three-way playoff win. Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with American Levon Aronian and beat Fabiano Caruana in the tiebreak.



**Smooth sailing:** Sindhu proved too good for Zhi Yi. AP

## Sindhu stuns World No. 2; Dhruv-Tanisha pair ousts fifth seeds

**Press Trust of India**  
PARIS

Two-time Olympic medalist P. V. Sindhu stunned World No. 2 Wang Zhi Yi of China to storm into the quarterfinals of the World Championships, while the doubles pairing of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto pulled off a shock win over fifth seeds Tang Chun Man and Tse Ying Suet on Thursday.

The Indian men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also stormed into the quarterfinals with a 19-21, 21-15, 21-17 win over Olympic silver medallists and World Championships bronze medallists Liang WeiKeng and Wang Chang.

The 15th-ranked Sindhu, who won the World title in Basel in 2019, took 48 minutes to win 21-19, 21-15 in the pre-quarterfinals to lead the head-to-head

against the Chinese 3-2.

The 30-year-old Indian will face World No. 9 Putri Kusuma Wardani of Indonesia.

Sindhu is now just one victory away from securing a record-equalling sixth World Championships medal.

Dhruv and Tanisha stunned Hong Kong's World No. 5 duo of Tang and Tse 19-21, 21-12, 21-15 in a 63-minute battle.

In their pursuit of a maiden World Championships medal, Dhruv and Tanisha will next face World No. 4 Malaysian pair Chen Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei in the quarterfinals.

On Wednesday, Satwik and Chirag overcame Chinese Taipei's Yang Po Han and Liu Kuang Heng 22-20, 21-13.

**Other result: Men (second round):** Anders Antonsen (Den) bt Prannoy 21-8, 17-21, 23-21.

## Gurpreet shoots gold



**Sharp-shooters:** Gurpreet flanked by Amanpreet and Lianbofan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Sports Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Olympian Gurpreet Singh clinched the 25-metre standard pistol gold, beating compatriot Amanpreet Singh on the count-back after both shot 572 in the 16th Asian shooting championship in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Thursday.

**The results: 25m rapid fire pistol: Men:** 1. Su Lianbofan (Chn) 36 (583); 2. Anish Bhambhani 35 (583); 3. Lee Jaekyoon (kor) 23 (585); **Team:** 1. Korea 1748; 2. India 1738.

**25m standard pistol: Men:** 1. Gurpreet Singh 572; 2. Amanpreet Singh 572; 3. Su Lianbofan (Chn) 570; **RPC:** Udhayveer Sidhu 568; Udit Joshi 558; **Team:** 1. India 1709.

**Junior men:** 1. Kirill Fedkin (Kaz) 572; 2. Suraj Sharma 571; 3. Tanishq Kodavali 568; **Team:** 1. India 1703.

**50m free pistol:** 1. Javad Foroughi (Iri) 554; 2. Amir

## Malewar and Patidar on song for Central

The former remains unbeaten on 198 while the latter makes 125 as the team piles up 432 for two against North East; Badoni shines for North

**DULEEP TROPHY**

**N. Sudarshan**  
BENGALURU

Ever since the BCCI issued a mandamus that top players should be available for domestic matches when there were no international commitments, rosters have looked star-studded. It was no different when squads for the 2025-26 Duleep Trophy were first announced, with Test skipper Shubman Gill the leading name.

However, on Thursday, as the Duleep Trophy got underway at the BCCI's sprawling Centre of Excellence in the city's outskirts, North, East and Central zones took to the field without their designated captains. Even in the most sought-after restaurants, not all of the trendy dishes on the menu are always available, are they?

Gill did not turn out for North; East's Abhimanyu Easwaran - already standing-in for Ishan Kishan - reportedly developed a fever on match-day morning while Central's Dhruv Jurel sat out because of a niggle. But the likes of Mohammed Shami, Rajat Patidar, Harshit Rana, Kuldeep Yadav and Arshdeep Singh ensured that there was a fair sprinkling of stardust.

All eyes, in fact, were on East Zone's Shami, who was playing only his second First Class match in more than two years.



**Power-packed:** Malewar smashed 35 fours and one six as he closed in on a double hundred. ALLEN EGENUSE

The 34-year-old finished with figures of 17-4-55-1 and helped restrict North to 308 for six before heavy rain brought an end to the proceedings 10 minutes before close.

Each of North's top-five batters got off to starts, but none made big runs, with Ayush Badoni's breezy 63 (60b, 7x4) the best effort.

For East, left-arm spinner Manishi, despite being a tad expensive, scalped three wickets (19-2-90-3). The 21-year-old Jharkhand bowler dismissed the top-three batters leg-before, with skipper Ankit Kumar getting out while essaying a sweep, Shubham Khajuria

a flick and Yash Dhull trapped on the back foot.

In the adjacent ground, Danish Malewar (198 batting, 219b, 35x4, 1x6) and Patidar (125, 96b, 21x4, 3x6) made merry at the expense of the hapless North East bowlers as Central reached 432 for two.

**The scores:**  
North 308/6 in 75.2 overs (Ankit Kumar 30, Yash Dhull 39, Ayush Badoni 63, Nishant Sindhu 47, Kanhaiya Wadhawan 42 batting, Manishi 3/90) vs. East. **Toss:** East. Central 432/2 in 77 overs (Aryan Jurel 60 retd. hurt, Danish Malewar 198 batting, Rajat Patidar 125, Yash Rathod 32 batting) vs. North East. **Toss:** North East.

**HOCKEY**

## For Shami, hope springs eternal

**N. Sudarshan**

BENGALURU

Mohammed Shami has not been in a wholly happy place in the last 20-odd months.

After losing more than a year to injuries, he was part of India's 2025 Champions Trophy-winning squad and played a full IPL. But to miss out on two high-profile five-Test series in England and Australia because of lack of match-fit would hurt the ego of any great fast bowler.

On Thursday here at the BCCI's new Centre of Excellence, turning out for East Zone in a Duleep Trophy encounter against North, the pacer moved gingerly towards regaining his earlier aura.

He hadn't played a First Class game since November 2024 and it was only his second since featuring in the 2023 World Test Championship final against Australia.

Shami, who opened the bowling, sent down 17 overs in all, conceding 55 runs and picking up one wicket. But he operated across four spells, with three of them coming under bright and intense sunshine.

Admittedly, he didn't



Shami sent down 17 overs on the first day. ALLEN EGENUSE

bowl at full tilt and built up pace only gradually. But he was threatening in his third spell (4-2-9-0) and duly picked up wicket in the fourth (5-0-25-1), luring the right-handed Sahil Lotra to slash hard and edge behind. Kanhaiya Wadhawan, batting on 42, could have been another victim, but for a drop from keeper Kumar Kushagra when the batter was on 27.

Shami will soon be 35, an age when comebacks in the longest format are hard to stage. But his effort on Thursday appeared to suggest that the desire was still there.

## SC verdict on AIFF constitution on Monday

**Soibam Rocky Singh**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday indicated that it may go ahead with the joint proposal submitted by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) to resolve their long-running dispute, ensuring clarity for the 2025-26 season.

The apex court said it could pronounce an interim order in the case on Monday, noting: "Whatever is required for a smoother operation, we will incorporate in the judgment as a temporary measure."

Under the unanimously agreed resolution between the AIFF and FSDL, the new season will start with the Super Cup, to be held under AIFF's control after a pre-season camp.

The AIFF will also issue an "open, competitive, transparent tender," for a new commercial partner to run the Indian Super League (ISL), to be completed by October 15 in line with the Sports Code. Subject to the Asian Football Confederation's approval, the ISL is expected to begin by December.



**The coveted one:** The Asia Cup contenders eye the big prize. R.V. MOORTHY

## India will look to reassert continental dominance

**HOCKEY**

**Uthra Ganeshan**

RAJGIR

The last time the Indian men's hockey team faced China, it won by a solitary goal. That Asian Champions Trophy final last year was played soon after the Paris Olympics and more than half of the Indian side was youngsters trying to impress the coach in a new cycle.

On Friday, it will be a very different Indian team starting its campaign in the Asia Cup with an eye on the title and a World Cup spot at stake in a tournament the team and coach Craig Fulton have declared as the 'flagship event' of the year.

Frances Tiafoe also advanced with a 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 win over Martin Damm. Another home favourite Ben Shelton defeated Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.

It won't be a cakewalk but for the Indian team,

anything less than victory will be a disaster.

Ranked seventh in the world, India is expectedly the favourite to win at home at the Rajbir Singh Sports Complex here.

The next highest-ranked side is Malaysia, at 12. India's recent performances have been less than impressive and the Asia Cup will be a chance to prove that the two-time Olympic bronze medallists are still the best in the continent.

The Indians have been sweating it out in hot and humid conditions for a week, a far cry from the pleasant environs of Bangalore where they had their preparatory camp and the cold of Perth, where they played Australia in four matches, winning just one.

The Europe leg of the Pro League preceding that

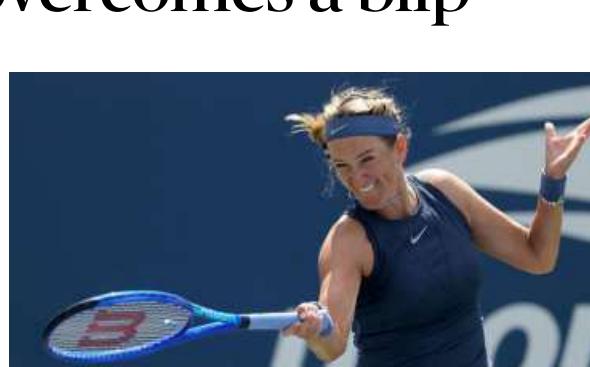
had just one win in eight games.

The weather apart, India will also have to deal with the uncertainties of teams that it doesn't play regularly enough.

Kazakhstan – the other team in India's group along with Japan – was drafted in at the last minute after Oman pulled out and Pakistan's withdrawal led to Bangladesh's inclusion.

The Asia Cup has returned to India after 18 years, the last time being in Chennai in 2007 which India won. A lot has changed in world hockey since then but the host would be hoping to ensure the result remains the same.

**Friday's matches:**  
**Pool B:** Malaysia vs Bangladesh (9 a.m.); Korea vs Chinese Taipei (11 a.m.).  
**Pool A:** Japan vs Kazakhstan (1 p.m.); India vs China (3 p.m.).



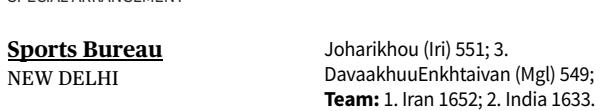
**Swinging away:** Azarenka has become the fifth woman to register 100 or more singles main draw wins at hardcourt Majors. AFP

World No. 1 and defending champion Aryna Sabalenka's pursuit of her first Major silverware of the year continued with a 7-6 (4), 6-2 win over Polina Kudermetova.

Fourth seed Jessica Pegula cruised past Anna Blinikova 6-1, 6-3 and three-time finalist Victoria Azarenka became only the fifth woman in the professional era to claim 100 or more singles main draw

wins at hardcourt Majors with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova.

R.V. MOORTHY



**Sharpshooters:** Gurpreet flanked by Amanpreet and Lianbofan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Sports Bureau**

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**50m free pistol:** 1. Javad Foroughi (Iri) 554; 2. Amir



**Sharpshooters:** Gurpreet flanked by Amanpreet and Lianbofan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

C M Y K

## IN BRIEF



## 73-member contingent for World Para Athletics

With a month to go for the World Para Athletics Championships in the national capital, the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) unveiled the Team India jersey at a ceremony on Wednesday. A 73-member contingent will represent India at the September 27 to October 5 event. Dharambir Nain and Preethi Pal, who won medals at the Paris Paralympics, would be India's flag-bearers. "Each athlete represents India's resilience and pride, and we are confident that this team will deliver outstanding performances at the World Para Athletics Championships," PCI president Devendra Jhajharia said.



## Fourth-tier Grimsby Town knocks out Man United

Manchester United suffered an embarrassing League Cup exit to fourth-tier Grimsby, losing 12-11 in a marathon penalty shootout after a 2-2 draw on Wednesday in London.

**The result:** Grimsby Town 2 (Vernam 22, Warren 30) drew with Manchester United 2 (Mbeumo 75, Maguire 89); (Grimsby Town won 12-11 on penalties).

## Hasaranga returns as Lanka announces Asia Cup squad

Leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, returning from an injury, was on Thursday included in Sri Lanka's 16-member squad for the Asia Cup to be played in the UAE from September 9.

**The squad:** Charith Asalanka (Capt.), Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis, Kusal Perera, Nuwanidu Fernando, Kamindu Mendis, Kamil Mishara, Dasun Shanaka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dunith Wellalage, Chamika Karunaratne, Maheesh Theekshana, Dushmantha Chameera, Binura Fernando, Nuwan Thushara, Matheesha Pathirana.

## India crushes Bhutan for fourth victory

India demolished Bhutan 5-0 in its fourth match of the SAFF under-17 women's football championship in Thimphu on Wednesday. Forward Anushka Kumari scored in the fourth and 16th minutes while Shweta Rani (24th), Julian Nongmaithem (77th) and Nira Chanu Longjam (90+5) completed the tally.

## LIVE TELECAST

**Hockey:** Asia Cup, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9, 11 a.m. 1 p.m. & India vs China, 3 p.m.  
**Zimbabwe vs Sri Lanka:** 1st ODI, FanCode, 1 p.m.  
**Europa League:** (Group-stage draw), Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4.30 p.m.  
**Conference League:** (Group-stage draw), Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6 p.m.  
**PKL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.  
**US Open:** SS Select 1 & Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 8.30 p.m.  
**T20 tri-series:** Afghanistan vs Pakistan, FanCode, 8.30 p.m.  
**Serie A:** DAZN, 10 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Saturday)  
**LaLiga:** FanCode, 11 p.m. & 1 a.m. (Saturday)  
**Bundesliga:** Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 12 a.m. (Saturday)

## Velavan regains crown; Anahat completes a hat-trick

## NATL SQUASH

Kamesh Srinivasan  
NEW DELHI

It was a classic fare from Velavan Senthilkumar as he dethroned top seed Abhay Singh 11-8, 11-9, 4-11, 11-8 in the HCL 81st National squash championship at the Dhyen Chand National Stadium on Thursday.

And it was a hat-trick of titles for 17-year-old Anahat Singh as she raced past second seed Akanksha Salunkhe 11-7, 11-6, 11-5, 11-11, 11-4 in the women's final.

Anahat, who had lost the 2022 final to Joshua

Chinappa, has firmly taken over the reins as the queen of Indian squash.

It was the second National crown, after the first in 2023, for the 27-year-old Velavan who had finished runner-up to Abhay Singh twice in the last three years.

The sparks flew thick and fast during the final as both brought out the best game in each other, but the warmth of friendship

shone through at the finish.

While Velavan had the technical supremacy, he also matched the energetic game of Abhay this day, much to the delight of the packed arena, which included the HCL Chairperson Roshni Nadar as the chief guest.

Abhay did fight back in the third game, but Velavan did not flinch and handled the fourth game with great composure and elegance to seal the title, after missing two championship points at 10-6.

The champions were presented ₹1,30,000 each, while the runners-up pocketed ₹75,000. Atul Kumar Yadav won the pro coach title and ₹50,000.

etted ₹75,000. Atul Kumar Yadav won pro coach title and ₹50,000.

Yash Fadte and Tanvi Khanna were presented the 'best player' awards.

## The results:

**Men: Final:** Velavan Senthilkumar bt Abhay Singh 11-8, 11-9, 4-11, 11-8.  
**Semifinals:** Abhay bt Ramit Tandon 11-13, 11-5, 11-6, 11-7; Velavan bt Veer Chotroli 7-11, 11-7, 11-2, 11-4.

**Women: Final:** Anahat Singh bt Akanksha Salunkhe 11-7, 11-6, 11-4; **semifinals:** Anahat bt Tanvi Khanna 3-11, 11-5, 11-0, 11-9; Akanksha bt Joshua Chinappa 11-5, 13-11, 7-11, 12-10.

**Pro coach (final):** Atul Kumar Yadav bt Matthew Godwin 11-2, 11-5, 7-11, 11-3.



**Reigning supreme:** Velavan and Anahat with their big prize.

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

## Swadeshi swad!



## Ranjan ton in vain as Tigers post win



**Smashing 'em:** Ranjan on his way to a century for Strikers.

## DPL

## Sports Bureau

NEW DELHI

In the final league game of the Delhi Premier League's second edition, New Delhi Tigers chased down 200 to beat North Delhi Strikers by six wickets at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Thursday. The run chase was shepherded by opener Lakshay Thareja, who saw it through to the end by staying unbeaten on 80 off 48 deliveries. His efforts overshadowed Sarthak Ranjan's century for the Strikers.

With neither side having made the cut for the playoffs, the outcome will have no bearing on the results.

Strikers sent in to bat by Tigers captain Himmat Singh, Strikers posted a formidable 199 for six in their 20 overs.

Ranjan led the way for the Strikers with a 58-ball 100 that comprised seven fours and as many sixes. With North Delhi losing four wickets inside 14 overs, Ranjan needed a helping hand. Arjun Rapria played his role to perfection at No. 6, smashing an unbeaten 47 off 23 deliveries.

**The scores:** North Delhi Strikers 199/6 in 20 overs (Sarthak Ranjan 100, Arjun Rapria 47 n.o.) lost to New Delhi Tigers 200/4 in 20 overs (Lakshay Thareja 80 n.o., Dhruv Kaushik 41, Himmat Singh 34, Shivam Gupta 31).

## SNAPSHOTS

## Ajaya clinches second consecutive gold

AHMEDABAD: V. Ajaya Babu rode on his superior snatch performance to beat Malaysia's Erry Hidayat by two kg and claim his second consecutive gold in the Commonwealth weightlifting on Thursday.

**The results:** Senior: Men: 79kg: 1. V. Ajaya Babu snatch 152kg, clean and jerk 183kg, total 335kg, 2. Erry Hidayat (Mas) 150kg, 183kg, 333kg, 3. Adedapo Poadeji (Ngr) 141kg, 165kg, 306kg.

**Women: 69kg:** 1. Islamiyat Yusuf (Ngr) 105kg, 131kg, 236kg, 2. Olivia Selemaja (Nzl) 100kg, 123kg, 223kg, 3. Harjinder Kaur 99kg, 123kg, 222kg; 77kg: 1. Sarah Matthew (Ngr) 108kg, 128kg, 236kg, 2. Seine Stowers (Sam) 102kg, 127kg, 229kg, 3. Rosalie Dumas (Can) 101kg, 123kg, 224kg, 8. Harmanpreet Kaur 89kg, 116kg, 205kg.

## Poonacha in semifinals

ZHANGJIAGANG (CHINA):

Niki Poonacha in partnership with Pruchya Isaro of Thailand beat Masamichi Imamura and Rio Noguchi 7-5, 6-7(7), [10-5] in the doubles quarterfinals of the \$100,000 Challenger tennis tournament on Thursday.

The Indo-Thai pair will play Petr Bar Biryukov and Alexander Binda in the semifinals.

**The results:** €91,250 Challenger, Como, Italy:

**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Jiri Barnat & Filip Duda (Cze) bt Adil Kalyanpur & Parikshit Soman 4-6, 6-2, [16-14].

**\$100,000 Challenger, Zhangjiagang, China: Doubles (quarterfinals):** Pruchya Isaro (Tha) & Niki Poonacha bt Masamichi Imamura & Rio

Noguchi (Jpn) 7-5, 6-7(7), [10-5];

**Pre-quarterfinals:** Finn Reynolds & James Watt (Nzl) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan & Sun Fajing (Chn) 6-7(4), 6-2, [10-8].

## Betkuchi HS girls win Subroto Cup

NEW DELHI: Betkuchi High School, Assam registered a 3-1 win over Team Nandajhar Adibashi Pashili High School, West Bengal to win the 64th Subroto Cup junior girls (under-17) international football tournament on Thursday.

**The results:** Senior: Men: 79kg: 1. Lakshay Thareja (Neha Baroi) 100kg, 123kg, 222kg; 77kg: 1. Dhruv Kaushik 41, Himmat Singh 34, Shivam Gupta 31.

**Women: 69kg:** 1. Islamiyat Yusuf (Ngr) 105kg, 131kg, 236kg, 2. Olivia Selemaja (Nzl) 100kg, 123kg, 223kg, 3. Harjinder Kaur 99kg, 123kg, 222kg; 77kg: 1. Sarah Matthew (Ngr) 108kg, 128kg, 236kg, 2. Seine Stowers (Sam) 102kg, 127kg, 229kg, 3. Rosalie Dumas (Can) 101kg, 123kg, 224kg, 8. Harmanpreet Kaur 89kg, 116kg, 205kg.

**The results:** Betkuchi HS 3 (Milina Brahma, Sayasree Sangma, Mari Mech) bt Nandajhar Adibashi Pashili High School, West Bengal to win the 64th Subroto Cup junior girls (under-17) international football tournament on Thursday.

**Women: 69kg:** 1. Islamiyat Yusuf (Ngr) 105kg, 131kg, 236kg, 2. Olivia Selemaja (Nzl) 100kg, 123kg, 223kg, 3. Harjinder Kaur 99kg, 123kg, 222kg; 77kg: 1. Sarah Matthew (Ngr) 108kg, 128kg, 236kg, 2. Seine Stowers (Sam) 102kg, 127kg, 229kg, 3. Rosalie Dumas (Can) 101kg, 123kg, 224kg, 8. Harmanpreet Kaur 89kg, 116kg, 205kg.

**The results:** Milina Brahma, Sayasree Sangma, Mari Mech bt Nandajhar Adibashi Pashili HS 1 (Neha Baroi).

**Best player:** Mari Mech, Assam;

**Best coach:** Chandan Paul, West Bengal;

**Best goalkeeper:** Furchang Lama, Assam;

**Fair play award:** PM Shri Govt. Mahatma Gandhi Senior Secondary School, Lakshadweep;

**Best school:** Nandajhar Adibashi Pashili High School, West Bengal.

## Sajal advances

Sajal Kesharwani beat Priyanshu Chaudhary 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in the quarterfinals of the ₹100,000 AITA men's tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex on Thursday.

**Other quarterfinal results:** Udit Kamboj bt Caheer Warik 6-3, 6-3; Sagar Kumar bt Kashif Nagale 7-6(5), 6-3; Bikramjeet Singh Chawla bt Tirshan Dhawan 6-2, 6-4.

# Can Suryakumar emulate his celebrated predecessors?

The T20I skipper, having excelled as a batter, has led the side with aggression and flexibility; the Asia Cup will give him an opportunity to raise the bar and eye for silverware and glory

R. Kaushik

**H**istorically, there has been a strong association between a certain player and a specific shot. Like G.R. Vishwanath with the square-cut, for instance. Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar with the bowler's back-drive. Ricky Ponting and Rohit Sharma with the pull, V.V.S. Laxman with the wristy whip wide of mid-on, Virat Kohli with the cover-drive. Like Rishabh Pant with the falling-down anything.

Apart from the unclassifiable Pant, the rest are all steeped in orthodoxy. They played their signature strokes with authority and chutzpah, setting impossible benchmarks that the rest strived to emulate. There were others, numerous others, who played those strokes, but with almost - only almost - the same felicity.

And then, there is Suryakumar Yadav, him of the outrageous that he has somehow made remarkably commonplace (for him) in the high-risk Twenty20 iteration. If there is one stroke easily attributable to Suryakumar alone, it is the impossible swat-flick from well outside off that he consistently manages to deposit over fine-leg.

It's a shot that defies description, geometry, the laws of physics, just about everything you can imagine. It also defines India's T20I captain, a maverick if there ever was one but who has managed to marry adventurism with a consistency that has netted him an average of 38.20 and the enviable strike-rate of 167.07 across 79 innings at the highest level.

#### Left-field

Suryakumar was somewhat of a left-field choice for the captaincy of the 20-over side once Rohit pulled the plug on his international career in the immediacy of India's victory at the World Cup last June. Not that the then 33-year-old wasn't qualified or that he didn't have leadership credentials. The popular perception was that Hardik Pandya, Rohit's deputy at the World Cup and the man who had taken Gujarat Titans to the trophy and then to the final in the first two years of their existence, was a natural successor. Things didn't pan out that way, Suryakumar stealing the march over his fellow Mumbai Indian who must now be wondering if he should put his captaincy aspirations to bed, permanently.

As skipper, Suryakumar has been singularly on-point in his first year in charge. India have won all four series under him - in Sri Lanka and South Africa, each succeeded by home triumphs against Bangladesh and England. India's only two losses in 15 matches came in Gqeberha when the Proteas won a low-scoring thriller by three wickets, and against England in Rajkot in January, by 26 runs. Otherwise, they have been unstoppable, their aggressive, entertaining, positive brand of cricket both exhilarating and effective.

Every team takes its lead from its captain, and it's no surprise to see the Suryakumar stamp on the style of cricket his unit has embraced. It must have been daunting for Suryakumar to inherit the T20 legacy from Rohit, his illustrious Mumbai colleague who managed the twin responsibilities of lead batter and captaincy with tremendous aplomb. There was a definite Rohit touch to India's march to the World Cup crown in the USA and the Caribbean, his takedown of Australia in the Super Six stage and of England in the semifinal setting the stage for a dramatic heist in a final that seemed to have swung South Africa's way decisively.

There was no indication of the captaincy affecting Suryakumar's form when he smashed 58, off just 26 deliveries, in his first outing in charge on a full-time basis in Pallekele last July. When he backed it up with a 12-ball 26 in the next game, it was as if nothing had changed, except for the (capt) suffixing the right-hander. But since slamming 75 against Bangladesh in Hyderabad four games thereafter, Suryakumar has hit a brick wall. His last eight innings have netted him 54 runs with a highest of 21, two ducks and three other single-digit scores. Against England in January, while his mates were filling their boots, he mustered a mere 28 runs in five knocks. Cause for concern? Not necessarily, not yet.

For, just a couple of months later, the Suryakumar of the flourish and the flamboyance, of the extraordinary and the exceptional, was back, strutting the IPL canvas like the master of the shortest format that he is. His travails with India



#### THE GIST

As skipper, Suryakumar has been singularly on-point in his first year in charge. India have won all four series under him - in Sri Lanka and South Africa, each succeeded by home triumphs against Bangladesh and England

It can no longer be said of India's T20I team that it is a unit in transition. That period is long over; Rohit and Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja haven't been forgotten or replaced.

He will be mindful of the need to get his international bat out of the freezer and warm it up for the equally tough challenges ahead

were nowhere in evidence as he danced to 717 runs in 16 innings; five not outs boosted his average to 65.18 but he didn't need extraneous assistance to rack up a scoring rate of 167.91 runs per 100 balls faced. The sixes flowed with astonishing consistency, only Nicholas Pooran (40) and Shreyas Iyer (39) boasting more 'maximums' than Suryakumar's 38. Of all batters, no one apart from Sai Sudharsan (759) scored more runs. If any doubts had revolved around SKY's efficiency and if there were fears that he was afflicted by the law of diminishing returns, those were emphatically laid to rest.

It was towards the end of Mumbai Indians' campaign - they bowed out in the Eliminator - that an old friend (foe?) decided to reacquaint itself. In 2024, Suryakumar had undergone a sports hernia surgery, but the problem had only temporarily been fixed, it seems. The same injury resurfaced this year, necessitating another surgery in Munich in June; it was the third time in as many years (after an ankle surgery in 2023) that Suryakumar had gone under the knife, but that seems to have done little to curb his exuberance or dampen his spirit.

His rehab went to plan, Suryakumar able to fall back on the expertise of the medical staff at the Centre of Excellence (formerly National Cricket Academy) and on his own recovery blueprint of 12 months previously. Having ticked all recovery boxes and cleared fitness tests, he has now taken his rightful place at the helm as India seek to defend the Asia Cup, won admittedly in 2023 in the 50-over format, in the UAE next month.

The continental face-off against strong neighbours is the first stop in the preparatory exercise ahead of the World Cup, to be jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka in February-March. Like at the Asia Cup, India are the reigning champions at the World Cup too, and while the weight of expectations on India is massive wherever they play, that will be amplified

given their status as the hosts. Unless something goes drastically wrong in the next six months, Suryakumar will be tasked with the unenviable responsibility of guiding his team's fortunes in front of passionate but demanding home audiences.

Having been part of the 50-over World Cup squad under Rohit that was irrepressibly brilliant until running into a tartar in Australia in the final, Suryakumar is no stranger to how to cope with the burden of additional pressure. There is much about his captaincy that is an echo of the Rohit school of thought though, wisely, Suryakumar has refrained from entirely drawing from his celebrated senior's book and sacrificing his own instincts and gut-feel. His calmness in tight corners and his propensity, even willingness, to flash an infectious smile in the most pressure-cooker situations has rubbed off on his teammates, who have approached every match with unshakeable belief, evidenced in each of the three wins in Pallekele last July.

It can no longer be said of India's T20I team that it is a unit in transition. That period is long over; Rohit and Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja haven't been forgotten or replaced, but those who have taken their positions have slotted in effortlessly and the process of change has been smooth and seamless. At the Asia Cup, while they will be expected (as ever) to go all the way, they will be as focussed on getting their plans right, on playing smart without compromising on flair, and they will be determined to do everything to ensure that their inspirational captain is back among international runs.

If we were so inclined, Suryakumar will take back his No. 3 slot from Tilak Varma, the left-hander who asked for the captain's position and justified that request with back-to-back centuries in South Africa. It's at one-drop that Suryakumar has had the greatest success, but one can safely presume that

Suryakumar will not insist on batting at that number alone. At the end of the day, his goals and ambitions are allied with that of the team's; head coach Gautam Gambhir is almost obsessively consumed by left-right combinations, which will in all probability dictate batting orders. It's impossible to see Suryakumar demanding that he come in every time at the fall of the first wicket. For one thing, he isn't built that way; for another, he has enough confidence in his abilities to not be able to succeed elsewhere in the order. He will be mindful of the need to get his international bat out of the freezer and warm it up for the equally tough challenges ahead, but he won't lose too much sleep if the big runs continue to elude him so long as the team is on the upward mobile path.

Suryakumar has been reunited with his deputy on the tour of Sri Lanka, Shubman Gill, who has since established himself as the Test leader. It will be interesting to see how the duo functions as a unit; Suryakumar won't shy away from picking the brain of his much younger vice-captain who is tipped to take over as skipper after the World Cup while Gill, now self-confident and tactically more accomplished after the epic 2-2 stalemate in England, will be keen to weigh in with pithy inputs.

It helps that neither man has the slightest insecure bone in his body, which should augur well as India brace for a minimum of 21 T20Is in the build-up to the World Cup.

His legacy as the premier T20I batter firmly established, never mind what the rankings say, Suryakumar will be keen to follow in the footsteps of Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Rohit when it comes to the World Cup. What better way to celebrate his glorious run in a format he loves, and that loves him back without inhibition, than with another World Cup winner's medal, this time shaped by both his bat and his leadership.

## SCIENCE

# Centering elderly women: caring for the quiet majority

To truly support and empower elderly women in their health-seeking behaviours, India needs to move to more inclusive gender-sensitive health systems. Policies need to acknowledge the gendered path of Indian women and how these factors shape their ageing

**Sathyra Sriram**

**I**ndia is ageing rapidly. And it is women who are living longer, but with poor health.

According to the *India Ageing Report 2023* as published by the International Institute for Population Sciences and the United Nations Population Fund, there will be a significant decadal increase in India's elderly population, with people aged 60 and above estimated to comprise over 20% of the population by 2050.

The average lifespan of women is more than that of men by 2.7 years, resulting in a demographic tilt favouring more elderly women. However, the McKinsey Health Institute estimates that women are likely to spend 25% more time in poor health compared to men, much of those in their later years, highlighting a health gap to be bridged.

Despite these sobering figures, the conversations about elderly women and their health stay in the shadows, with society treating them as passive dependents rather than as individuals with distinct needs and challenges. Add to this their care-giving and self-sacrificing instinct, and we have a large majority of elderly women, navigating public spaces in silence.

#### Care-seeking behaviour

The social determinants of women's health go well beyond medical causes to include socio-cultural, economic, and structural factors. Health-seeking behaviour is defined as action an individual undertakes to obtain medical attention, what type of care they seek, and how they continuously manage that condition. Typically, this is influenced by access to information, disease perception, demographics, economic status, access to facilities, perceived quality of services, and socio-cultural beliefs. In the case of women, we need to layer on additional factors such as education, social conditioning, marital status, financial and digital dependency, and lack of gender-sensitive care facilities.

Indian women are socialised to prioritise family wellbeing over their own, and therefore, tend to de-prioritise their health needs. In many patriarchal households, the spouse or adult children tend to be gatekeepers of the decision about when and whether an elderly woman seeks care.

Financial insecurity is a significant vulnerability among older women. A UNFPA study from 2011 reported that almost 60% of older women have no personal income. And, few elderly women have health insurance coverage. Less than 20% of women are able to pay



The conversations about elderly women and their health stay in the shadows, with society treating them as passive dependents rather than as individuals with distinct needs and challenges. FILE PHOTO

their own medical bills, compared to 44% of elderly men. This high economic dependency tends to hold women back from seeking appropriate early medical care.

The digital gender gap is accentuated amongst the elderly, with far fewer women having access to digital devices, which impacts their access to health information and services.

An UNFPA study to understand the needs and challenges of older women in India, uncovered that two-thirds of older women are accompanied by their children or grandchildren (versus 41% among older men), indicating a higher level of dependency.

Insufficient access to female health providers as well as information and diagnostics for women's health issues can delay care even if one reaches the facility. Once within the health system, women often need support in navigating its complex processes, which also deters them from accessing health services.

The more commonly discussed ageing-driven chronic conditions are cardiovascular (heart), cancers, and neurodegenerative (brain) diseases. However, the nuances of how women experience these conditions due to their physiological transitions and caregiving burdens are less acknowledged and far less studied.

In order to experience healthy ageing, women should have access to affordable

and adequate healthcare throughout their lives. In India, healthcare expenditure is far less on women than men across all ages and socio-economic groups, further worsening health conditions later in life that are more likely to impede quality of life and cause disability.

Due to the hormone shifts post menopause, loss of muscle mass and nutritional deficiencies, the non-communicable diseases of hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular illnesses tend to have more severe outcomes and complications in women. Furthermore, the decline in bone health is a substantial risk for osteoporosis and arthritis, which are much more common in women, yet under-diagnosed. The risk of fractures from falls is also significantly higher in women and can result in disability or limited movement that affects their mental well-being.

Once women move past the reproductive phase, the healthcare system barely considers their uro-gynaecological health. In lower income settings, women rarely have a gynaecological examination post childbirth. Cancers of the breast, cervix, ovaries, and uterus disproportionately affect older women and often go undiagnosed until late stages. Over 50% of breast cancer cases in India occur in post-menopausal women, yet screening awareness drops sharply with age.

A study analysing treatment patterns in Indian women aged 65 and above with breast cancer found that on average, treatment was less aggressive, but appropriate therapies (surgery and chemotherapy) could improve survival rates and lead to favourable outcomes.

The awareness and availability of vaccines is helping reduce the risk of cervical cancer amongst younger women; however, older women are still susceptible with limited access to, and frequency of, pap smears. Worse still is ovarian cancer, the most lethal gynaecological cancer, with a five-year relative survival rate of 17% for a patient diagnosed at an advanced stage.

Certain neurodegenerative diseases, Alzheimer's and other dementias, are more likely to develop in women, both due to biological factors (oestrogen decline) and social conditions (longer lifespan, isolation due to loss of spouse). According to the Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI), women aged over 70 report higher levels of cognitive impairment yet are less diagnosed and treated compared to men.

Mental health issues among elderly women are under-reported, under-diagnosed, and under-treated.

As per HelpAge India, only 1 in 10 elderly women with depressive symptoms seek help – due to stigma as well as limited access to mental health services for the elderly.

#### Better care

Despite the many systemic challenges, elderly women in India proactively engage in many activities that enhance their well-being.

Socially, elderly women tend to be deeply embedded in family and community networks. These social engagements are potential protective factors against loneliness and cognitive decline.

Many women also find joy and purpose in routines that keep them physically and mentally active, such as walking groups, yoga classes, or taking up new hobbies such as painting or music.

Finally, educated women avail of better outpatient care, both in public and private facilities, making years of schooling the primary driver of choice.

To truly support and empower elderly women in their health-seeking behaviours, India needs to move to more inclusive gender-sensitive health systems. Policies need to acknowledge the gendered path of Indian women and how these factors shape their ageing.

(Sathyra Sriram is a healthcare strategist working to make care more accessible, preventive, and people centred. sathyra.r.sriram@gmail.com)

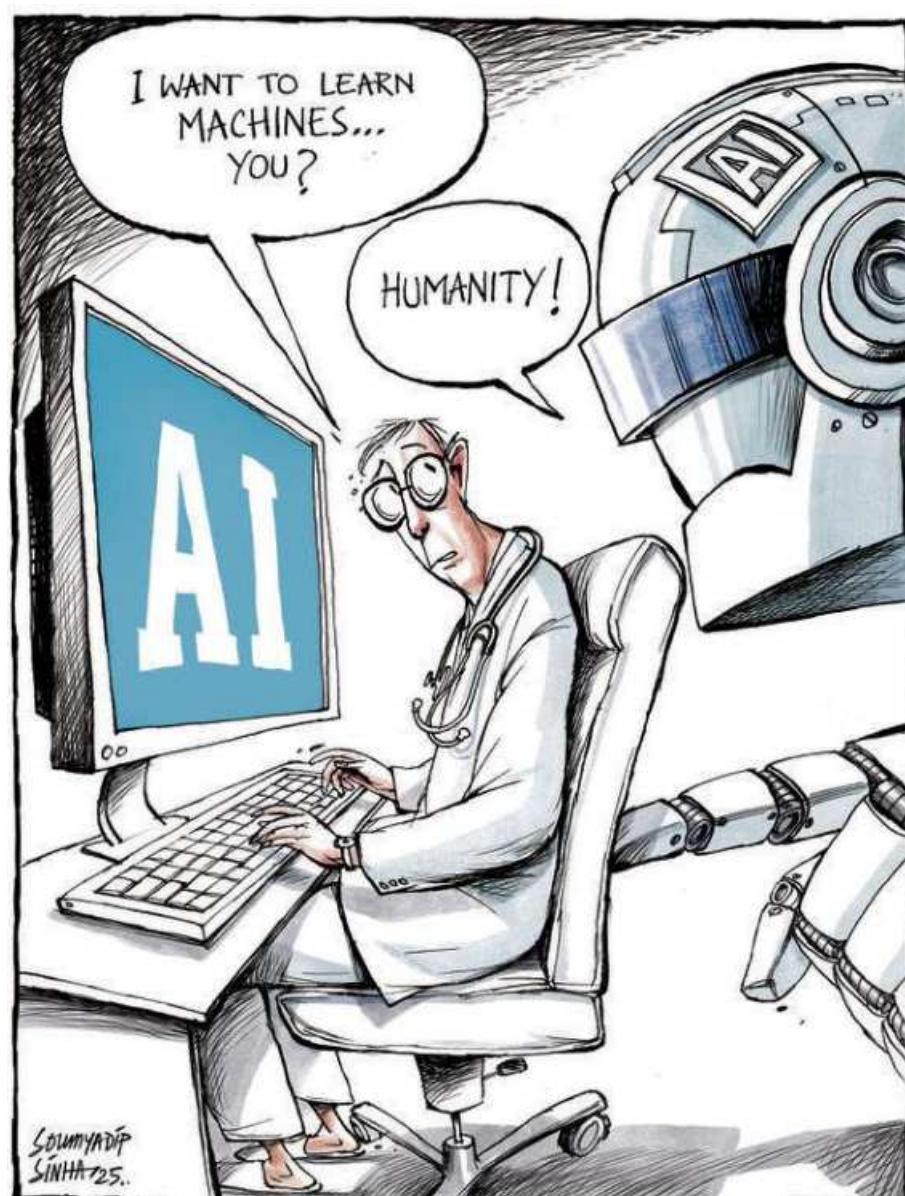
## THE GIST

▼ A 2011 UNFPA study found that fewer than 20% of women could pay their own medical bills, limiting access to early care

▼ According to HelpAge India, just 1 in 10 elderly women with depressive symptoms seek help, hindered by stigma and poor access to mental health services

▼ In India, healthcare expenditure is far less on women than men across all ages and socio-economic groups, further worsening health conditions later in life

## HUMERUS



## Beyond science fiction: artificial wombs and real progress of fertility treatments

**Gita Aravamudan**

According to reports that surfaced on the internet last week, a Chinese firm announced plans to create the world's first pregnancy robot with an artificial womb. It was fake news, and all the major news outlets bought it. Because it made flashy sci-fi headlines especially in a world where anything seems possible with omnipresent Artificial intelligence (AI).

It was fake news, and all the major news outlets bought it. Because it made flashy sci-fi headlines especially in a world where anything seems possible with omnipresent Artificial intelligence (AI). My book on surrogacy, *Baby Makers*, which came out in 2016 had a chapter called *Virgin Birth and Womb Banks*, where I discussed the possibilities of sexless reproduction and artificial wombs which could be enabled by cutting edge technology.

It sounded like science fiction. And it still remains in the realm of science fiction. But though we are nowhere near producing an artificial womb which can gestate and nurture a human being, the research in this field has been on-going for quite a few years now.

More than 10 years ago when



Though we are nowhere near producing an artificial womb which can gestate and nurture a human being, the research in this field has been on-going for quite a few years now. ISTOCKPHOTO

I was researching my book, I read about Hung-Ching Liu, Professor of Reproductive Medicine at Cornell University, U.S., who had engineered endometrial tissue by prompting cells to grow in an artificial uterus. Apparently, he was also able to successfully implant and grow the embryo of a mouse. In another experiment, Liu used cultured cells collected from a woman's womb and created an artificial womb using a scaffolding. Inside this womb he planted fertilised embryos left over from IVF cycles. In six days, the eggs implanted in it just as they would in a real womb. But his experiment had to end just 14 days later as

researchers were not allowed to grow foetuses in the lab for more than 14 days. In other parts of the world too, exciting research was going on in this field. In Japan, goat foetuses were grown in a prototype womb. In New South Wales, an artificial womb designed to give birth to live sharks was successfully tested.

**Womb replacement surgery** Meanwhile, by 2014, womb replacement surgery had become a reality. Five women from Sweden and 11 from the U.K. had their wombs replaced. Two of the women had wombs donated by their mothers.

The first baby born from a

womb transplant was in Sweden in 2014. Since then, around 135 such transplants have been carried out in over a dozen countries, including the United States, China, France, Germany, India, and Turkey. Approximately 65 babies have been born as a result of such transplants. Galaxy Care Hospital in India has also achieved success with uterine transplants and has delivered babies from transplanted wombs.

As of now, artificial wombs are being used mainly to nurture preterm babies. The babies are placed in bio bags and float in a liquid mimicking the amniotic fluid found in natural wombs. An artificial placenta, which is connected to the umbilical cord, provides oxygen and nutrients.

Experiments are also on to try and produce eggs and sperm from stem cells.

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#### For feedback and suggestions

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