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IN BRIEF

Bengal CM to meet NCPI MPs in Delhi today

KOLKATA
West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari is likely to meet MPs of the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) on Tuesday. NCPI MPs Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar have confirmed the meeting. » Page 4

HC orders camps for sterilisation of stray canines

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Monday directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the New Delhi Municipal Council to identify one ward each in their jurisdictions and organise camps to sterilise and vaccinate stray dogs. » Page 2

Prashant Kishor breaches BJP's fortress in Bankipur

Former political strategist wins byelection to Bihar Assembly seat vacated by BJP chief Nabin by a margin of 19,324 votes; BJP retains Manjalpur in Gujarat, while Congress holds on to Datia in M.P.

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) founder Prashant Kishor on Monday scripted a major political upset in Bihar by defeating the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate in the Bankipur Assembly byelection, a constituency represented for five consecutive terms by the BJP's national president Nitin Nabin. The BJP retained Manjalpur in Gujarat while the Congress held on to Madhya Pradesh's Datia in other Assembly byelections.

Mr. Kishor dedicated the victory to the people of Bankipur and appealed to the BJP's central leadership to change the Chief Minister of Bihar. The Bankipur seat had fallen vacant as Mr. Nabin gave it up after his election to the Rajya Sabha and elevation as BJP chief.

Winning entry: Jan Suraaj Party chief Prashant Kishor celebrates his Bankipur bypoll victory with supporters in Patna on Monday. PTI

The political strategist-turned-politician clinched victory over BJP candidate Neeraj Kumar Sinha by a margin of 19,324 votes. He bagged 64,151 votes while Mr. Sinha finished with 44,827 votes. Rashtriya Janata Dal nominee Rekha Kumari secured the third position with 14,273 votes. A total of 25 candidates contested the election, with 646 voters choosing the NOTA option.

In the 2025 Assembly election, Mr. Nabin had defeated Ms. Kumari by a margin of 51,936 votes. He had secured 98,299 votes while Ms. Kumari polled 46,363 votes. The JSP's Vandana Kumari had received 7,717 votes.

Throughout the 32 rounds of counting on Monday, Mr. Kishor, contesting an election for the first time, remained ahead in every round and held on to his lead until the final tally. Celebrations broke out at the JSP office in Patliputra Colony after the 10th round, when Mr. Kishor had established a lead of over 6,000 votes. A JSP worker, celebrating the victory while dancing to Bhojpuri songs, said: "Bankipur is just a trailer; the whole of Bihar is still to come."

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Ask Karnataka to implement Cauvery order, T.N. urges SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Tamil Nadu government headed by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay moved the Supreme Court on Monday for a direction to the State of Karnataka to implement a Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) decision of July 30 to ensure the release of 3,500 cusecs for 15 days from its reservoirs at Kabini and Krishnaraja Sagara.

Tamil Nadu's approach to the Supreme Court for the release of 4.536 tmc ft of water (at the rate of 3,500 cusecs for 15 days) on or before August 12 has come even as Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the water situation has become "slightly better" while urging Kannada organisations to withdraw their State-wide bandh call on August 13.

The Tamil Nadu application, finalised by senior advocates C.S. Vaidyanathan and G. Umapathy, and drafted by Tushar Nair, was filed by advocate-on-record B. Karunakaran.

Water flows into Biligundlu, the first point of entry of the Cauvery into T.N., in Krishnagiri district on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The State urged the top court to direct the CWMA to issue an appropriate direction to Karnataka to make good, on a pro-rata basis, the shortfall at the inter-State point of Biligundlu for the period from June 1 to August 12, and in this regard release 26.954 tmc ft of water forthwith.

It further sought an order to the CWMA to monitor the flows in the reservoirs of Karnataka every 10 days and ensure stipulated monthly/daily releases at Biligundlu.

'Orders defied'

The Tamil Nadu government said Karnataka had continued to defy the orders of the Cauvery Tribunal for allocation of water to its neighbour except a few times when there were inevitable surpluses in the reservoirs on account of floods.

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CASE IN U.P.

Kanwariyas accused of vandalising school van

STATES » PAGE 3

OPPOSITION PROTESTS

LS passes SC judges' Bill without discussion

NEWS » PAGE 10

Ex-WFI chief cleared in sexual harassment case

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday acquitted Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, former Bharatiya Janata Party MP and former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president, in a case concerning allegations of sexual harassment made against him by women wrestlers.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Ashwini Panwar of the Rouse Avenue Courts also acquitted co-accused Vinod Tomar, former assistant secretary of the WFI. Advocate Rajiv Mohan, who represented Mr. Singh, confirmed to *The Hindu* that his client had received an "honourable acquittal".

Congress MLA and former Olympian Vinesh

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

Phogat said the women wrestlers would challenge the verdict before a higher court. In a post on X, she said it had taken "a lot of courage" for the wrestlers to stage protests and lodge an FIR against "a powerful leader of the ruling party". "We have not lost hope, and the wrestlers will continue their fight," she said.

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SC asks govt. to consider 'important' plea against Jantar Mantar as a site of protests

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta to consult with Union government authorities on an "important" petition that Jantar Mantar is not the "right site" to hold protests.

"The petition says Jantar Mantar is not the right site anymore for such protests due to ingress-egress issue, supply of medical essentials, etc... I think this is important. Please take instructions, Mr. Solicitor. Issue notice and list this separately," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, addressed the law officer.

The petition flags logistical issues for mass demonstrations at the designated protest site in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The petition, filed by Satish Chand Kaushik, represented by advocate Aakarshan Aditya, urged the discontinuation of Jantar Mantar as the ordinary designated venue for public protests and demonstrations, and to designate Ramlila Maidan, or another sufficiently large ground, as the principal protest venue for the national capital. Mr. Aditya argued that Jantar Mantar was designated in an earlier era for identifiable, and manageable demonstrations. "Another July 20 incident should be avoided," the petitioner counsel said, in a reference to the police crackdown on protests led by the Cockroach Janta Party at Jantar Mantar recently. "They (the government) know how to handle it. If they cannot, come to us," Chief Justice Kant said.

The petition has come days after the court's repeated observations upholding the right of citizens to peaceful and lawful protest. The court had, however, balanced the freedom to express dissent with the right to not break the peace or occupy public space.

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'STATES CAN CLOSE FIRs'
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Couple killed in Usmanpur roof collapse

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A couple were killed after the roof of their rented house collapsed in north-east Delhi's Usmanpur on Sunday night, the police said on Monday.

The victims, Tinku, 32, and Urmila, 30, were trapped under the debris after the roof of the single-storey house caved in. They were pulled out and taken to Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital, where doctors declared them dead, the police said.

The Delhi Fire Services said it received a call at 10.31 p.m. reporting the incident and rushed three water tenders to the spot. The collapsed area measured about 120 sq. ft.

The police said the bodies have been sent to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital for post-mortem.

A case has been registered against the house owner, Virender Kumar, under Sections 290 and 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Further investigation is under way, the police said.

Set up pilot camps to sterilise stray dogs: HC to civic bodies

Want to allay fears among animal lovers, encourage community participation, court says; it orally suggests leaving a small proportion of stray dogs unsterilised so that they don't disappear entirely

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to identify one ward each in their jurisdictions and organise camps to sterilise and vaccinate stray dogs.

A Bench of Justices Dinesh Mehta and Rajnish Kumar Gupta said the drive must be undertaken as a pilot project in consultation with *amicus curiae* Gauri Maulekhi, a noted animal welfare strategist.

The court asked the civic bodies to widely publicise the camps and display placards clarifying that stray dogs brought to the camps would not be captured or sent to dog pounds. The objective, the Bench said, was to allay fears among animal lovers and encourage community participation.

The two-judge Bench asked the MCD and NDMC to display placards clarifying that the strays wouldn't be sent to dog pounds. FILE PHOTO

The Bench also made an oral observation that authorities should consider ensuring that a small proportion of stray dogs remains unsterilised so that the population does not disappear entirely over time.

It suggested that the civic bodies could themselves propose leaving at least 5% of the stray dog population unsterilised.

The directions were issued during the hearing of a *suo motu* public interest litigation plea initiated to monitor compliance with the Supreme Court's orders to remove stray dogs from educational institutions, hospitals, railway stations, bus stands, and other public places.

49,424 strays sterilised

The MCD told the court that its Animal Birth Control (ABC) centres are functioning across eight zones while approvals to set up ABCs are pending for three other zones where sterilisation work is currently being handled by centres in the neighbouring zones.

A total of 49,424 stray dogs were sterilised and 52,457 vaccinated through 14 ABCs in the first six months of the year, the MCD told the court.

Microchipping dogs

On being asked about the city's stray dog population, the MCD counsel said while no official census has been conducted, the number is estimated to be around 8 lakh. The counsel suggested that the proposed pilot project could also include microchipping of sterilised dogs to facilitate better tracking and data collection.

With regard to rabies surveillance and management, the Delhi government stated in an affidavit that as per official data no case of rabies was reported in the city between April 1 and June 30.

Lakshmi Yojana eligibility norms restrictive: Kejriwal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Monday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government of imposing "restrictive" eligibility rules under the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana to limit the number of women eligible for the scheme's monthly assistance of ₹2,500.

He alleged that with the number of restrictions imposed, "not even 10% of Delhi's women" would be able to avail of the scheme.

On August 1, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta had opened registrations for the scheme. Under the rules, applicants must obtain an endorsement letter from their MLA or MP, and only one woman from each family is eligible to receive the monthly aid.

"It is clear that they want to extend this benefit only to BJP supporters. The conditions they have imposed, including the requirement of 10 years' residence and approval from their MP or MLA, show that their intention is not to provide the benefit but merely to play politics," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Arvind Kejriwal alleged that not even 10% of Delhi's women would be able to avail of the scheme. FILE PHOTO

'No exclusion in Punjab'

He claimed that the AAP government in Punjab had not imposed any such conditions and that if there were four women in a household, all of them received the assistance.

"We made no distinction between the rich and the poor or on the basis of caste. Just as we are extending the benefit to everyone in Punjab with a clear and honest intent, they should do the same in Delhi if their intentions are genuine," he said.

Delhi secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) Anurag Saxena also alleged that the scheme is not for women's economic empowerment, but a "political deception" aimed at excluding a large section of poor women from receiving assistance.

"The eligibility conditions and mandatory documentation make it evident that the scheme has been deliberately designed to restrict rather than expand access to benefits. The most objectionable provision is the requirement that every applicant must obtain a recommendation from the local MP or MLA," Mr. Saxena said.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor had earlier said it was the previous AAP government in Delhi that made the recommendation of MLAs mandatory for some schemes in 2018. He had asserted that the BJP government will ensure that every eligible woman resident receives the benefits of the scheme within the next three years.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION JAMMU EAST

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. 37 of 2026-2027/Jammu East Dated 01-08-2026

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State / Central Govt. for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for Complete -on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Repair & renovation of Govt. Girls High School Dogra hall Jammu	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	**65.20**	600	2% of Advertised Cost	03 Months	(1300 Hrs) on or after 10-08-2026	A
2	Repair of Roof Top of Administration Block, JKBOSE Rehari Colony Jammu	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	**9.31**	600	2% of Advertised Cost	02 Months	(1300 Hrs) on or after 10-08-2026	A,B,C&D
3	Repair of Potholes of road from Shop of Sh. Rakesh Choudhary to House of Tarsem Singh at Chinore Jammu.	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	**8.48**	600	2% of Advertised Cost	1 ½ Months	(1300 Hrs) on or after 10-08-2026	A,B,C&D
4	Repair and Renovation of Office building of Directorate of Employment, Jammu	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	**15.68**	600	2% of Advertised Cost	03 Months	(1300 Hrs) on or after 10-08-2026	A,B,C

Position of AAA/ TS : Accorded

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website **http://jktenders.gov.in** as per below schedule :-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01-08-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 01-08-2026 to 08-08-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	06-08-2026 at 1200Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
4	Bid submission Start Date	01-08-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date	08-08-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	10-08-2026 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East at the time of allotment.
2. The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
3. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East.** The date for same shall be intimated separately.
4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
5. **The earnest money shall be forfeited, If :-**

a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/G/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021.

6. **Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**

6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission due to any reasons.
8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to **MH - 0059** (Revenue) favoring **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East** and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East** and Correctness of Information on the notarized affidavit which must be notarized between the period of downloading of bidding document as per the format mentioned in the e-NIT/SBD with the technical documents of the bid.

No :- 4968-78
Dated :- 01-08-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Jammu East

DIP/J-7200/26 Aug 3 2026

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Executive Engineer-3,
Project Implementation Unit, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560011.

No: EE-3/GBA/PIU/TEND/01/2026-27 **Date: 03-08-2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer-3, Project Implementation Unit, GBA, Bengaluru invites Request for Proposal from interested Persons / Firms for the below work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing, Supply and Installation of Various Necessary Facilities such as Shamiyana, Stage, Sound System, Lightings, Cardamom Garland, Shalu, Dry Fruits, Snacks, Fireworks-Pyrotechnics, Bands, Awards, Cultural Representation Parade, Themed Stalls and Other Facilities for **"Freedom Habba-2026"** and various Programs to be Celebrated on 15-08-2026 at Vidhana Soudha Premises. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 500.00 (Excluding GST & Other Applicable Taxes), EMD Amount (in Rs.): 7,50,000.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 05-08-2026 at 10.00 Horus. 2)** Last Date and Time for Filled Tenders Submitted through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on **11-08-2026 upto 16.30 Hours. 3)** Date of Opening of Technical Bids: **12-08-2026 at 17.00 Hours.** Financial bids will be opened only if the conditions in the Technical bid are met and Bids not fulfilling the conditions will be rejected. 4) Date of Opening of Financial Bids: **12-08-2026 after 17.30 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-3,
Project Implementation Unit, GBA.

Modernising *mandis* priority of govt.: CM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday reviewed redevelopment projects across agricultural markets and said "modernising *mandis* (markets) is a priority of the government".

Ms. Gupta also reviewed the progress of the poultry market being developed on nearly 15 acres in Ghazipur at ₹193.29 crore. Its construction began in March 2019 and is scheduled to be completed by December 31 this year. According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), about 85% of the work has been completed, and the market will have shops for 100 wholesale traders and 120 processing units.

The Chief Minister reviewed the proposed flower market at the Integrated Freight Complex in Ghazipur.

"Ten acres had been acquired from the Delhi Development Authority in 2001 and the modern flower market is planned to be developed in phases," stated the CMO.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta chairing a review meeting on Monday. @CMODELHI

Donation centres

Ms. Gupta also inaugurated an 'Arpan Kendra', a donation centre for old clothes, at Punjabi Bagh West metro station. According to the CMO, the donation centres are being set up at 10 major metro stations. As part of the first phase, Arpan Kendras were launched at five metro stations: Shalimar Bagh, Punjabi Bagh West, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Shahdara, and Rohini West.

Won't allow Kejriwal's march to PM house: police

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal's proposed march to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence on Tuesday to submit petitions against E20 fuel will not be allowed, police sources said on Monday.

A police source said no permission has been granted for the march and security arrangements are being made to prevent any unauthorised procession.

Mr. Kejriwal had announced that he would march to Mr. Modi's residence along with 100 people to submit petitions against E20 petrol, alleging that the Centre was pushing the blended fuel under pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump.

He also alleged that the government's continued push for ethanol-blended petrol suggested that there was a "hidden agenda".

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAMMAD Abdul Keiyum Phusam s/o Md Abdul Helim born on 01/07/2008 residing at Mayang Imphal Bengoon Awang Leikai, PO. & PS. Mayang Imphal, Dist. Imphal West, Manipur, have changed my name to Md Abdul Keiyum Phusam vide affidavit dated 01/08/2026 at Imphal.

I, SHEETAL, D/o Sh. MANOJ KUMAR, R/o C-1/13, Vashisht Park, Pankha Road, Dabri, South West Delhi-110045, declare MANOJ KUMAR and MANOJ are one and the same person

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Protester, mother in hiding after continued harassment over 'abusive' remarks on PM

Suruchi Kumari
NEW DELHI

For the past three days, the protester against whom a zero FIR was registered last week for her "abusive" remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and her mother have been living at an undisclosed location out of fear.

On July 31, the same day that the PM spoke of forgiving "misguided children" who had used abusive language at the 36-day Jantar Mantar stir, where the protester had joined other protesters against the alleged NEET paper leak, she had uploaded an apology video on social media.

"We hoped it would end the harassment," her mother told *The Hindu*. Instead, the harassment intensified.

"I am fed up. I have lost my work. We had no option but to leave our house because police personnel and strangers started showing up," said the mother, who earns her living by giving tuitions at home and has been raising her daughter by herself since her husband's death in 2019.

> They can't leave the place where they are staying right now. They are under complete lockdown
>
> **ANIL KUMAR**
> Family's lawyer

"We don't know when things will become normal or when we will be able to return home," she added.

Their lawyer, Anil Kumar, said, "They cannot leave the place where they are staying right now. They are under complete lockdown."

He claims that all details in the zero FIR registered on July 29, including the accused's name and age, are wrong, and that she is 15, not 25 as mentioned in the FIR.

Address shared online

"The only thing that was correct was the address, which they [complainant] probably found circulating online. The two had no option but to leave their home," he said. The lawyer added that no one from Delhi Police has contacted them since the case was transferred from Noida to the Parliament Street police station.

When reached for comment, DCP (New Delhi) Sachin Sharma said a regular FIR in the case has not yet been registered. "We will conduct a preliminary investigation and then take a call," he said.

Delhi Police moves against misleading social media handles

Lavpreet Kaur
NEW DELHI

Some handles are circulating videos falsely suggesting that protests are still on at Jantar Mantar, the police say

The Delhi police have initiated legal action against social media handles accused of circulating misleading videos falsely suggesting that protests were continuing at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. The police have issued takedown notices to Meta and X.

The action follows the circulation of dozens of videos across social media platforms claiming to show "live" protests at Jantar Mantar until August 3, despite the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) agitation having ended over a week earlier. Several of the clips garnered millions of views, prompting various departments to inquire from the police whether fresh demonstrations had resumed.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior New Delhi police officer said the process of removing the content was under way. "We have verified that no such protests have happened and issued takedown notices to Meta and X for the removal of the misleading content. We have also started identifying the handles and warning them of legal action if the behaviour continues," the officer said.

The officer said no First Information Report had been registered so far.

The government's fact-check unit has also stepped in to counter the viral claims. The Press Information Bureau Fact Check Unit said videos being circulated under titles such as "Jantar Mantar Season 2" and "Jantar Mantar protest session 2.0" falsely claimed that protests had resumed in New Delhi. "The viral videos are old, and an attempt is being made to mislead people by sharing them," the unit said, urging the public to remain cautious while sharing unverified content online.

School van vandalised in U.P.; colleges, schools shut amid Kanwar Yatra

Lucknow police book 3 unidentified persons; educational institutes in Meerut, Ghaziabad, Baghpat dists. to remain closed till Aug. 12; Baghpat admin. warns of action against violation of closure order

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

A school van carrying students was attacked with stones and vandalised in Lucknow on Monday by a group of men said to be part of the ongoing Kanwar Yatra. Lucknow Police has booked three unidentified individuals after the incident. The police, however, have not confirmed the identity of the drivers.

The driver of the van told the police that a group of bike-borne youths threatened to kill him before fleeing, officials said, adding that a case has been registered under Sections 131 (attack another person without any reason) and 351(2) (criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. "At Charak Crossing under Chowk police station today morning, three unidentified people vandalised a school van. On getting information, police reached the spot. But the unidentified drivers had fled. Strict action will be taken against the guilty," said Lucknow's Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Kamlesh Kumar Dixit.

A police officer keeping watch with binoculars from an elevated observation post during the Kanwar Yatra, in Meerut on Monday. ANI

Videos of the vandalised vehicle doing the rounds on social media showed that the window glass was smashed and schoolgirls were standing on the street crying. The visuals invited widespread online outrage.

"Shravan is a holy month for the people of Sanatana faith, but some anti-social elements try to fuel unrest in the grab of *kanwariyas* and create division on communal lines. The fact is such elements are being tactically nurtured by a section of the ruling dispensation for political gains," said Anil Yadav, a senior Uttar Pradesh Congress leader.

Meanwhile, officials said educational institutions in Meerut, Ghaziabad and Baghpat districts will remain closed till August 12 in view of the heavy movement of *kanwariyas*. In Meerut, the district administration said the decision was taken to ensure students' safety and facilitate traffic management.

Ghaziabad and Meerut administrations said examinations already notified for any course or subject would be held as scheduled and be exempt from the closure order.

Muzaffarnagar had earlier announced the closure of all schools and colleges from August 3 to 10 for similar reasons. Meat shops and restaurants along Kanwar routes were also ordered to remain shut till August 12. Besides, several entry and exit gates of 17 Namo Bharat stations between Ghaziabad and Modipuram will remain closed from August 4-12, the National Capital Region Transport Corporation said.

(With inputs from PTI)

Woman teacher stabbed to death in Faridabad school; accused arrested

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

A 32-year-old woman teacher was stabbed to death allegedly by a stalker inside a private school in Faridabad on Monday morning. The police arrested the accused, identified as Amit, a resident of Kot village, within two hours of the incident.

According to the police and eyewitnesses, Mr. Amit entered the school in Sikrauna village wearing a mask around 10 a.m. and made his way to the staff room. He spoke to the teacher for a few seconds before pulling out a knife and suddenly attacking her. Hearing her screams, other staff members rushed to the spot and attempted to intervene. The assailant, however, managed to flee. The teacher was rushed to the Civil Hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival.

I-Day security: Delhi Police uses eParikshan app to identify 14,000 premises along Red Fort route

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As part of enhanced security arrangements ahead of Independence Day, Delhi Police has identified at least 14,000 households, shops, and offices located near the route to be used for VIP and other movement during celebrations at Red Fort on August 15.

According to senior officials, the data was obtained using the eParikshan app and will be shared with the Special Branch for identification of people with criminal antecedents.

According to officials, the app is used by Delhi Police internally to verify and digitise premises and occupants. During field visits, police personnel use the app to assign a unique Premises Identification Number to each house and record details of residents, tenants, domestic helps or employees.

Not private land, says SC, restores gram panchayat rights over 436 bighas in Gurugram after 19 years

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday restored the ownership of over 436 bighas of land in Gurugram to a gram panchayat while setting aside a 2007 Punjab and Haryana High Court judgment that had recognised private ownership claims. In a landmark ruling, a Bench comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and K. Vinod Chandran said, "Land is considered the 'new gold'. More so, when such land is proximate to expanding urban agglomerations like Gurugram." Justice Kumar held that the disputed land constituted "*shamilat deh*" (village common land) under the Haryana Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1961. It held that the HC erred in treating it as private because the records reflected the names of village "*pattis*" (proprietary groups).

Lamp row: SC agrees to hear T.N.'s plea, but refuses relief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday decided to examine a petition filed by the Tamil Nadu government challenging orders passed by the Madras High Court on lighting a lamp at a stone pillar near a dargah on the Thirupparankundram hill.

A Bench issued notice to the Madurai Collector, the Joint Commissioner of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department and others on a plea filed by the Commissioner, HR&CE, Chennai.

The Bench refused to grant any interim relief and said the case would be heard after the respondents filed their affidavits in six weeks. It listed the case for hearing in eight weeks.

Timings
DELHI

TUESDAY, AUG. 04		
RISE	05:45	SET 19:10
RISE	22:23	SET 10:53
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 05		
RISE	05:45	SET 19:09
RISE	22:59	SET 11:56
THURSDAY, AUG. 06		
RISE	05:46	SET 19:09
RISE	23:42	SET 13:02

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	36	28
Safdarjang	36	28
Palam	34	26

Delhi Palam Today
36ºC The weather will be very warm. Spell of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur. Night will be comfortable.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
34ºC The weather will be warm. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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

SCHOOL HOSTS ANNUAL EXHIBITION

Apeejay School, Pitampura, hosted their Annual Exhibition on the theme "From Indus to AI: A Journey of Civilization, Innovation and Imagination," graced by Prof. Vinita Jindal, Department of Computer Science, Keshav Mahavidyalaya, and Dr. Shashank Shekhar Sinha, Publishing Director, Routledge (South Asia). The exhibition featured working models and research displays tracing India's journey from the Indus Valley to Artificial Intelligence, alongside a cultural programme of skits, folk dances and a futuristic AI performance. Principal Mrs. Veena Goel applauded the students' efforts, calling it a reflection of heritage and innovation.

GIRLS' FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP WON

Birla Balika Vidyapeeth (BBVP), Pilani, emerged champions of the IPSC Pre-Subroto Cup Under-17 Girls Football Championship, defeating Pinegrove School, Dharampur, 3–0, while Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar, took third place. Ms. Happy Khichar, Indian women's cricketer, inaugurated the tournament, and Ms. Babita Meena, Rajasthan Senior Women's Cricket Team member, presented trophies. Unnati Chandel, Pallavi Pal, and Rinyum Dhoka (all BBVP) won Player of the Match, Best Defender and Top Scorer respectively; Jannat (Pinegrove) was Best Midfielder. BBVP will now represent IPSC at the Subroto Cup International Tournament.

BOYS' FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Vidya Niketan Birla Public School (BPS), Pilani, hosted the grand opening of the All India IPSC Under-17 Boys' Football Tournament 2026, bringing together teams from schools of the Indian Public Schools' Conference. Mrs Pooja Sihag, Commonwealth Games bronze medallist and freestyle wrestler, was Chief Guest, while Major General S. S. Nair (Retd.), AVSM, Director, Birla Education Trust, was Guest of Honour. Principal Mrs Kajal Marwah welcomed the dignitaries with floral bouquets. The five-day tournament will showcase young footballers' sporting talent, discipline and team spirit.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Kapil Nagar:
Handphone:+91 9810089457/Email: kapil.nagar@thehindu.co.in

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(E-Auction Sale 24-08-2026)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provison to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property/mortgaged/charged to the Central Bank of India, Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Central Bank of India, Gwalior M.P. will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis on 24.08.2026 for recovery of amount due to the Central Bank of India.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY, RESERVE PRICE & EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT

Branch name	Name of the Borrower's	Details of Secured Asset(s) and Name and Address of title/Lessee Holder(s)/Owner of Secured Asset(s) Who create Security interest	Date of Demand Notice/ Possession Notice	Reserve Price	EMD	Bid Increase Amount
Banmore Morena	M/S, S.P. PLASTIC INDUSTRIES Add. Plot No. R-11, situated at industrial area at Banmore, Distt. Morena M.P.-476444 1. Shri Rajesh Dubey S/o Shri Ramnarayan Dubey R/o- Anand Nagar, Near Navgrah Mandir, Bahodapur, Gwalior Distt. Gwalior M.P. - 474008 2. Shri Prakash Gupta S/o Shri Ramkishan Gupta R/o- Gargaj Colony, Bahodapur, Gwalior, Distt. Gwalior, M.P.-474008 3. M/S, MAA RAMSHREE AGRO INFRA Add. Jhansi Road, Dabra, Distt. Gwalior, M.P.-475110 Represented by its partners- A. Shri Mohan Lal Bhutani S/o Shri Ramrang Bhutani (Expired on 19.03.2020) Legal Heirs of Late Mohan Lal Bhutani S/o Shri Ramrang Bhutani i) Shri Ranjan Bhutani S/o Late Mohan Lal Bhutani R/o- B-53, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish Marg, Rani Bagh, North-West Delhi. 110034 ii) Shri Rakesh Bhutani S/o Late Mohan Lal Bhutani R/o- B-53, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish Marg, Rani Bagh, North-West Delhi 110034 iii) Shri Sushil Bhutani S/o Late Mohan Lal Bhutani R/o- B-53, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish Marg, Rani Bagh, North-West Delhi 110034 iv) Smt Kiran W/o Late Mohan Lal Bhutani R/o- B-53, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish marg, Rani Bagh, North-West Delhi 110034 B. Shri Radheyshyam Gupta S/o Shri Siya Ram Gupta @ Shri Siya Sharan Gupta, R/o- Mahaveer Colony, Balla ka Dera, Dabra, Distt. Gwalior, M.P.-475110 4. Shri Ranjan Bhutani S/o Shri Mohan Lal Bhutani R/o- B-53, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish Marg, Rani Bagh, North-West Delhi- 110034 R/o- F-219, House No. 211/ 250, Rishi Nagar, Rani Bagh, New Delhi-110034 5. Shri Rakesh Bhutani S/o Shri Mohan Lal Bhutani R/o- B-53, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish Marg, Rani Bagh, North-West Delhi 110034 6. Mrs. Rachna Gupta W/o Shri Radheshyam Gupta R/o- Mahaveer Colony, Balla ka Dera, Dabra, Distt. Gwalior, M.P. - 475110	Immovable asset : (A) Equitable Mortgage of Commercial Land & Property measuring 0.110 Hectares situated at Village Magrora, Patwari Halka No. 50, Part of Survey No. 553/3, Tehsil Dabra & Distt. Gwalior-475110 in name of Shri Ranjan Bhutani S/o Shri Mohan Lal Bhutani as per Registered Sale Deed Volume no. 5835, Document no. 7984 dated 29.03.2011 Registered with Sub/Joint Registrar Dabra, Madhya Pradesh. bounded as under- EAST- Gwalior Jhansi Road, WEST- Land of Smt. Rachna Gupta, NORTH- Land of Shri Radhey Gupta, SOUTH- 10 feet Way (kaccha rasta) (B) Equitable Mortgage of Commercial Land & Property measuring 0.098 Hectares situated at Village Magrora, Patwari Halka No. 50, Part of Survey No. 553/2 & 553/3, Tehsil Dabra & Distt. Gwalior-475110 in name of Shri Radheyshyam Gupta S/o Shri Siyaram Gupta @ Shri Siya Sharan Gupta, as per Registered Sale Deed Volume No. 5835 Documents No.7985 dated 29.03.2011 Registered with Sub/Joint Registrar Dabra, Madhya Pradesh, bounded as under- EAST- Gwalior Jhansi Road, WEST- Land of Smt. Rachna Gupta, NORTH- Land of Shri Manoj Gupta, SOUTH- Land of Shri Ranjan Bhutani (C) Equitable Mortgage of Commercial Land & Property measuring 0.840 Hectares situated at Village Magrora, Patwari Halka No. 50, Part of Survey No. 556/min, Tehsil Dabra & Distt. Gwalior-475110 in name of Shri Mohan Lal Bhutani S/o Shri Ramrang Bhutani & Shri Radheyshyam Gupta S/o Shri Siyaram Gupta @ Shri Siyasharan Gupta as per Registered Sale Deed Volume No. 5822 Documents No. 7728 dated 18.03.2011 Registered with Sub/Joint Registrar Dabra, Madhya Pradesh, bounded as under- EAST- Land of Seller Devendra singh, WEST- Land (Khet) Rawat, NORTH- Land of Gajander singh - Pushpendra singh, SOUTH- 10 feet Way (kaccha rasta); (D) Equitable Mortgage of Commercial Land & Property measuring 0.260 Hectares situated at Village Magrora, Patwari Halka No. 50, Part of Survey No. 556, 553/3, Tehsil Dabra & Distt. Gwalior-475110 in name of Smt Rachna Gupta W/o Shri Radheyshyam Gupta and Shri Rakesh Bhutani S/o Shri Mohan Lal Bhutani as per Registered Sale Deed Volume No. 5833 Documents No. 7954 dated 28.03.2011 Registered with Sub/Joint Registrar Dabra, Madhya Pradesh bounded as under- EAST- Land of Seller Devendra Singh, WEST- Land of Radheshyam Gupta etc, NORTH- Land of Pushpendra Rawat, SOUTH- 10 feet Way (kaccha rasta)	10.10.2025 / 03.01.2026	7,02,00,000/- [Rs. Seven Crore Two Lakhs only]	70,20,000/- [Rs. Seventy Lakhs Twenty Thousand only]	7,00,000/- [Rs. Seven Lakhs only]

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Date : 03.08.2026, Place : Gwalior, M.P. ; AUTHORISED OFFICER CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA,REGIONAL OFFICE- GWALIOR, M.P.

UJVN LTD.
H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135 - 2763808, Fax 0135-2763508
CIN No.:U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website.: www.ujvnl.uk.gov.in

Letter No 650 **Notice Inviting e-Tender** Dated 03.08.2026
Office of the Executive Engineer (Solar), "Ujjwal", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S Road, UJVN Ltd., Dehradun, invites Online tariff based competitive bid (RfP) of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on BOOT basis under partial VGF Scheme through PSDF from interested parties. Summary of bid (RfP) document is given below:
Bid Identification Nos.: T-01/EE(Solar)/2026-27
Name of the Work : Setting-up of 90 MW/225 MWh Standalone Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) near Chilla HEP, District-Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand.
Date for availability of bid document on the portal : 04-08-2026 from 16:00 Hrs.
Last Date / Time of Receipt of bid on the portal : 25-08-2026 till 16:00 Hrs.
Detail of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancelation etc. may be obtained from the website.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in.
Executive Engineer (Solar)
"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

Superintending Engineer 4th Circle, HPPWD Shimla
(Name of Authority Inviting Bids) **NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**
The Superintending Engineer Shimla Circle HPPWD Shimla on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rate-bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of road under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for following work including its maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD. Non registered contractors may submit the bids, however successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authority in HPPWD.

District	RIDF	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh) without GST		Total Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Form Cost	Period of Completion
			Constr--uction	Mainte--nance			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Shimla	RIDF-XXXI	Upgradation and improvement of Lambidhar to Tikri road km. 0/00 to 5/280).	369.92	36.75	406.67	7000/-	365 days

(9) **Bid Security (Rs. Lakh):-** 11.66
(10) **Starting date for downloading bid:-**05-08-2026
(11) **Deadline for submission of bid:-** 22-08-2026
The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the departmental website www.hptender.gov.in . The Superintending Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.
Superintending Engineer,
HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK 4th Circle, H.P.P.W.D., Shimla-3
HP / 2381/26-27 E-mail: hp-shi3@nic.in

INBRIEF

Stay extended on demolition of Jauhar university buildings

The Moradabad Divisional Commissioner's court on Monday extended till August 10 the interim stay on the proposed demolition of 38 buildings at Mohammad Ali Jauhar University in Rampur, providing temporary relief to the institution in the long-running dispute with authorities. Divisional Commissioner Anjaneya Kumar Singh, after hearing both sides, allowed the earlier interim order to continue and fixed August 10 as the next date of hearing. The dispute stems from a July 15 order by the Rampur Development Authority, directing the university administration to demolish 38 of its 40 buildings within 15 days. PTI

Former MLA Dalbir Singh Verka joins Waris Punjab De

Former two-time MLA Dalbir Singh Verka joined the Amritpal Singh-led Akali Dal Waris Punjab De in Amritsar on Monday. Mr. Verka joined the party with his brother Vikramjit Singh Kotla, a member of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee. Welcoming the duo into the party, Akali Dal Waris Punjab De officiating chief Tarsem Singh, father of Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh, said the induction of Mr. Verka and Mr. Kotla would strengthen the party in Punjab ahead of the 2027 Assembly poll. Mr. Verka began his political career with the Congress and was first elected to the Punjab Assembly from the Verka constituency (now Amritsar East) in 1985. PTI

Suvendu to meet NCPI MPs in Delhi today as TMC stares at more exits

While NCPI leaders say CM meeting agenda is 'development in our respective parliamentary constituencies', it comes against backdrop of 20 MPs aligning with NDA coalition in Lok Sabha

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari is likely to meet MPs of the Nationalist Citizens Party of India on Tuesday. Senior NCPI MPs Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar have confirmed the meeting, which would be the first between the Chief Minister and the 20 MPs who defected from Trinamool Congress (TMC) and joined the fledgling party.

"The agenda of the meeting is development in our respective parliamentary constituencies. A large number of our party workers are still homeless after the change of government. We want them to be brought back to their homes," Mr. Bandyopadhyay told mediapersons in Delhi. He said Mr. Adhikari was supposed to meet the MPs last week but the meeting could not be held since he could not arrive in Delhi in time. Ms. Dastidar, who left for Delhi, said all NCPI MPs will meet the Chief Minister.

The meeting will be the first between the Chief Minister and the 20 MPs who defected from Trinamool Congress. FILE PHOTO

The Tuesday meeting is being held against the backdrop of the 20 MPs stating that they are part of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the Centre. Recently, they attended the NDA parliamentary party's weekly 'Mangal Milan' meeting.

Meanwhile, speculations are rife that leaders from the 'Kalighat camp', which comprises of the loyalists of Trinamool founder Mamata Banerjee, are likely to switch sides and join the NCPI. They include two Lok Sabha members. The Trinamool has roughly eight MPs in the Lower House at this point after the desertions after having won 29 seats in the 2024 general election. Reacting to the speculations, Mamata loyalist and Beleghata MLA Kunal Ghosh blamed it on "pressure from the police and administration". He claimed that about 30 out of 65 MLAs who are supporting Leader of Opposition Ritabrata Banerjee are also in touch with Ms. Banerjee. The Trinamool had won 80 seats in the Assembly election held earlier this year.

Frozen funds

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court on Monday urged the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to consider allowing the Trinamool access to a portion of the funds lying in three debit-frozen bank accounts, observing that the party would require money to meet its day-to-day expenses.

The court, however, made it clear that it would not examine at this stage the merits of the dispute over the legality of the freezing order, which remains pending before the Calcutta High Court.

A Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and P.B. Varale was hearing the Trinamool's appeal against a July 20 order of the High Court refusing to grant interim relief against the ED's decision to freeze three HDFC Bank accounts belonging to the party as part of a money-laundering investigation.

(With inputs from Aaratrika Bhaumik in New Delhi)

Palaniswami urged to let Dhinakaran, Sasikala rejoin party

The Hindu Bureau
PALANI/SALEM

Refusing to accept the new posts given to them in the AIADMK, leaders including C.Ve. Shanmugam, Natham R. Viswanathan, S.P. Velumani, and K.P. Anbalagan, said they would fall in line with party general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami only after he agreed to listen to their demands.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Velumani said they had already urged Mr. Palaniswami to convene a meeting to discuss threadbare the reasons for the defeat in the elections. "We still have not reached any accord on that, and we have not accepted the posts given to us," he said.

The AIADMK, they said, should readmit T.T.V. Dhinakaran, V.K. Sasikala, and others into the party, which alone would give a fillip to the cadre. Unity within the party was mandatory, especially, in the present day context, they said and added that the party could no longer afford to lose elections. To achieve this, the high command should listen to the views of others and take everyone back into the organisation, they contended.

Without mentioning Mr. Palaniswami's name, the leaders said that if the lost sheen of the party was to be brought back, the high command should change its attitude.

AIADMK leader E. Palaniswami

"We know very well that losing or winning an election is common for a political party, but the leader should convene a meeting and discuss the reasons for the defeat," one of the leaders said.

'Falling numbers'

Mr. Viswanathan said after the demise of J. Jayalalithaa, the AIADMK had 134 members in the Assembly. It had fallen to third place in terms of its representation in Assembly today. "We are only apprehensive about the organisation and its future," he clarified. The leaders were in Palani to participate in the opening of the MLA office.

Noisy scenes in Punjab House as Cong. demands Minister's resignation over 'paper leaks'

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Assembly on Monday witnessed noisy scenes as Congress MLAs demanded the resignation of Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains over alleged examination paper leaks in the State.

During the Question Hour, Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa alleged multiple paper leaks in Punjab over the last four and a half years under Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) regime.

Mr. Bajwa said as many as six exam paper leak incidents took place during the AAP regime. "Hence, Education Minister Harjot Bains should resign," he said.

Later, the State Assembly passed a censure motion by voice vote against paper leaks, expressing solidarity with students across the country.

Punjab Minister Harpal Singh Cheema addressing mediapersons on the opening day of the Assembly in Chandigarh on Monday. PTI

Winding up the debate on the motion, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said, "Repeated paper leaks under the BJP-led Union government has shattered the aspirations of crores of students, while those seeking justice were met with tear gas shells, pellet guns and police action instead of accountability."

Earlier, the Leader of the Opposition also sought the resignation of Health Minister Balbir Singh over the recent cheating racket unearthed during the pharmacy officer recruitment examination.

The Congress MLAs rushed to the Well of the House and raised slogans against the AAP government, seeking resignation of both the Ministers following which the House was briefly adjourned.

Youth Cong. workers stage protest outside Gadkari's Nagpur house

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Pradesh Youth Congress (MPYC) on Monday staged a protest outside Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari's residence in Nagpur district on Monday over the Central government's ethanol-blended fuel policy, criticising the increased financial burden on vehicle owners, the impact on older vehicles, and shortcomings in its implementation.

MPYC chief Shivraj More led the march from Chitnavis Park Square in Mahal to Gadkari Wada at 1 p.m., with protesters raising slogans against E20 fuel and alleging that it was not suitable for vehicles. The police deployed heavy security and erected barricades near the Union Minister's residence. Some protesters attempted to cross the barricades before being stopped, following which at least 30 office-bearers and party functionaries were detained, police officials said.

"Several Congress workers were taken into custody. But the fight is bigger. E20 is destroying vehicles. Secondly, the government, including Nitin Gadkari, promised E20 petrol at a lower price of around ₹50. Then why is petrol still above ₹100? We will keep voicing the issue," said Nagpur Congress chief Praful Gudade.

Minister criticised

On Monday, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh criticised Mr. Gadkari on X, saying, "He claimed that the E20 was rolled out after scientific testing of no vehicle damage, but consumers have complained of reduced mileage, engine performance issues, and viability of E20 petrol."

Wife of slain Bihar officer seeks narco test on accused; police say no political link

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

The family members of Dehri-Dalmianagar Municipal Council Executive Officer (EO) Vimal Kumar, who was allegedly killed by his driver while travelling to Patna, on Monday demanded a fair investigation into the case, including a narco-analysis test on the accused.

The officer was on his way home from Dehri-on-Sone in Rohtas district on Saturday when he was attacked in a deserted area. While the police have arrested the EO's driver, Mithilesh Kumar, his wife has alleged the involvement of a Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) MLA in the murder.

Babita Vimal, wife of the slain officer, said, "The driver alone cannot execute such a crime. I request the Chief Minister to conduct a narco-analysis test on the accused and punish all those involved in the killing of my husband."

The slain officer's wife, Babita Vimal, has alleged the involvement of an LJP (Ramvilas) MLA in the murder. FILE PHOTO

Inspector General of Police (Magadh range) Vikash Vaibhav said an FIR in the case has been lodged at the Barun police station of Aurangabad.

"The driver has been consistently changing his statements to the police. Further investigation in the case is going on and all those found guilty will not be spared," he said. The officer, however, said "no political angle" has been found so far in the case. The police also claimed to have recovered an iron rod with which the driver had allegedly attacked Vimal before disposing of the weapon in a nearby canal.

Ms. Babita earlier said her husband had told her over phone on Saturday that he was coming home and they'd have dinner together. "But who knew it was going to be his last call!" she said in a choked voice.

Speaking about the couple's children, Vijay Kumar, a relative, said the incident has left Vaishnavi, 7, and Vivan, 5, in a state of deep shock. "They have not been eating or saying anything since the incident."

Delhi to set up modern housing unit for children in conflict with law

Shrimansi Kaushik
NEW DELHI

The Department of Women and Child Development (WCD) has submitted a proposal to the Public Works Department (PWD) for an integrated 8-acre residential facility in Alipur to house at least 700 children in conflict with law (CCL) and asked the PWD to prepare a cost estimate.

A CCL is a person below the age of 18 who is alleged or found to have committed an offence.

The proposed facility in the north-west Delhi suburb has been envisioned as a modern residential unit with classrooms, skill development and vocational training centres, sports and recreation facilities, healthcare services, digital learning facilities and dedicated counselling spaces.

There are currently five observation homes, two places of safety and a special home for children in conflict with law, in Delhi. Seen here, a juvenile home in Feroz Shah Kotla. FILE PHOTO

As per the WCD proposal, the integrated facility, which would house at least 700 children aged seven and above, would have 52 dormitories and 10 classrooms with digital facilities. "As per our estimate, around 175 people, including 28 educators and 14 psychologists and counsellors, would be needed to run it," a WCD official said.

The official added, "The inmates will be enrolled in various skill development and diploma courses offered by the Delhi Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology."

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta had announced such a facility during a speech in February.

"It will not be a punitive institution but will rather be developed with the objective of providing a safe environment, a dignified life and opportunities for reform," the CM had said.

Comprehensive care

WCD Secretary Rashmi Singh said, "The proposed facility will have a dedicated mental health unit with qualified counsellors, psychologists and other mental health professionals to provide comprehensive psychosocial care and rehabilitation support."

She added that the residents will be grouped by age (7-12, 13-15 and 16-18) and gender (male and female) to avoid conflicts.

To support the rehabilitation of the occupants, the WCD has partnered with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to provide vocational training in air conditioner and refrigerator repair, pottery, papad and spice making, and signed an MoU with an NGO to promote adolescent development through life skills programmes.

Currently, Delhi has five 'observation homes', two 'places of safety' and one 'special home' for CCL.

An observation home is a temporary residential facility where CCL are held while their case is heard before a Juvenile Justice Board (JJB). A special home is where juveniles who are found to have committed an offence are sent for rehabilitation and reform. A place of safety is where those aged 16 to 18 who are found to have committed heinous crimes are kept.

People working with juveniles at these homes said such facilities face significant challenges.

Significant challenges

"Overcrowding is a challenge. There is a shortage of social workers, psychologists and educators. Psychological first aid and counselling services need to improve significantly," said Ravi Kant, the national convener of Just Rights for Children that runs an Observation Home in Delhi.

"Due to staff shortage, the quality of care at these facilities is basic. Moreover, the employees at such facilities are not sensitised or trained to deal with children who need special care, such as those facing trauma," said Rita Singh, a former Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights member.

Odisha seeks UNESCO tag for Puri Rath Yatra

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has sought the nomination of the Rath Yatra of Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri for inclusion in UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

"The Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath is not merely a religious festival but a timeless tradition that embodies India's rich cultural diversity, inclusivity, spirituality, craftsmanship, music, dance and community participation. Celebrated for centuries, it attracts millions of devotees and visitors from across the globe and stands as one of the most enduring symbols of India's living heritage," Mr. Majhi said in a letter addressed to Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Saturday.

The Chief Minister sought the intervention of Mr. Shekhawat to facilitate the examination of a proposal submitted by the Shree Jagannath Temple administration seeking the nomination of the Rath Yatra of Shree Jagannathan, Puri for inclusion in UNESCO's heritage List.

BJD criticises move

The Biju Janata Dal, however, said the Chief Minister's letter is "nothing more than a publicity-oriented exercise" aimed at diverting attention from the Bharatiya Janata Party government's alleged failure to conduct the past three Rath Yatras flawlessly.

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HC grants bail to 9 accused of attacking ED officials

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has allowed the bail petitions of nine accused in the attack on Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials during a raid on former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's residence in May. Justice Kauser Edappagath granted bail to the accused, reasoning that they had been in remand for more than 60 days and that they had no criminal history.

The court noted that, according to the case diary, the accusation against the petitioners was very serious and it showed a premeditated criminal act. However, the investigation was in its final stage, with fingerprints of the 25 accused sent for analysis.

Rain toll rises to 18 in Kerala; over 13,000 in relief camps across State

CM Satheesan says the situation in most districts is now under control following a decline in rainfall; urges residents in vulnerable locations to relocate immediately; announces rehabilitation package; ₹8 lakh to be given to families of deceased

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Heavy showers continued to batter parts of Kerala for the third consecutive day on Monday, taking the death toll to 18, despite a considerable reduction in the intensity of rain.

Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan, who chaired an emergency meeting on Monday morning to review the flood situation, said the situation in most districts was now under control following a decline in rainfall. However, 18 people have lost their lives in rain-related incidents, while three others remain missing, according to official figures.

Residents of Kannadikkal vacating their houses after water levels in the Poonoor River in Kozhikode rose on Monday. K. RAGESH

A total of 13,496 people are currently sheltering in 363 relief camps across the State.

Addressing a press conference after a review meeting, the Chief Minister said teams of the Fire and Rescue Services and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) had been deployed in the worst-affected areas, including Pathanamthitta and Kottayam, to carry out rescue operations.

Preparations have been completed to air-drop food packets to people stranded in isolated areas. Mr. Satheesan urged residents in vulnerable locations to relocate immediately as instructed by authorities.

The government has announced a total compensation of ₹8 lakh for families of the deceased, with an immediate assistance of ₹10,000 to meet funeral expenses. Families returning from relief camps will be provided ₹10,000 to clean their houses. For a ration card-holding family that lost its livelihood, ₹300 each will be provided to two members until normalcy returns. As part of the rehabilitation package, assistance for purchasing land and constructing a house has been increased from ₹10 lakh to ₹12 lakh, while compensation for those who have lost their houses has been raised from ₹4 lakh to ₹6 lakh.

Mr. Satheesan said the flooding was triggered by extremely heavy rainfall, with some places recording over 350 mm of rain. He clarified that no major dams had been opened because of the heavy rainfall. Only smaller dams with comparatively lower storage capacity, such as Moozhiyar, had released water.

The India Meteorological department (IMD) issued an orange alert for 12 districts for Tuesday.

SC summons officials over Arunachal govt. not cooperating with CBI investigation

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday summoned the Arunachal Pradesh Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary (Home) after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) alleged that the State government had failed to cooperate with its probe into allegations that Chief Minister Pema Khandu had favoured firms linked to his family members in the award of government contracts over the past decade.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta was examining a status report filed by the Central agency pursuant to the court's earlier directions when it was informed that the Arunachal Pradesh government had not cooperated in providing records sought by the CBI during its preliminary inquiry.

Taking note of the agency's report, the Bench directed both senior officials to appear before it on August 24, 2026, and explain the State government's alleged failure to comply with the court's earlier directions.

The order was passed in a Public Interest Litigation filed by the Save Mon Region Federation and Voluntary Arunachal Sena, alleging that several high value contracts for development works in Tawang district were awarded to firms linked to the Chief Minister and his family members.

Earlier, the top court

The CBI has alleged that the State govt. failed to cooperate with its probe into contracts linked to CM Pema Khandu's family members. FILE PHOTO

had directed the State government to produce records relating to all contracts awarded across Arunachal Pradesh to the firms named in the petition.

Questions delay

On Monday, Justice Mehta questioned Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj, appearing for the CBI, on the progress of the preliminary inquiry and asked whether the agency was giving a "long rope" to the Chief Minister despite having collected sufficient material.

Mr. Nataraj informed the Bench that the State government had not been cooperating with the inquiry and was yet to furnish all the documents sought by the agency.

"The government is yet to furnish all the requisite documents... We will initiate steps in the proper manner. Let the State government cooperate," he submitted.

Karnataka Cabinet expanded amid protests, rebellion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The D.K. Shivakumar-led Congress government in Karnataka on Monday expanded the Cabinet inducting 19 legislators. While eight of the new Ministers are first-timers, six from the former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Cabinet have been retained.

Though the name of A.V. Gayatri Shanthegowda figured in the initial list of legislators, ultimately, she was not sworn in. The Cabinet does not have representation for women.

The party initially decided to fill up the entire Cabinet quota of 34, but eventually kept one berth vacant after pressure mounted. The list was modified hours before the swearing in.

The party has also named its candidates for the posts of Speaker and Deputy Speaker in the Legislative Assembly and Chairman and Deputy Chairman in the Legislative Council.

B. Nagendra, who had resigned from former Chief

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar (left), and Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot (centre) at the oath-taking ceremony. ANI

Minister Siddaramaiah's Cabinet after his name surfaced in the multi-crore financial scam in Valmiki Development Corporation and later arrested, has made a comeback.

The Cabinet expansion has triggered widespread discontent in the ruling Congress. Yashwanthrayagouda Patil, three-time MLA from Indi, resigned as Assembly member, while Sagar Belur MLA Gopalakrishna also announced that he would resign on Tuesday.

Several senior legislators openly expressed disappointment over their exclusion.

"We will create one or the other opportunity and legislators have to remain patient," the Chief Minister said, appealing to the legislators.

The anger quickly spilled onto the streets, with supporters staging protests outside Legislators' Home in Bengaluru, burning tyres in some constituencies and raising slogans against the party leadership.

Political functionaries observed that last-minute changes to the Cabinet list reflected differences among Mr. Shivakumar, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and the Congress high command.

Apparently irked over the list of Ministers, Mr. Siddaramaiah did not attend the swearing-in ceremony at Lok Bhavan.

INBRIEF

Kerala HC allows two officials of *MSC Elsa 3* to return home

The Kerala High Court has allowed the Chief Officer and the Second Engineer of *MSC Elsa 3*, a Liberia-flagged vessel, to return to their home countries. The ship sank off Alappuzha's coast in May 2025, causing extensive marine pollution across the shores of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The ship's crew members had been detained in Kochi for over a year. The court directed the two crew members to execute a simple bond for ₹10 lakh or a cash deposit of ₹1 lakh before the Judicial First Class Magistrate, Kochi, with an undertaking that they would cooperate with the trial.

KRS dam crosses 100 ft. as rains hit south Karnataka

In the span of a week, water level in the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir in Mandya district of Karnataka, across the river Cauvery, has gone up by nearly 10 feet. On August 3, the water level breached the 100-foot mark against the maximum level of 124.80 feet with the inflow remaining steady following incessant rain in its catchment areas. The water-level was 100.34 feet at 8 a.m. on August 3. The revival of monsoon and improved storage levels in reservoirs across the Cauvery basin has brought much-needed relief to farmers.

A.P govt. launches inquiry into 3 tiger deaths in reserve

Three tiger deaths reported within less than three weeks in July have raised fresh concerns over wildlife protection in Andhra Pradesh, prompting the State to order a high-level inquiry into the incidents in the Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve. The recent deaths were reported from deep forest areas within the reserve. A senior forest official said that the causes of the deaths were under investigation and that the State government had constituted a committee to ascertain the reasons.

Bridging connectivity

The steel bridge which is being constructed over the Kondaveeti Vagu nears completion near Undavalli in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh on Monday. Kondaveeti Vagu is a natural flood-prone storm-water stream. K.V.S. GIRI

Karnataka may see highest draft-stage voter roll deletions

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

With more than 1.10 crore voters – one-fifth of the State's total electoral roll – marked under the Absent, Shifted, Duplicate, Dead and Others (ASDDO) category as on Monday, Karnataka is likely to record one of the highest draft-stage electoral roll deletions in the country. The ASDDO category currently covers 19.95% of Karnataka's voters.

Karnataka has already crossed the highest draft-stage deletions recorded in Uttar Pradesh (19.09%) and Arunachal Pradesh (18.7%), where the exercise concluded in April.

With over 2.41 lakh en-

The State has already crossed the highest draft-stage deletions recorded in U.P. and Arunachal Pradesh

umeration forms still pending digitisation, the ASDDO figure is likely to cross 20%, as recent trends show that over 60% of the forms digitised each day are being added to the ASDDO list.

Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbu Kumar admitted that the ASDDO list is intended to result in deletions, with names to be removed from the electoral roll unless voters object and establish that they are not shifted or absent.

DU student alleges Meta restricted four CJP protest videos

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi University (DU) student, whose 'Vastegunahuiyan' video went viral during the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest, alleged on Monday that Meta had made at least four of her Instagram videos unavailable in India.

In an Instagram video, Sakshi said three videos were restricted citing 'community guidelines', while a post was removed for "adult sexual exploitation and nudity". The restricted videos included one in which she imitated a police announcement declaring something illegal, another showing a truck carrying food for police after the July 20 lathi charge, and one featuring members of SFI singing about youth unemployment. She also said a video on Junaid – who gained fame for offering food to protesters at Jantar Mantar – and his family's alleged treatment by the police had been affected. "I do not know which community guidelines have I violated. On the other hand, when I reported certain posts directed as hate reels at me, no action was taken," she said.

Karnataka develops manual to establish child-centric village communities in State

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

In a significant development, Karnataka has developed a manual to train officials and community stakeholders in creating child-friendly villages across the State.

A senior official from the Abdul Nazir Sab State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, who was involved in preparing the manual, said, "In 2025, Halanayakanahalli in Bengaluru Urban district was recognised and rewarded by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in the Child-Friendly Village category. The village won a National Panchayat Award

Healthy childhood: Health check-ups must be done regularly to ensure that no child is malnourished, says the manual. FILE PHOTO

along with a cash prize of ₹75 lakh. "

"We studied the Halanayakanahalli case and several other villages across India while developing this manual," the official said. The manual has systematic guidelines framed for gram panchayat officials, school teachers, police officials, and individuals who work directly and indirectly towards protecting child rights.

Explaining the contents of the manual, the official said, "There should be 100% enrolment and attendance of children in schools and anganwadis. No child should be left out of school or become a child labourer in agricultural fields or elsewhere. Apart from this, 100% immunisation of children is mandatory. Health check-ups must be conducted regularly to ensure that no child is malnourished. More importantly, there should be no child marriages or teenage pregnancies. To achieve this, awareness programmes will be conducted for children, parents and teachers." The official added that villages must have well-maintained libraries to help children develop reading habits.

Proof of life

Bureaucratic paperwork must not result in exclusion

The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill 2026 passed in the Lok Sabha amends Section 13(3) of the 1969 Act. In the updated framework, registrations delayed for up to two years still require a district, a subdivisional or an authorised executive magistrate's order, but when the delay exceeds two years, a judicial magistrate is required to verify the event and pass an order. The 2023 amendment rendered birth certificates the principal, in fact near-conclusive, proof of date and place of birth for school admission, voter rolls and applications for passport, Aadhaar, driving licence and government jobs. It also allowed the Centre and States to create digital databases, and required them to share data with the Registrar General. As the certificate's gatekeeping power grew, so did the incentive to obtain one fraudulently, leading to the 2026 amendment. However, the Bill's passage lacked debate in the Lok Sabha as the Opposition was protesting the July 20 police crackdown on the CJP protests. Since identity documents have also become more politically sensitive, moving potentially more contentious cases into courts insulates the administration from accusations that it is arbitrarily granting or refusing documentation. But while judicial scrutiny places the decision at arm's length from the executive, erroneous decisions could prove more difficult for disadvantaged applicants to rectify.

The amendment also leaves the evidentiary rules unchanged. If the government believed executive magistrates were approving suspicious applications because the evidentiary standards were too lax, it could have prescribed more rigorous documentation, but it has not. Further, how the risk of fraudulent registrations rises after two years is unclear; the government has also not published evidence justifying a judicial magistrate's intervention at two years or whether it considered less burdensome alternatives. For now, it appears to be a compromise based possibly on shorter delays being common enough for administrative responses to resolve. Registrations are also not infrequently delayed for valid reasons, for example because they transpired in remote areas, or undocumented migrants realised a need for educational certificates. But when identity documents become indispensable to access state support, the government's policy instinct has been to raise the documents' level of assurance rather than render them more accessible. In the same vein, the amendment may further a broader philosophy that, in pursuit of bureaucratic certainty, treats the wrongful exclusion of legitimate citizens as an acceptable price to minimise the risk of wrongful inclusion. And the Rajya Sabha must debate the Bill to clarify whether this trade-off is backed by sufficient evidence.

FIFA foul

Football's governing body must embrace fairness, not chase profit

The collapse of FIFA's controversial plan that would have helped private investors benefit from the World Cup and other flagship competitions represents the latest hit to the global body's reputation. In the aftermath of the 2026 World Cup, FIFA president Gianni Infantino hurriedly put together strategies to form the FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) to consolidate all revenue-generating operations, and invite private bodies to hold non-controlling stakes in the body. But this elicited enormous backlash from a number of FIFA's 211 member associations, with European governing body UEFA even declaring that its 55 members would boycott the World Cup. Europe is football's nerve-centre, and with the Asian Football Confederation and players' union FIFPRO also expressing apprehensions, and one of Mr. Infantino's senior advisers quitting in protest, the scheme was a non-starter. The episode has also reduced Mr. Infantino's standing, especially after the controversy-ridden World Cup, where political interference by the U.S. – one of the co-hosts – and rampant commercialisation severely diminished 'the beautiful game'. The now-shelved FFE was to be backed by a venture capitalist with familial ties to U.S. President Donald Trump, making the whole deal all the more suspect. The 2027 FIFA election, where Mr. Infantino was expected to be re-elected for a third full term, is no longer a cake-walk.

The saga has brought back into focus the conflict at the heart of FIFA's functioning and the patronage politics it enables. FIFA is the global regulator of the sport, and ideally, its commercial wing should be kept at an arm's length. However, the organisation's structure is such that the revenue generated is often used as leverage to extract favour. As a non-profit, FIFA is duty-bound to redistribute income amongst its members, but presidents – past and present – have turned it into a vote-catching tool to hold on to power. To approve the FFE project, FIFA had reportedly offered each of its members $20 million upfront, and a direct beneficiary of this would have been Mr. Infantino at next year's election, for every association has one vote. However, history shows that moves to use legacy tournaments for self-aggrandisement are bound to fail. In 2018, the International Tennis Federation entered into a 25-year, $3 billion partnership with a private investment firm to re-jig the over-a-century-old Davis Cup, with the promise of extra money for the game's global development. That agreement lasted just five years, with the shift from the traditional home-and-away format deeply unpopular and considered soul-shattering to the sport. It is time FIFA re-inculcates fairness, embraces consensus and shuns its president's unilateralism.

AI and cyber, the double helix of today's security threats

M.K. Narayanan

Former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

The rapid proliferation of digital technologies is reshaping the global security landscape. What was once an interconnected, but relatively limited, digital world, has altered into a complex interconnected ecosystem where dangers and threats lurk at every step. The combination of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and cyber threats has emerged as one of the most critical concerns of the modern world.

While AI has changed from being merely an operational efficiency mechanism into an absolute infrastructure mandate, cyber threats are becoming more sophisticated, harder to detect and more difficult to mitigate. Today, AI-powered malware can adapt and evolve in response to changes in its environment, making it harder for traditional anti-virus software to detect. The global interconnectedness of digital systems has also raised the ante as far as cyber attacks are concerned. Malicious autonomous agents are today well positioned to undermine the legacy of "Zero Trust" protocols, aggravating insider threat vectors.

Meanwhile, as seen in the war in Ukraine, newer technologies are demonstrating the potential to undermine conventional military calculus through asymmetric impact. The rapid proliferation of digital technologies and systems across every discipline, cyber breaches and malicious activities are impacting every level of security. Many governments facing sophisticated cyber adversaries are drawing up a security architecture which involves a blend of innovation, policy coherence and strategic realism, but still lag behind.

A new disruptive era

AI, meanwhile, is reshaping every consequential domain of human activity. AI's Large Language Models (LLM) are intruding into many business enterprises, without either proper training or evolution of the human interface. As 'Agentic' AI – as distinct from Generative AI – becomes a force to reckon with, problems attached to AI implementation are set to become even more complex. The catalyst for such concerns is the arrival of the latest AI systems, notably Mythos, developed by United States firm Anthropic. According to experts it demonstrates an uncanny ability to detect 'Zero day' vulnerabilities across major operating systems. What is evident is that AI is beginning to test the limits of legacy systems.

AI's overarching influence makes it essential to understand the risks and threats it poses, especially when combined with cyber capabilities, where the danger grows exponentially. AI has already transformed modern warfare, as seen in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the U.S./Israel-Iran war. AI-powered smart systems can detect, track, and predict missile trajectories with remarkable accuracy. AI can also provide different kinds of intelligence from photos, text, radio, and electromagnetic signals to deny adversaries a tactical advantage. Munitions, such as systems dubbed "Goalkeeper" and "Whiplash" can independently identify and strike targets. Yet, nations, particularly the U.S., have not yet demonstrated a level of sagacity on how best to wield this power and in a manner that does not endanger human civilisation.

These developments are fuelling concerns about AI's future as increasingly capable models and robots replace human roles. LLMs and autonomous agents are already performing complex tasks once reserved for people. The World Economic Forum warns that while AI will strengthen cyber defences, it will also enable more sophisticated automated attacks, potentially rendering current "Zero Trust" protocols ineffective. This raises concerns that hard power may increasingly be shaped by nations and organisations at the forefront of AI.

Companies in the West such as Anthropic and Palantir are behaving as if they own the world of tomorrow, since they hold the key to the world's mightiest technology. Anthropic has reached a stage today where with Mythos, it creates the spectre of all-encompassing power residing in a single instrument that is not subject to any rules. China, perhaps, has its own version of Anthropic or something resembling it, but this is of little comfort to the rest of the world. What is becoming clearly evident is that an attacker with the latest version poses a grave threat to not merely one country but an entire civilisation.

An AI 'power shift'

As AI technologies become more rampant and uncontrollable, existing rules concerning cyber security may require to be completely rewritten. Many experts warn that as "Agentic Autonomous Operations" become even more sophisticated, the world could reach an inflection point that has grave forebodings for the world. Whether Mythos is the harbinger of this is yet to be determined, but it is generally acknowledged that the newer generations of AI machines provide opportunities for 'rogue groups' to demonstrate capabilities that were once associated with only nation states. As Agentic AI begins to displace Generative AI, enabling it to act more autonomously, threat levels are certain to go up still further. AI has, hence, the potential to become the dominant source of military and economic power, even as the rules to govern AI are still in a fledgling state. The bugle call has already been sounded by the pontiff of Anthropic, the AI firm that makes models such as Mythos, that it has the potential to become the dominant source of military and economic power as civilisation advances.

Notwithstanding the god-like properties of existing modern AI models, experts warn that they are often subject to "hallucinations", thus giving scope for distortions, producing misleading reactions. Judgments in such cases tend, quite often, to be subjective. Even otherwise, biases are known to creep into decisions dictated by AI, enhancing the danger posed by unrestricted reliance on AI. Furthermore, experts warn that it is vitally important to guard against such 'algorithmic radicalisation', and ensure that AI platforms do not push opinion makers towards extreme views.

A future that needs oversight, wisdom

The world, thus, appears to have reached a tipping point in AI progress and development. Already, some companies that are leading the AI charge are accusing others of stealing their technologies and expanding on them to their advantage. The latest is a charge made by the U.S. against China, *viz.*, that China's 'Moonshot' AI stole from Anthropic's most sophisticated AI Large Language Model 'Fable', to help create its latest AI version. Predictably, China has rejected this charge, but it reflects the intensity of the competition between the U.S. and China in this area. If Anthropic's claim is true – that its latest model has surpassed "all but the most skilled humans" in finding and exploiting security vulnerabilities in everything from popular operating systems to cryptographic software – the world could face a new kind of apocalypse.

The world has steadily progressed from abiding concerns of stagnant economic growth to doomsday technologies, and this merits a great deal of introspection. Altruism is not enough to decide on how to handle a technology that is about to eat up the world. There are several aspects of advanced AI that clearly demand more introspection, but this is not evident. As AI increasingly enters into the arena of defence sensing and warning, there is a need not only to keep machines under human control but also to ensure that AI-dictated warnings do not outrun proper understanding and reality.

Those steeped in defence aspects already know the gap that exists between warning and understanding of what might happen, and how critical this is in strategic terms. High-powered AI systems may often prove unreliable as they may demonstrate a bias towards national security given that algorithms often display such biases. The world, hence, needs to reach an understanding on how best to deal with this new technology which can, and could, end or make the future of the world. What we have seen in Ukraine and West Asia is not even the tip of this iceberg. Better to "cross the river by feeling the stones" is a better maxim than 'blind prejudice or unadulterated endorsement of a new technology'.

Artificial intelligence and cyber threats pose unprecedented challenges to global security and economic stability

Critical minerals, the foundation of strategic power

Vinayak Vipul

Partner, Business Consulting, EY-Parthenon India

Critical minerals have moved from the margins of resource policy to the centre of industrial strategy and security. Lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, copper and rare earth elements are foundational to electric vehicles, storage, renewable power, semiconductors, defence and advanced manufacturing. As decarbonisation and digitalisation accelerate, mineral security is becoming as important as oil once was. The global supply picture is concentrated. For copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt, graphite and rare earth elements, the average market share of the top three refining countries rose to 86% in 2024, from around 82% in 2020. Incremental supply is tied to a few nodes: Indonesia for nickel, and China for cobalt, graphite and rare earths. China is the leading refiner in 19 out of 20 strategic minerals with an average market share of about 70%, making minerals geopolitical, not merely commercial.

Geopolitical risk as a factor

Clean energy transitions will require minerals far beyond today's production systems. The current copper project pipeline points to a potential 30% supply shortfall by 2035. Lithium appears better supplied in the near term but rising demand is expected to drive the market into deficit by the 2030s. Rare earth demand will rise sharply as wind power, electronics and magnets expand.

Geopolitical risk is compounding these pressures. China's rare earth export controls announced in 2025 created concerns across energy, automotive, defence, aerospace, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and semiconductors. Major economies are responding quickly. The European Union (EU) Critical Raw Materials Act sets 2030 benchmarks of 10% domestic extraction, 40% processing and 25% recycling, and no more than 65% from a single country. The United States is diversifying supply chains through partnerships.

India's clean energy and manufacturing ambitions are mineral intensive. Under a net zero scenario, cumulative demand for critical energy transition minerals could reach roughly 169 million tonnes by 2070, about 51% higher than under a current policy pathway. Copper demand will rise with power systems; rare earth demand will grow with wind energy and advanced manufacturing.

India has domestic potential, including reserves of cobalt (44.9 million tonnes), copper (163.9 million tonnes), graphite (211.6 million tonnes) and nickel (189 million tonnes), along with monazite deposits containing rare earth oxides. Recycling could eventually meet up to a quarter of copper and graphite demand by mid-century. Yet, reserves have not ensured supply security. India remains import dependent for lithium, cobalt and nickel, while graphite and China-dominated processing expose it to disruption as demand scales. The critical gap is processing and refining. India's position differs from the EU, the U.S. and Australia, which are building integrated supply chains through mandates, partnerships and processing investments. India is still developing foundational capability. While several minerals are processed domestically, capacity and high-purity production remain constrained. It has bulk-mineral experience but still relies on imports for high-purity critical mineral products.

This is where much value and vulnerability sit. In 2024, China accounted for over 90% of rare earths and graphite processing, nearly 75% of cobalt and 70% of lithium chemicals. India must build midstream capacity to participate meaningfully in supply chain realignment.

Structural constraints

Several constraints slow progress. Exploration remains relatively shallow, regulatory clearances can be time-consuming, private participation is limited and remote-region project economics are challenging. Processing is a larger bottleneck: India lacks some high-purity input facilities, while copper and graphite face smelting, purification and scale constraints. Recycling will play a role but cannot substitute for primary supply in the near term because feedstock, collection and technology remain limited.

India's policy response since 2023 marks a shift. The government has identified 30 critical minerals, strengthened regulatory frameworks, and launched the National Critical Mineral Mission to support the value chain. The mission targets 1,200 domestic exploration projects by 2030-31, production of at least 15 critical minerals, and acquisition of 50 overseas mining assets by Indian companies. The Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) has secured 15,703 hectares in Argentina's Catamarca province for lithium exploration, while the 2026-27 Budget proposed rare earth corridors in Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. The India-U.S. critical minerals and rare earths framework signed in May 2026 provides an additional diplomatic lever.

Mission to execution

The next phase is execution. Processing and refining must become a national industrial priority, backed by infrastructure and targeted incentives. Private capital needs better geological data, predictable approvals and risk sharing. India should also operationalise strategic stockpiles for critical minerals, accelerate applied research and development through industry partnerships, scale domestic capabilities and diversify overseas supply through trusted partners and platforms.

India energy transition, electronics, semiconductor, defence manufacturing, and advanced industrialisation all depend on secure mineral supplies. While individual policy measures are necessary, they are insufficient. A comprehensive strategy should establish mineral-specific risk thresholds, integrate recycling into supply planning, set measurable milestones, and create a coordinated institutional framework. The priority now is to convert potential into capability and reduce strategic vulnerability through sustained execution.

Critical mineral security will define India's industrial and strategic trajectory

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PM CARES Fund

It is disturbing that the PM CARES Fund has reportedly not made public its audited financial statements for the past three financial years, even as activists continue to raise concerns about its transparency. More surprising is that the fund has been kept outside the ambit of the RTI Act, parliamentary scrutiny, and audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). Anything associated with the Prime Minister, except matters affecting national security, should ordinarily be open to public scrutiny. When the government closely scrutinises non-governmental organisations and other charitable organisations receiving foreign contributions, and even cancels their licences for accounting irregularities, should not this fund also be subject to similar standards of accountability?

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

India at Glasgow

India's story at the 2026 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, with 39 medals, is about far more than a fourth-place finish. Despite fewer opportunities, our athletes chose courage over excuses. Every medal reflects years of sacrifice, silent tears, and relentless determination.

Today, we salute not only the medallists but also every athlete who gave their all. Champions are defined as much by their spirit as by their podium finishes. The journey continues, and India hopes for even greater performances ahead.

Mudgal Venkatesh,
Kalaburagi, Karnataka

Corrections & Clarifications

Gulveer Singh won the bronze medal in 5000m with a timing of 13:24.95s, and not 3:24.95s ('Sport' page, "Gulveer breaks new ground for Indian distance running", August 3, 2026).

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

The undermining of institutional opposition

Rajesh Mahapatra
Independent journalist and former editor of the Press Trust of India

Rohan D'Souza
Professor at Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University, Japan

Now that the Gen Z revolutionaries have exited Jantar Mantar, the analysts and strategists at the Prime Minister's Office must be taking stock. For starters, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's team got at least one decision right – the decision to get former Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to resign just in time. Any further delay would most likely have become a point of no return for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government. Demonstrations were occurring at the district level and a critical momentum was building across the nation with Bihar, the ground zero of unemployment, fast turning violent.

But apart from Mr. Pradhan's timely resignation, all the other interventions of the Government of India as a response to the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) movement was a mix between the ridiculous and the laughable. It is clear as daylight that the Prime Minister's team singularly failed to grasp who and what they were actually dealing with.

Brewing anger

The starting assumption of the government was that it was confronting a rag-tag collection of middle-class youth whose sense of politics was immature and lacking in stamina for any mass movement to emerge. The overwhelming official common sense was to let the CJP movement simply fizzle out in the monsoon heat and humidity. Part of the misreading involved keeping the CJP leaders waiting at Union Health Minister J.P Nadda's residence for over two hours, while the government simultaneously set up plans to cut a deal with Sonam Wangchuk alongside operationalising a brutal lathi charge on the Gen Z campaigners on July 20.

To the government's evident surprise, however, by July 20 evening, there was a massive turnaround in both the quality and quantity of the resistance. Not only did the CJP survive the brutal lathi charge and tear gas shelling, the campaign now took on the flavour of an all-India level 'revolt' of the people at large. An anti-Modi mood had become plainly discernible, with Instagram fired up with creative messaging and demonstrations by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s own taken-for-granted upper class and upper caste social base.

However, even at such a high-pressure moment, the best the Prime Minister's team could manage was a late night badly sketched Instagram video by Mr. Modi himself. Poorly executed and full of misplaced messaging, it, unsurprisingly, only added fuel to the fire. And after the Prime Minister released another hapless reel the following day, the Government of India finally threw in the towel with Mr. Pradhan's resignation.

There is no doubt that the CJP is every bit a rag-tag outfit that is organisationally inchoate. But what it nonetheless managed to effectively achieve was to quickly tap into and electrify a vast reservoir of resentment, anger, grievance and unhappiness amongst India's economically much beleaguered middle class and aspirational poorer classes. By doing so, it managed to reveal the considerable fragility within the Indian political landscape. The extreme centralisation of power has, over the years, been steadily undermining the resilience within Indian political institutions. Consequently, the CJP by pitching its campaign as a resistance rather than within the rules of institutional Opposition politics was able to rattle the highest level of political authority.

> The extreme centralisation of power has been steadily undermining the resilience within Indian political institutions

Undermining democracy

At the heart of this crisis lies the Modi-Shah political playbook. For years, democratic politics with institutional safeguards have been systematically undermined in India. There is, in fact, the standard fix now for eliminating any opposition. The Modi-Shah political playbook has mainstreamed the use of the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation; the wanton buying and selling of MPs and MLAs; and have been making courts pliable at the highest level. Additionally, the questionable manner in which the highly controversial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is being implemented can also be added to this list. There is great fear that the election process will increasingly become a selection exercise for the government in power.

In such conditions, a single trigger event, such as the CJP movement, could spark an immediate existential threat to an existing political order. However, while credit should be given to the CJP for showing resolve, and for the ability to organise and direct a grievance peacefully, their strategy is located entirely outside the political terrain of institutional politics. Thus, although Mr. Pradhan's resignation may appear to be a signature victory for them, it more ominously reveals the turbulence and fragility within India's political institutions. There could be less control over the street in the days to come, unless the Modi-Shah playbook ends.

The CJP has revealed that India is perilously close to losing its ability to manage a peaceful democratic transition. Though Rahul Gandhi, the Congress party, and several other Opposition parties did manage to register a strong presence throughout the Jantar Mantar movement, their hold was still less than enough and far too tenuous.

Mr. Pradhan's resignation should perhaps be more correctly seen as the first tremor within a Republic that is buckling from its weakening democratic foundations. If anything, the most important lesson to be taken from the CJP campaign is that the constant undermining of any legitimate opposition space by the Modi-Shah play book can, unless checked, result in social instability and political chaos.

The dilemma over PM SHRI in Kerala

The UDF is caught between the need for central funds and maintaining its integrity

STATE OF PLAY

Roshni R.K.

The much discussed PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme has the recently elected Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) government in Kerala in hot soup.

Events over the past few days seem to indicate that similar to the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government that burnt its fingers after signing an MoU for implementing the centrally sponsored PM SHRI scheme in October last year, the UDF government too could be in for possible backlash if it decides to go ahead with it. It is deja vu all over again. The same issue. The same actors. Only the roles have reversed.

The UDF government led by Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan argued that it was forced to continue with the PM SHRI as the previous LDF government had already entered into an agreement with the Union government. The State badly needs the ₹1,158.13 crore in education funds being held up by the Centre. The volte-face could not have been more glaring, since Mr. Satheesan had earlier said that Mr. Vijayan, by inking the deal, had betrayed the national cause against the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

Wavering stance

A little over a month after forming the UDF government, Mr. Satheesan said that only the Union government had the right to withdraw from the MoU. Kerala became a party to it the moment the agreement was signed, an argument that the current Opposition vehemently denies.

In yet another U-turn, the Chief Minister later denied that the government had said that it would implement the PM SHRI; UDF convener Adoor Prakash had said that the government would go ahead with the scheme, even as the report of a UDF Cabinet sub-committee on the PM SHRI was awaited. It prompted the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader P.K. Kunhalikutty to assert that a final decision would be taken only after the sub-committee gave its report, exposing the fault lines within the UDF. Other Muslim organisations, such as the Samastha Kerala Jamiyyathul Ulama, have also been vocal about their opposition.

These repeated flip-flops made it evident that the government was in a bind over how to balance fiscal prudence, coalition pressures, and its ideological position on the NEP.

Pros and cons

The Union Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary once replied in the Rajya Sabha, "States that do not sign the MoU or withdraw from the scheme stand to miss out on these benefits of PM SHRI scheme". It has to be remembered that Punjab had opted out of the scheme in 2023, but later went back on its decision after the Union government had frozen the funds.

On the other hand, there are concerns about the curriculum. The PM SHRI Schools framework states that the curriculum should follow the National Curriculum Framework/State Curriculum Framework developed in accordance with new curricular structure of the NEP. The MoU, for its part, says that States should implement all the provisions of the NEP in its entirety. According to the NEP, States can prepare their own curricula and textbooks, incorporating the State's demands as needed. However, it goes on to say, "while doing so, it must be borne in mind that the NCERT curriculum would be taken as the nationally acceptable criterion." Last year, the former Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty had pointed out that the Union government had declared in 2022 that the objective of the Samagra Shiksha scheme was to help implement the NEP.

Even if the Union government does not appear to be intervening in the curriculum of the States at present, there is apprehension that other interventions such as curriculum-based programme implementation or prescription of teaching-learning materials/assessment patterns could well be thrust upon them.

Other than taking the legal route like Tamil Nadu did, the UDF has the option of writing to the Union government insisting on the freedom to decide its own curriculum. This undoubtedly will expose it to harsh criticism of allowing the NEP to be smuggled into the State. However, if it chooses not to implement the PM SHRI, it will lose out on crucial federal funding.

Damned if they do and damned if they don't – that is the UDF's dilemma on the PM SHRI scheme.

roshni.r.k@thehindu.co.in

The problem with India's free trade agreement strategy

India's trade with key FTA partners such as the ASEAN countries has become increasingly import-driven, resulting in widening trade deficits

DATA POINT

Surendar Singh

Over the past few years, India has shown great interest in trade diplomacy to promote its economic and strategic interests. India's new founded enthusiasm in external engagement has culminated in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the UAE, Australia, Oman, the U.K., the European Union, and most recently, New Zealand. Its imperative to enhance market access continues to extend the reach of its trade architecture through ongoing trade talks with the U.S., Gulf countries and Canada, highlighting a decisive shift towards bilateralism as a vehicle of market access, value chain integration and economic dynamism. There is an emerging view among policymakers, trade diplomats, and geopolitical analysts that FTAs are indispensable instruments of economic statecraft. However, the enthusiasm on enhanced market access through trade agreements and Global Value Chain (GVC) integration is founded on a set of implicit assumptions and dominant narratives that continue to maintain a striking analytical silence. The argument that FTAs stimulate export growth and GVC integration warrants a far more nuanced view.

Widening trade deficit

India's FTA experience with Asian economies has not been favourable. India's trade with key FTA partners such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Korea, Japan and Singapore has become increasingly import-driven, resulting in widening trade deficits. Data shows that India's trade deficit with ASEAN increased sharply from $10.4 billion in 2012 to $51.2 billion in 2025, driven by rapidly rising imports. In the same manner, imports increased at a much faster pace than exports in the case of Japan and South Korea. India's trade surplus has turned into a trade deficit in the case of Singapore after signing the trade agreement, exhibiting weakening export competitiveness.

India's export performance across its major Asian FTA partners such as ASEAN, Japan, South Korea and Singapore reveals an intriguing picture – its underperformance. India's share of the import basket among FTA partners has either stagnated or gradually eroded between 2012 to 2025, indicating a weakening in its export competitiveness post-FTAs. The most striking decline is in the case of ASEAN countries where India's share of ASEAN's import basket dropped from 3.42% to 1.71% while in the case of Singapore, the import share declined from 2.27% to 1.71%. Similarly, India's share in South Korea's import basket has declined from 1.33% to 1.02% while its share in Japan's import basket shows mixed trends.

Collectively, these trends indicate that instead of leveraging trade agreements to integrate into regional production networks, India is stuck on the margins of manufacturing-led trade integration. The inability to capitalise on tariff preferences under the FTAs demonstrates that market access based on tariff elimination alone cannot compensate for weak domestic industrial capabilities, logistical inefficiencies, and infrastructure and operational constraints. India's trade challenge is not fundamentally about negotiating more FTAs but about strengthening domestic productive capabilities and associated impediments. Without adequate industrial transformation, FTAs risk becoming instruments that increase import penetration faster than export competitiveness, thereby widening asymmetrical trade outcomes and structural vulnerabilities.

Moreover, FTAs are often presented as GVC drivers, eliminating barriers to the development of shared production arrangements and industrial upgrading. It is interesting to note that India's GVC integration related to trade as a percentage of gross trade declined from 37.13% to 34.38%, indicating that India's integration in GVC networks has actually weakened. India's GVC trade as a share of gross trade with its FTA partners has declined in the case of South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Only in the case of Malaysia, Singapore and Philippines, has it increased.

These trends demonstrate that India's FTAs have not translated into broad-based GVC integration. This evidence challenges the conventional assumption that FTAs automatically foster GVC integration through trade liberalisation. Moreover, it raises questions about the proposition that deeper commitments to market access and regulatory harmonisation are, in themselves, sufficient to promote GVC participation. The contemporary policy narrative surrounding India's new FTAs and their ability to integrate into GVCs raises some critical questions.

An assessment

The declining export shares and weakening GVC integration in the case of India's key FTA partners clearly highlight the limitations of considering FTAs primarily as instruments of market access. It is understandable that FTAs may enhance market access in certain product categories, but their abilities to foster productive capabilities is still contested. This essentially means that India's FTA strategy needs to move beyond the standard argument of market access. It should focus on greater interaction with the broader industrial policy framework that emphasises technological upgrading, strategic investment, supply chain realignment, domestic value addition and domestic reforms. Without such policies, FTAs are likely to remain instruments of trade liberalisation that constrain policy flexibilities rather than drivers of industrial transformation.

Are the FTAs working?

The data for the charts were sourced from the International Trade Centre - Trade Map

Piyush Goyal, S. Jaishankar, European Council President António Costa, and other officials at the India-EU FTA meeting in Brussels on July 15

CHART 1 : India's percentage share in the import basket of ASEAN, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore

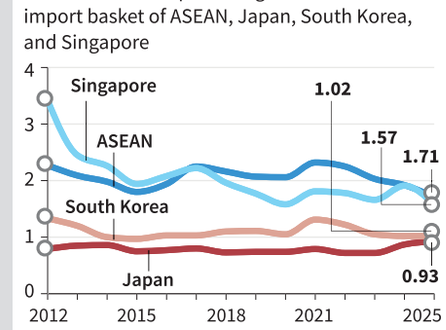

TABLE 1: India's trade with key FTA partners (in $ billions)

Partner	Indicator	2012	2015	2018	2021	2024	2025
ASEAN	Export	32.3	26.35	36.25	40.68	42.71	35.96
	Import	42.74	41.47	57.51	64.84	81.87	87.19
	Trade balance	-10.44	-15.12	-21.26	-24.16	-39.16	-51.23
Japan	Export	6.4	4.5	4.8	6.1	5.8	6.1
	Import	12.4	9.6	12.6	14.4	18.9	20.9
	Trade balance	-5.95	-5.17	-7.83	-8.34	-13.06	-14.77
South Korea	Export	4.1	3.6	4.8	7.1	6	6
	Import	13.7	13.1	16.4	17.1	20.9	21.1
	Trade balance	-9.6	-9.48	-11.62	-9.97	-14.98	-15.12
Singapore	Export	13.6	7.8	10.5	10.7	15.7	10.7
	Import	7.8	7.4	14.5	18.2	20.5	23.7
	Trade balance	5.76	0.4	-3.99	-7.55	-4.87	-12.97

TABLE 2 : India's global value chain-related trade as a share of gross trade with Asian FTA partners

	2012	2020	GVC integration (Increase/Decrease)
Indonesia	41.77	30.1	-11.67
Japan	41.07	28.44	-12.63
Malaysia	49.92	50.26	0.34
South Korea	63.18	41.58	-21.6
Thailand	48.32	47.65	-0.67
Singapore	66.87	69.54	2.67
Philippines	30.47	33.9	3.43
Vietnam	56.89	54.57	-2.32
Cambodia	47.43	44.34	-3.09

The declining share of GVC-related trade in total trade with several major FTA partners shows that preferential market access has been inadequate to bolster India's participation in global production networks. This evidence challenges the conventional assumption that FTAs automatically foster GVC integration through trade liberalisation

The author is an Associate Professor at Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities, O.P Jindal Global University, Sonipat. Views are personal

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 4, 1976

Goat breeding: new strategy

New Delhi, August 3: An ambitious scheme has been taken up to step up the production of Pashmina and Mohair, used in the manufacture of warm luxury fabrics which have a good export market.

The scheme is part of an all-India co-ordinated research project on goat breeding being implemented by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

A multi-pronged strategy to improve Pashmina production includes selective breeding of indigenous goats and cross breeding with imported Soviet breeds. Efforts would also be made to rear them in the high altitude Himalayan regions of U.P. where these goats can thrive.

There are at present two research centres for improving Pashmina production located at Leh in Ladakh and Mukteswar in U.P.

According to the chief co-ordinator of the project, Dr. R. M. Acharya, there are at present only 40,000 Pashmina goats of Chan Thangi breed in Ladakh region and some small number in Himachal Pradesh.

These goats produce Pashmina of quality which is "as good or slightly better" than any produced in other countries.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 4, 1926

Schoolboys' empire tour

Rugby, August 4: A party of forty public and secondary schoolboys left London to-day for Australia. They travel under the auspices of School Empire Tour Committee and will spend the remainder of the year touring Australia. Before the train left a letter was read from the Prince of Wales, which said, "Such tours are admirable from an education view point. My own experience tells me how much there is to learn from seeing other parts of the world and there is no adequate substitute for the real knowledge to be gained in this way. More especially do I welcome the idea of tours for schoolboys to Dominions from Imperial view point. Boys will, on this occasion, be in the position of representatives. I am confident they will see to it that those who meet them in Australia will judge well of them and through them of the country of schools which they represent."

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Amount allocated by govt. for preservation of ASI sites

376.88 in ₹ crore. The Centre allocated ₹376.88 crore in 2025-26 for conservation, preservation and environmental development of protected monuments across the country. PTI

First tranche of interim relief released by Assam government

160 in ₹ crore. The Assam government on Monday released the first tranche of around ₹160 crore in interim relief to over 75,000 households that were the worst affected in this year's floods, officials said. PTI

Number of people kidnapped by gunmen in northwest Nigeria

52 Gunmen kidnapped at least 52 people, including children, in a weekend attack on a village and military base in northwest Nigeria's Zamfara state, sources said on Monday. Kidnappings have become a major source of income for armed groups in Nigeria. PTI

Decline in Russia's pipeline gas exports to Europe in July

5.2 in per cent. Russian energy giant Gazprom's average daily natural gas supplies to Europe via the TurkStream undersea pipeline declined 5.2% from a year earlier to 48.8 million cubic metres in July, Reuters calculations showed. REUTERS

Maharashtra: share of SIR enumeration forms distributed

93 in per cent. More than 93% of enumeration forms have been distributed, and nearly 73% digitised under the SIR of electoral rolls in Maharashtra, the Chief Electoral Officer said on Monday. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why has PoK erupted in protests?

How did demands over prices evolve into a movement for greater political representation in PoK? How has Islamabad responded to the protests? What has India said about the unrest? How have international rights groups and overseas Kashmiris reacted to the crackdown?

EXPLAINER

Kallol Bhattacherjee

The story so far:

Simmering discontent over inflation, lack of accountability and opaque governance in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has escalated into a violent crackdown by Pakistani security forces over the past week, leaving dozens dead and many more injured. Security forces have reportedly used assault weapons and sniper fire against protesters gathered in the main squares of cities such as Rawalakot and Muzaffarabad to oppose the three-phase election currently under way in PoK. The Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC), which has been leading the protests, claims that more than 50 people have been killed over the past week as demonstrations continue against what it alleges is a rigged election process.

Why are protests taking place in PoK?

PoK is caught between an establishment-backed election and a popular political movement opposing the political basis of that election. The JKJAAC has been protesting peacefully in Rawalakot, Muzaffarabad, and other locations in the region seeking to build a more representative political system in PoK. The three-phase elections started on July 27 and will conclude on August 11.

The movement, which emerged after the COVID-19 pandemic to curb the prices of essential items, has evolved over the years into a protest against the lack of political representation for the local population in the PoK legislature. The legislature of PoK has a total of 53 seats, out of which 45 are elected, and eight are nominated. But because of historical reasons, 12 seats out of the 45 are reserved for refugees of Indian Jammu and Kashmir who migrated after 1947. In elections for these 12 seats, refugee voters located outside PoK cast their ballots. Locals claim that the reserved seats reduce representation of communities from the region and allow Islamabad to override local concerns.

Supporters of the banned Joint Awami Action Committee, an alliance of civil society groups, start a fire to block a road during a protest in Muzaffarabad. REUTERS

As the authorities proceeded with the election process without addressing the demand for removing the reserved seats, the JKJAAC called for a "long march". Though the authorities have responded with a harsh crackdown, the protesters have shown that they are not going away anytime soon as they have managed to sustain the protests for months. The protest received new momentum after a PhD scholar, Osama Jaleel, of Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad, was reportedly killed in police firing in Rawalakot. Before his death, Osama Jaleel had been noted on the Internet for his fiery speeches in the protest meetings in Rawalakot. The JKJAAC claims that a total of 86 persons have died in the security crackdown till July 31.

How is the political relation between Islamabad and PoK?

The federal government of Pakistan has had a complicated relationship with the region for years, as mainstream political parties such as the Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz have not been able to fulfil the developmental aspirations of the people of PoK. In recent days, however, the situation has worsened following comments by leading figures within the establishment about the protesters. Pakistan Defence Minister Khwaja Asif incensed public sentiments by referring to the protesters as "enemies just like Indians". The main complaint is that the mainstream political parties in Islamabad have not met the region's developmental needs. Locals allege that they have been neglected by Islamabad, echoing many of the same complaints long voiced by residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, where protests and insurgencies have continued for decades. The second phase of polling on August 2 drew allegations of irregularities and rigging.

What has India said about the Rawalakot protests?

Over the past few months, the Ministry of External Affairs has repeatedly condemned the use of harsh methods against protesters in Rawalakot and in other parts of PoK. On July 31, the Ministry of External Affairs blamed the 'Pakistani Establishment ' and said: "This crackdown has resulted in the tragic death of over 40 civilians and serious injuries to many. Its absolute disdain for the innocent people of PoJK was laid bare when their Defence Minister branded the protesting civilians as enemies." Adding to this, the Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Political Affairs openly admitted that the very 'mujahideen' that the Pak establishment trained, armed and sent to bleed India have now turned their guns inward, weaponising themselves against the state.

Mirwaiz Dr. Umar Farooq has expressed "deep concern" over the unrest across the LoC and called for dialogue. "We are deeply anguished by the continuing unrest and tragic loss of precious lives during the past month and a half," said Umar Farooq. The JKJAAC has opposed India's remarks, and in a statement on June 24, the group said it "firmly rejects any attempt by India to interpret, appropriate, or project the current situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir in support of its own claims or geopolitical positions. The present civil rights movement is neither a proxy nor an extension of interstate rivalries. Any such characterisation is both inaccurate and misleading."

Is there a strategic dimension?

The protests have been concentrated in Rawalakot, which lies along the Line of Control, and Pakistan's response so far shows it will not tolerate instability in a region of primary importance to its security.

The strategic dimension of the disturbances can be assessed by the fact that Kotli, Muzaffarabad and Rawalakot – the areas where protests have taken place hosted terror-related targets that India had claimed to have hit in the May 2025 Operation Sindoor.

Apart from India, Amnesty International and influential leaders in the U.K. have also called for restraint from the Pakistani establishment. Responding to the existing communication blackout in PoK, Amnesty has said: "We urge the Pakistani authorities to restore all communications access and allow media and independent observers into the area." Non-resident Mirpuri Kashmiris, who have a strong community-level presence in the U.K., have started an online campaign to restrain Pakistan's security establishment from continuing with the repressive measures.

THE GIST

- A movement that began over rising prices has evolved into a campaign against the PoK election process, with the JKJAAC demanding the removal of 12 reserved seats that it says undermine local representation.
- Protests have intensified amid allegations of election rigging and a deadly security crackdown; Pakistan's response has drawn criticism from India, Amnesty International and U.K.-based Kashmiri groups.

Why has West Bengal cleared land for the BSF now?

Why is West Bengal central to India's border fencing project? What are the policy challenges?

Saee Pande

The story so far:

The West Bengal Cabinet has approved the permanent transfer of 31.905 acres at nine locations to the Border Security Force (BSF) for border fencing and related security infrastructure, along with 1.53 acres for three new Border Outposts in Malda, Nadia and Cooch Behar. The decision removes a major State-level bottleneck in a long-delayed border infrastructure project affected by land acquisition disputes, difficult terrain, and legal and political complications. The move also follows the Calcutta High Court's order of January 2026, directing the State government to hand over acquired land in nine border districts to the BSF by March 31, 2026.

Why is Bengal central to the project?

West Bengal shares the longest international border with Bangladesh among Indian States. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, India's 4,096.70-km border with Bangladesh includes 2,216.7 km in West Bengal, which is approximately 54% of the entire frontier. As of August 2025, 1,647.696 km had been fenced, while 569.004 km remained to be covered by fencing or other border infrastructure. Of this, 112.780 km was classified as non-feasible for conventional fencing, while 456.224 km remained technically feasible but pending completion.

Why has the project been delayed?

The delays reflect a combination of geographical, administrative and legal constraints. Nationally, the MHA reported that 3,232.218 km of the India-Bangladesh border had been fenced by August 2025, leaving 864.482 km unfenced across West Bengal (2,216.7 km), Tripura (856 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Mizoram (318 km) and Assam (263 km).

Of the remaining unfenced stretch, 174.514 km has been categorised as non-feasible for conventional fencing because of riverine channels, marshlands, floodplains, shifting river courses, densely inhabited settlements and the ecologically sensitive Sundarbans, where fencing is technically difficult and seasonally constrained. Other pending stretches require land acquisition, compensation, environmental clearances and completion of bilateral border management procedures.

What governs India-Bangladesh border fencing?

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, India undertakes border fencing and related security measures in accordance with bilateral agreements and operational protocols between the BSF and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). The border is governed by the 1975 Joint India-Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities, the Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP), 2011, and the 2015 Land Boundary Agreement (LBA), which implemented the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement and its 2011 Protocol, resolved enclave and adverse-possession disputes, and enabled the exchange of 162 enclaves, 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India. India has also reiterated its expectation that these understandings will continue to support cooperation against cross-border crimes, including smuggling, human trafficking, illegal migration, arms trafficking and counterfeit currency networks.

What are the policy challenges?

This is a challenge of balancing national security with the livelihoods of communities living along the border. In districts such as Malda and Nadia, agriculture, informal trade and long-standing social ties extend across the frontier, meaning that fencing can improve surveillance while also affecting access to farmland, mobility and local commerce. As the largest unfinished segment of the India-Bangladesh border lies in West Bengal, progress and development in the State remain central to the completion of the national fencing programme. In many sectors, particularly riverine terrain, the future of border management is likely to depend on an integrated combination of physical barriers, Border Outposts, surveillance technology and coordinated action between the Union and State governments.

(Saee Pande is a freelance writer with a focus on current affairs, international relations and geopolitics)

THE GIST

- The West Bengal Cabinet has approved the transfer of over 33 acres of land to the BSF for border fencing and Border Outposts, removing a long-pending bottleneck in completing security infrastructure along the India-Bangladesh border.
- Although more than three-fourths of the border has been fenced, progress continues to be delayed by land acquisition disputes, difficult riverine terrain, environmental constraints and legal issues, requiring a mix of fencing, surveillance technology and coordinated Union-State action.

CACHE

GETTY IMAGES

Why lab-grown diamonds are sustainable alternative to mined stones

Natural diamond mining is facing dwindling supplies while remaining associated with environmental damage, forced labour, conflict and pollution; lab-grown diamonds offer a more affordable, traceable and sustainable alternative, with India investing in indigenous production and research

Anupama Janakiraman
U. Vishnuja
S. Boominathasellarajan
N. Arunachalam

For centuries, diamonds have been regarded as symbols of eternal love, characterised by their rarity, scintillation and lustre. But behind the glamour of these stones lies a cold, hard truth: an industry plagued by forced labour, civil violence, and pollution.

Some of the world's largest diamond mines, such as the Argyle mine in Australia and the Diavik mine in Canada, have reached a point of exhaustion in recent years. This depletion has worsened year by year, and production is now at a multi-decade low. After all, natural diamond mines are only a finite source. It is estimated that the 40 diamond mines accounting for 90% of global production spread throughout Botswana, Russia and other countries have a lifespan of no more than 50 years.

The hidden cost

However, the problems associated with natural diamonds extend beyond dwindling supplies. Diamond mining requires large amounts of water and energy and causes considerable damage to the surrounding ecosystems. It is often associated with deforestation, displacement, soil erosion and water pollution. Massive open-pit excavations can also trigger landslides and mudslides.

Moreover, labourers suffer from a plethora of diseases as a result of working in diamond mines. A study by Gill Nelson et al. in 2011 found that workers are at risk of asbestos exposure and may develop asbestos-related diseases, including asbestosis, pleural plaques, and mesothelioma.

Then come the blood diamonds, which are mined diamonds involved in illicit sales and used to fund military action. It is nearly impossible to deduce a diamond's geographic origin. Although the Kimberley Process was introduced to verify that diamonds are conflict-free, regulatory gaps continue to allow blood diamonds to be smuggled across borders. As a result, these diamonds contribute to political and civil conflict.

These concerns raise an important question: can the beauty and durability of diamonds be preserved without the social and environmental costs of mining? In recent years, the answer appears to be yes, through the use of lab-grown diamonds.

A sustainable alternative emerges

The first proven synthetic diamonds were made by GE (General Electric) in 1954, under a project codenamed "Project Superpressure." They utilised the HPHT (High Pressure, High Temperature) process, which mimics the conditions under which natural diamonds form in the Earth's mantle.

In 1962, another method known as CVD (Chemical Vapour Deposition) was first used. This process involves depositing diamond material onto diamond seeds through chemical reactions involving carbon-rich gases.

Lab-grown diamonds are chemically, physically and optically identical to their natural counterparts. Until 2018, they were sold at a modest discount to mined diamonds. Due to improvements in the efficiency of laboratory equipment, the price of lab-grown diamonds has continued to decline over the years. Now more affordable and traceable, lab-grown diamonds preserve the qualities that have made diamonds desirable since time immemorial while avoiding much of the damage linked to conventional production.

India's push for lab-grown diamonds

India has also begun to recognise the potential of lab-grown diamonds as a sustainable and economically viable alternative to mined stones. In the Union Budget 2023-24, the Government of India announced measures to encourage indigenous production of lab-grown diamonds, including support for research into HPHT and CVD technologies.

Table 1: presents a comparison of natural and lab-grown diamonds, drawing on findings from the Natural Diamond Council's 2025 report and a 2021 study by Vladislav Zhdanov et al

Criterion	Natural diamonds	Lab-grown diamonds
Cost per carat in India	₹1.5–7 lakhs	₹80,000
Water consumption	0.077 m^3/ct	0–0.002 m^3/ct
Energy consumption	150 kWh/ct (DeBeers)	36 kWh/ct (HPHT) 214.7 kWh/ct (MP-CVD)
CO2 emissions	160 kg/ct	17-260 kg/ct

Diamond prices vary based on the 4Cs — carat, cut, colour and clarity. The values shown are representative market ranges.

As part of this initiative, in 2023, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) was awarded a five-year grant of approximately ₹243 crore by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to establish the India Centre for Lab-Grown Diamond (InCent-LGD).

The centre aims to develop domestic expertise in diamond seeds, machinery, and manufacturing processes.

To put things into perspective, **Table 1** consolidates the results of the 2025 Natural Diamond Council report and a 2021 study by Vladislav Zhdanov et al. to compare attributes of natural and lab-grown diamonds.

The staggering variation in carbon emissions for lab-grown diamonds can be attributed to the energy source used for production. Diamonds created using coal-heavy power grids have higher carbon emissions, while those manufactured using renewable energy sources have a much lower carbon footprint.

The latter aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which emphasise the transition to cleaner energy systems and more sustainable manufacturing practices. Furthermore, the use of renewable energy in diamond production reflects the principles of a circular economy, where resources are utilised more efficiently and environmental impacts are minimised throughout a product's life cycle.

Although lab-grown diamonds are not entirely free from environmental concerns, the next generation of consumers is increasingly drawn to them as a more sustainable alternative to mined diamonds. This shift in public perception reflects a growing emphasis on ethical sourcing, environmental responsibility, and product traceability.

Their advantages become even more significant when one considers the wide range of applications diamonds have in modern society. They are used in heavy-duty industrial processes, including cutting and drilling, as well as in quantum computing, protective coatings that extend equipment lifespan, semiconductor manufacturing and several other fields.

For a material so deeply woven into both industry and culture, selecting the more economical and sustainable option becomes no longer a choice – it is a responsibility.

(Prof. N. Arunachalam is currently working as a Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering and also leading the HPHT technologies development activities for growing diamond in lab as part of India Centre for Lab-grown Diamond (InCent-LGD), IIT Madras. Dr. S. Boominatha Sellarajan is working as a Principal Project Scientist at InCent-LGD, IIT Madras, Dr. U. Vishnuja is working as Project Manager at InCent-LGD, IIT Madras. Miss. Anupama Janakiraman is an 11th Std. student studying at Sishya School, Adyar, Chennai).

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Test yourself on India's performance at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games that concluded on Sunday

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Of the 122 athletes who represented India, 38 returned with 39 medals, with one of them getting two (a silver and a bronze). Name this champion.

QUESTION 2
In para athletics, six medals came from three events thanks to three double podiums, of which two were top-two finishes. Name the events.

QUESTION 3
Who was the first medallist and the first to strike gold for India at the Games?

QUESTION 4
Apart from boxing, in which sport did India win two gold medals for the first-ever such success for the country at the Games?

QUESTION 5
Name the compatriots of Neeraj Chopra and Praveen Chithravel who claimed bronze when the duo won silver in their disciplines.

QUESTION 6
Which gold medallist was the flag-bearer at the Closing Ceremony of the Games?

QUESTION 7
The youngest member of India's contingent also brought the curtains down on India's campaign. Name the teenager.

Visual Question:
Name this athlete who won his event with a Games record.
PTI

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Why did "J.C." Owens become known as "Jesse"? **Ans: A teacher misheard or misunderstood his initials, "J.C." (for James Cleveland), and recorded his name as "Jesse".**
2. What was the nickname given to Owens' extraordinary sequence of performances at the 1935 Big Ten Championships? **Ans: The "Greatest 45 Minutes Ever in Sport."**
3. What was Jesse Owens' winning distance in the long jump at the 1936 Olympics? **Ans: 8.06 metres (26 ft 5 in).**
4. Which two athletes were controversially dropped from the U.S. 4×100-metre relay team before the final, allowing Jesse Owens and Ralph Metcalfe to compete? **Ans: Marty Glickman and Sam Stoller.**
Visual: Identify this U.S. President who neither congratulated Jesse Owens nor invited him to the White House after his four-gold-medal triumph at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. **Ans: Franklin D. Roosevelt.**
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas | Erfanally Oosmany | Sukdev Shet | Pulkit Sathe | Varghese Joseph

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of "geek"? (T. R. Ananthamman, Chennai)
This is a word which is mostly used in informal contexts. A 'geek' is a person who is disliked by most people because of his disgusting behaviour or appearance. The 'ee' is pronounced like the 'ee' in 'bee', 'see', and 'fee'. Here are a few examples.

Our new chemistry professor looks like a geek. Wonder how he got the job.

Who is the geek you were talking to?

You may be interested to know that the word 'geek' has another meaning as well; one that is more complimentary. A hardworking person can also be referred to as a geek. For example:

Mohan is the geek you find in the library all the time.

'Geek' was first used to refer to people who performed in circuses; not the acrobats, but those who performed unusual acts like biting off the head of a chicken, swallowing a live goldfish, etc.– acts which made the audience squirm. Or should I say acts which made the audience scream "EEK"!

Which of the following sentences is correct? "I pity who buy things from you" or "I pity those who buy things from you". (V. Harini, Neyveli)
The second sentence is correct. The verb 'pity' needs an object after it. Who are the people that you pity? The first sentence doesn't give us this piece of information, the second one does. You pity those people who buy things from the person you are talking to. Here are a few examples.

I pity the people who have to work in this weather.

Rama pitied Bharath because he hadn't completed his assignment.

What is the meaning and origin of the expression "wet behind the ears"? (I. Manish, Kerala)
When you say that someone is wet behind his/her ears, it means that he/she is young and immature. The person is 'green'. Here are a few examples.

You can easily fool Anand. He is still wet behind the ears.

I don't know how Janaki got promoted. If you ask me, she is still wet behind the ears.

Before we entered this beautiful world of ours, all of us were floating around in our mother's tummy. When we came out of the womb, we came out with the amniotic fluid that was surrounding us. In other words, we entered this world soaking wet. Doctors /nurses used towels to dry us off before handing us over to our mothers. In the case of newborn animals however, the mother has to lick the baby dry. It takes quite some time for the mother to do this. And one of the last places to become dry, I understand, is the area behind the ears. So if an animal is still wet behind its ears, it implies it has come into this world recently; it is still 'green'.

What is the meaning of Kangaroo court? (T. Ilanchelian, Kumbakonam)
This is no court at all. A kangaroo court is an unofficial court of law set up by a group of people, especially in prisons and trade union organisations, in order to try someone of a crime. In most of these cases, the verdict is predetermined. The person on trial is usually found guilty and punished.

Published in The Hindu on June 26, 2001

Word of the day

Ubiquitous:
being present everywhere at once

Synonyms: widespread, prevalent, universal, common

Usage: *Smartphones have become ubiquitous in modern life.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/ubiquitous

International Phonetic Alphabet: /juːbɪkwɪtəs/

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

From Page One

Kishor breaches BJP's fortress in Bankipur

After the 22nd round of counting, when Mr. Kishor was leading by a margin of around 13,000 votes, he and his wife Jahanvi Das walked to the counting centre at A.N. College to join the party workers and supporters in celebrations.

"The people have not only elected an MLA, but the people of Bankipur have given a message to the central leadership of the BJP to replace Samrat Choudhary with a better person. I expect that the BJP leadership will seriously think about it," Mr. Kishor said.

He added that the time had come for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to not only care about the people of Gujarat but also pay attention to the people of Bihar.

In Gujarat, the BJP retained the Manjalpur Assembly seat in Vadodara district, with its candidate Satish Govindbhai Patel defeating Congress nominee and former Minister Bhikhabhai Rabari by 30,630 votes in the July 30 byelection.

The Congress defended Madhya Pradesh's Datia Assembly constituency, with its candidate Ghanshyam Singh claiming victory over the BJP's Ashutosh Tiwari by 6,016 votes.

Tamil Nadu urges SC to enforce Cauvery order

"Even if Karnataka ensured flows of 3,500 cusecs for 15 days, it would get only 4.536 tmc ft leaving a backlog of 5.379 tmc ft even as per the pro rata assessment of distress as on July 28... If the inflows into the four major reservoirs of Karnataka against 30 years average up to August 3, 2026 is considered, the pro-rata ratio works out to 46.34%.

Based on this pro-rata ratio, the flows due from June 1, 2026 to August 12, 2026 works out to 26.95 tmc ft. The direction given by the CWRC and CWMA is only 4.536 tmc ft, which is far less than the quantum of water as per distress proportion," the Tamil Nadu application said.

The State argued that despite the CWRC/CWMA interventions, total flows realised at Billigundulu from July 29 to August 2 were only in the range of 158 cusecs to 530 cusecs.

"Thus, it is evident that Karnataka has willfully not complied with the directions of CWRC/CWMA. It is stated that as on August 3, Karnataka is having 23.078 tmc ft in KRS, 18.610 tmc ft in Kabini, 7.827 tmc ft in Harangi and 28.022 tmc ft in Hemavathy, totally 77.537 tmc ft of gross storage... This increase in the live storage is on account of recent heavy rainfall in the catchments upstream of Kabini and KRS. Thus, Karnataka in spite of having adequate storage has failed to comply with the directions of CWMA," Tamil Nadu contended.

Ex-WFI chief cleared in sexual harassment case

Former Olympian Vinesh Phogat alleged that Mr. Singh had used his influence to pressure several complainants into withdrawing their names, while others continued to pursue the case in court. "We have not lost hope, and the wrestlers will continue their fight," she said.

Mr. Singh said, "What I had said in the beginning has proved to be true. I did not know why people made all those allegations against me. My first reaction was that if the allegations were found to be true, I would hang myself. Today, the court has honourably acquitted me. It is a matter of great happiness for me and my supporters. Today is a day of joy."

Women wrestlers, including Sakshi Malik, Ms. Vinesh, Bajrang Punia and Sangeeta Phogat, had staged protests in New Delhi for several months in 2023, demanding the arrest of the BJP leader over allegations that he had sexually harassed several women wrestlers, including a minor. The complainants had alleged that the incidents took place between 2016 and 2019 at the WFI office, Mr. Singh's official residence, and during overseas tours.

Consider plea against Jantar Mantar use: SC

"Today, digitally mobilised movements can transform a few hundred persons into several thousand within hours, without a reliable command structure, verified organisers or an enforceable estimate of attendance. Jantar Mantar's proximity to Parliament, Central Vista, government establishments, and diplomatic and commercial areas creates an avoidable convergence of mass mobilisation, national-security sensitivity, and restricted physical space," the counsel submitted.

Ordinary people were finding it extremely hard to commute in central Delhi due to prolonged traffic snarls caused by protests and demonstrations, the petitioner said. Mr. Kaushik's side referred to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal's national townhall programme held outside the Constitution Club to protest the implementation of the E20 ethanol blended fuel policy.

In 2018, the Supreme Court had held that the golden rule was the right to protest should be balanced with the right of residents to live peacefully. The observation had come in a decision lifting the ban on protests at Jantar Mantar and Boat Club.

Lok Sabha passes SC judges Bill without any discussion

Lower House clears legislation to increase strength of judges in the top court from 34 to 38 amid protests by the Opposition; Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, Indian Statistical Institute Bill introduced

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed a Bill to increase the sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court without any discussion as persistent protests by Opposition members over the police action against protesting students at Jantar Mantar and the alleged *chadhawa chori* (theft of offerings) at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya continued to disrupt proceedings.

Two other Bills – the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026, and the Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2026 – were introduced amid sloganeering in the afternoon.

The House saw repeated adjournments amid Opposition protests and sloganeering in the Monsoon Session. ANI

Repeated adjournments

The House was adjourned repeatedly during the day as Opposition members trooped into the Well raising slogans and displaying placards, forcing Speaker Om Birla to suspend proceedings first till noon, then till 2 p.m., before adjourning the House for the day following the passage of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026.

At the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting, sources told *The Hindu* that Congress deputy leader Gaurav Gogoi, chief whip Kodikunnil Suresh and Samajwadi Party MP Dharmendra Yadav demanded that Home Minister Amit Shah make a statement in the House on the police crackdown on protesters and that the government initiate a discussion on the alleged embezzlement of funds at the Ram Temple, during which Prime Minister Narendra Modi could intervene.

The BAC allotted three hours each for discussion on the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill and the Indian Statistical Institute Bill, and five hours for the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill. However, there was no discussion on taking up the proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA).

Judges Bill

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill replaces an ordinance promulgated earlier this year to raise the sanctioned strength of the apex court from 34 to 38 judges, including the Chief Justice of India. A statutory resolution moved by Opposition members seeking disapproval of the ordinance was rejected by voice vote.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal briefly introduced the Bill, but with protests continuing, it was passed by voice vote without debate. The government has argued that increasing the court's strength is essential to address mounting pendency.

Amid the disruptions, the House also introduced the Indian Statistical Institute Bill and the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill. The Indian Statistical Institute Bill seeks to repeal the 1959 Act governing the institution and incorporate it as a statutory body corporate with the President as its Visitor and a Board of Governors as its principal executive body.

The Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, seeks to replace the 1891 law by recognising electronic, digital, virtual and cloud-based banking records as admissible evidence in courts.

Rajya Sabha passes Bill on MSMEs amid Opposition protests

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union MSME Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi says the draft legislation seeks to address the sector's liquidity concerns

Amid the Opposition's uproar demanding an apology from Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the police action against protesting youth and students, the Rajya Sabha on Monday passed the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026. The Upper House functioned for only 19 minutes in the morning, and after reconvening in the afternoon, was adjourned for the day soon after the Bill was passed.

Opposition members did not participate in the discussion on the Bill. Amendments moved by INDIA bloc members Ajay Maken, John Brittas, V. Sivadasan and A.A. Rahim were defeated by a voice vote.

The Bill, which replaces the 2006 Act, provides for the notification of a national digital platform for the free and voluntary registration of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). According to Union MSME Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, the legislation seeks to address the sector's liquidity concerns by mandating all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to route invoice settlements through the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) for the procurement of goods and services from MSMEs.

Replying to the debate, Mr. Manjhi said the Narendra Modi government had extended strong support to the MSME sector and remained committed to its growth. He appealed to the Opposition to support the legislation, saying, "The objective is to balance the interests of all concerned parties while maintaining constitutional principles and the interests of businesses."

Highlighting the sector's contribution to the economy, Mr. Manjhi said MSMEs contribute 31% to India's GDP, 36% to the country's manufacturing output and 41% to exports. He also said outstanding credit disbursed to MSMEs had risen to more than ₹38.35 lakh crore from ₹10 lakh crore in 2014-15.

Pappu Yadav's Parliament skit 'incorrect act', says SP

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Samajwadi Party (SP) has expressed displeasure over Independent MP Pappu Yadav's playacting as a saffron-clad seer in an impromptu skit staged by INDIA bloc members in Parliament on Friday. The skit has drawn criticism from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) also and led to police complaints against Opposition leaders.

According to sources, at the meeting held at the office of Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge in Parliament, SP leader Dharmendra Yadav raised the issue. He expressed concern that the skit was a misstep in what has so far been a successful campaign highlighting the alleged corruption in the Ram Temple donation scam. Such acts, he argued, risked being seen as mocking devotees and could backfire.

Sources said Mr. Pappu Yadav came dressed in saffron and brought Lord Ram's photograph without consulting the other leaders. The skit was not preplanned and was enacted on the spur of the moment.

Pappu Yadav

Samajwadi Party leader Ramgopal Yadav spoke to presspersons on the issue. "It was wrong because the saints had nothing to do with the theft that took place in the Ram Temple. It was basically an incorrect act and it should not have happened," he said.

Congress's silence

Mr. Ramgopal said the Opposition would continue to raise the Ram Temple donations case because it concerns crores of people in India and abroad who contributed for the construction of the temple.

Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Dharmendra said the BJP was trying to "dilute and deflect" attention from the Ram Temple donation scam by focusing on the Opposition protest.

"If a police case is being filed against Pappu Yadav, then why not one against BJP's national president Nitin Nabin, who made Hanuman*ji* dance in front of him," he asked.

Mr. Dharmendra was referring to a procession organised by the BJP in Lucknow last month to welcome Mr. Nabin, during which a performer dressed as Lord Hanuman and carrying a party flag danced in front of the chariot carrying the BJP leader.

The Congress maintained a studied silence, refusing to engage with criticism of the skit.

Mr. Pappu defended his actions, accusing the government of double standards. "You can abuse Nehru, Indira Gandhi, or Mulayam Singh in the House. But when someone protests in a dignified manner outside the House, where does the question of 'privilege' arise? I will certainly present my case to the Speaker. I have also written a letter," he said.

Opposition MPs protest over Ram Temple donation theft

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Monday continued to protest in the Parliament House complex against the alleged donation theft at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and police crackdown on the NEET examination paper leak demonstrations on July 20 in New Delhi.

Like last week, the MPs kept donation boxes near the Parliament entrance, *Makar Dwar*, to symbolise the alleged theft of donations at the temple and lined up around them to raise slogans against the government. Some MPs put cash in the box enacting the donations made and the "theft" that took place later.

Members of the Samajwadi Party who were present said till now more than ₹47,000 has been collected and the money would be donated to the Ram Temple at Ayodhya and a receipt would be taken.

Amit Shah's absence

The Opposition MPs also protested against the "absence" of Union Home Minister Amit Shah from both Houses of Parliament.

Anand Bhadauriya, Dimple Yadav, Dharmendra Yadav, and other Opposition members stage a protest outside Parliament. ANI

The protesting MPs lined up behind a big banner that read "Why Amit Shah is absent from Parliament?" and raised slogans against Mr. Shah on the use of force against student protesters at the NEET examination paper leak agitation.

Priyanka Gandhi of the Congress, Dimple Yadav and Dharmendra Yadav of the SP, Mahua Moitra of the Trinamool Congress, Mahua Maji of the Jarkhand Mukti Morcha, and N.K. Premachandran of the Revolutionary Socialist Party were among those seen at the protest.

"Modi*ji* is intimidating and threatening the children. They do not come to the House, they do not answer questions, they do not speak on the theft of donations for Shri Ram Mandir, nor do they say anything on the suppression of students. Innocent children are not traitors, do not label them as such, the real traitors are the BJP people! who are crushing democracy," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said.

Congress general secretary organisation K.C. Venugopal said: "Our protests outside Parliament, and on the floor of both Houses, will continue until the government is held accountable".

Cauvery water issue: DMK members walk out from both Houses in protest

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MPs on Monday staged a walkout from both Houses of Parliament protesting against Tamil Nadu being denied its share of Cauvery water. They also held a protest outside Parliament on the issue.

The protest is centred on the alleged violation of the Cauvery Water Management Authority's directives, which dictate that Tamil Nadu should receive 9.9 tmc ft of water in June and 32 tmc ft in July, bringing the total to 42 tmc ft. However, the State has "not received a single drop" thus far in 2026.

P. Wilson

The Tamil Nadu government has also approached the Supreme Court on the issue.

Plea for debate ignored

"The original demand of 7,000 cusecs based on the already existing backlog has to be released to us. We wanted the House to debate and pass a resolution on this," Rajya Sabha member P. Wilson said.

DMK MPs carried placards in both Houses of Parliament. When their plea for a debate was ignored, the DMK MPs staged a walk-out.

Mr. Wilson also blamed the Congress for ignoring the issue that he said affected nearly everyone in Tamil Nadu.

"The Congress is not bothered about the problems of Tamil Nadu. They are only talking about other issues, so we have brought to the attention of the Parliament that this issue has to be, you know, sorted out by the Union government," the DMK MP said.

Justice M.S. Liberhan passes away at 87

Press Trust of India
CHANDIGARH

Justice Manmohan Singh Liberhan, who headed the commission that probed the circumstances leading to the demolition of the Babri mosque at Ayodhya, died at the age of 87 in Chandigarh on Sunday.

Justice M.S. Liberhan

Justice Liberhan began his legal practice at the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 1964. He was elevated as a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on February 11, 1987. He was appointed Chief Justice of the Madras High Court on July 7, 1997, and later became the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on February 28, 1998. On December 16, 1992, Justice Liberhan was appointed head of the one-man inquiry commission into the Babri Masjid demolition.

For BJP, the result in Bankipur is more than just a poll defeat

A new cohort of Gen Z voters and discontent over centralised control of the State unit have contributed to BJP's loss in its stronghold in Bihar; abrupt replacement of the candidate without specifying a reason highlighted a sense of overconfidence

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

No Assembly bypoll has been watched with keener interest than the one that just concluded at Bankipur in Bihar in a resounding victory for Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) leader Prashant Kishor.

He challenged the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in a seat that is considered its stronghold since 1995 and was recently vacated by the party's national president Nitin Nabin. For the BJP, losing the Bankipur bypoll goes beyond the more typical loss of a stronghold to probing internal issues and factoring the electorate's changed demographic profile. The electoral loss comes on the heels of the Gen Z protests in the national capital.

In Bankipur, nearly a third of voters fall in the urban Gen Z age group, the same cohort as the protesters at Jantar Mantar recently. These youngsters don't stand alone. Their parents, belonging to a different generation and possibly BJP supporters, have been affected just as much by shrinking opportunities for their children, and the police crackdown on the protests.

Reality check: PM Narendra Modi flanked by Union Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president Nitin Nabin in Parliament. PTI

It did not help matters much when Mr. Nabin, the former five-term Bankipur MLA, termed the Gen Z protesters as "virus[es] and cockroaches, a gang devoted to breaking the country".

Low voter turnout

The election saw a low turnout of around 34%, nearly seven percentage points lower than in the 2025 Assembly election. Clearly, many voters who had backed the BJP in 2025 either stayed home or voted for Mr. Kishor.

The BJP has had to wait for decades to have its own Chief Minister in Bihar. For years, despite being the party with a stronger organisation and a bigger social base, it needed the social engineering of Backward Classes from the non-Yadav Kurmi-Koeri communities that former Chief Minister and Janata Dal(U) supremo Nitish Kumar brought to the table.

In March, Mr. Kumar, said to be ailing, was finally persuaded to give way to the BJP's Samrat Choudhary as Chief Minister, and take up a seat in the Rajya Sabha. The selection of Mr. Choudhary, who joined the BJP after stints in the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the JD(U), was not a popular move within the BJP's Bihar unit. They would have preferred a leader with a dyed-in-the-wool approach. But Mr. Choudhary too brought a social base that the BJP wanted to keep. He was picked by the national leadership, with others expected to fall in line.

The BJP's confidence that its choice of Chief Minister had the backing of both the electorate and its local unit seems to have blinded it to the brewing discontent, especially after the death of social activist Bharat Tiwari, allegedly at the hands of Bihar Police. Mr. Kishor, in fact, kept revisiting this sore point among BJP cadre throughout his bypoll campaign.

This was followed by a change in the BJP's candidate, with the party replacing Abhishek Bunty with Neeraj Kumar Sinha for some unspecified issue. A remark attributed to a BJP leader during the campaign, later denied by the party, that anyone fielded by the BJP, even a dog or a cat, would be elected in Bankipur, highlighted the sense of hubris.

From steering campaigns to charting his own course

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Just a month ago, election strategist and Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) founder Prashant Kishor announced that he would contest the Bankipur Assembly byelection in Patna.

"If the BJP wins the Bankipur election, I will have no hesitation in acknowledging that the people of Bihar endorse their policies, their public face, and their government. If the BJP loses, the government must accept that the people of Bihar do not approve its conduct, character, image, and system of governance," Mr. Kishor told the media while announcing his candidature.

The byelection marks Mr. Kishor's electoral debut. In the State election held in November 2025, the JSP couldn't win a single seat, though it contested in 238 out of the 243 Assembly constituencies.

Mr. Kishor was born on March 20, 1977, in Konar village in south-western Bihar's Rohtas district. He completed his schooling in Buxar in 1991 and then attended Patna Science College for intermediate studies. Later, he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Lucknow University, followed by advanced professional training and studies in public health and healthcare management.

Prashant Kishor

He subsequently founded one of the country's largest political consultancy firms, the Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC).

As a political strategist, Mr. Kishor worked for the BJP in Gujarat during the 2014 Lok Sabha election campaign, that saw the rise of Narendra Modi as a national leader. Following the 2014 Lok Sabha election, he and I-PAC parted ways with the BJP and worked for Bihar's *Mahagathbandhan* – an alliance between the Janata Dal (United), the Rashtriya Janata Dal, and the Congress – in the 2015 Bihar Assembly election.

Mr. Kishor was subsequently appointed the vice-president of the JD(U). He and his firm later worked for several leading political parties, including the Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), the Trinamool Congress, and the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP).

The JD(U) left the Mahagathbandhan twice – in 2017 and 2022 – to join hands with the BJP. Mr. Kishor exited the Nitish Kumar-led party in 2020, citing differences over its support for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

In 2022, Mr. Kishor dissociated himself from I-PAC and launched the Jan Suraaj Padyatra from Valmikinagar in Bihar's West Champaran district. He launched the Jan Suraaj Party on October 2, 2024.

(With inputs from Nistula Hebbar)

In Datia, Congress kept a united front as BJP grappled with internal discord

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Following a high-stakes byelection that witnessed a campaign involving several big faces and infighting rumours in both parties, the Congress on Monday retained Madhya Pradesh's Datia Assembly seat after defeating the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate in the July 30 byelection.

In the results, Congress candidate Ghanshyam Singh defeated the BJP's Ashutosh Tiwari by 6,016 votes, while the Aazad Samaj Party's Damodar Yadav 'Mandal' finished third with 22,527 votes.

The bypoll was necessitated after the disqualification of the Congress's Rajendra Bharti in April following his conviction in a bank fraud case. Bharti had won the seat in 2023 Assembly election after defeating former State Home Minister and BJP heavyweight Narottam Mishra, ending his three-term dominance on the seat.

On cloud nine: Congress workers in Bhopal celebrate Ghanshyam Singh's win in Datia Assembly byelection on Monday. A.M.FARUQUI

Morale boost

For the M.P. unit of Congress, which was low on morale since the nomination of its Rajya Sabha candidate Meenakshi Natarajan was rejected, the victory comes as a booster shot with just two years left for the 2028 State Assembly election.

The Congress managed to present a largely united front throughout the campaigning.

According to Congress insiders, Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh played a key role in candidate selection and management of the caste equation, while State unit chief Jitu Patwari led booth management and intense campaigning.

The ruling BJP, on the other hand, seems to have failed in putting its house in order following protests by Mr. Mishra's supporters after he was snubbed for party ticket. The anger of his loyalists, who form a large chunk of the BJP's local cadre and functionaries, appears to have cost the party despite various meetings with Mr. Mishra in Bhopal and New Delhi and efforts by senior leaders to engage with his supporters and local functionaries. It lost various significant booths, including Mr. Mishra's own and that of district president Raghuvir Singh Kushwaha, who had offered to resign after the former was snubbed for the ticket.

State BJP sources point out that workers associated with Mr. Mishra did not put the energy into BJP's campaign. Rumours and allegations that Mr. Mishra "silently supported the Congress candidate" also circulated during the campaigning.

Datia constituency comes under the Gwalior-Chambal region, which has seen the influence of caste factor in electoral politics over the years due to its proximity with Uttar Pradesh.

Kishor gains across the spectrum as voters support his call for change

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Voters in central Patna's Bankipur Assembly constituency, long considered a stronghold of the BJP, on Monday expressed happiness that Jan Suraaj Party's (JSP) Prashant Kishor had won the byelection. People across communities and caste groups, including Muslims, Yadavs, upper castes, and Scheduled Castes, said they had voted for Mr. Kishor.

The BJP fielded Neeraj Kumar Sinha from the seat, which had been represented by the party's national president, Nitin Nabin, who won it for the fifth consecutive time in 2025. Mr. Nabin's father, Navin Kishore Prasad Sinha, had held the seat since 1995.

In jubilation: Jan Suraaj Party supporters celebrate Prashant Kishor's win in the Bankipur by-election in Patna on Monday. PTI

'Better alternative'

Deepak Sharma, a member of the Bhumihar community, said: "Prashant Kishor was a better candidate and a better alternative. He always raised public issues with clarity and boldness. Unlike other political leaders who make lofty promises, he raised the simple slogan – vote for the future of your children. This is something really different from others."

Many upper caste voters felt the BJP had taken them for granted. "The BJP thought that even if it fields an ordinary party worker, the voters will give them their vote. The people of Bankipur have rejected this mindset. In the entire campaign, the BJP candidate hardly spoke anything. If he cannot speak to the public, how will he speak about our cause in the Assembly?" Akhilesh Mishra, a member of the Brahmin community, said.

'RJD indifferent'

In areas such as Peermuhani and Daldali Road, where SC voters form a sizeable segment of the electorate, residents said Mr. Kishor personally visited these areas, met members of the community, and urged them to vote for change.

The Yaarpur and Jakkanpur areas, which have voters from the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), particularly Yadavs, said the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) remained largely indifferent throughout the campaign.

"When the campaign was at its peak, Tejashwi Yadav*ji* was on a foreign trip and only joined during the last two days of the campaign. We did not find much enthusiasm and eagerness in the RJD,"Mangesh Yadav said.

Large numbers of Muslim voters in the Sabzibagh area also opted to vote for Mr. Kishor. "As everyone knows, our community votes for candidates who can defeat BJP. We did not find that calibre in the RJD candidate while Prashant Kishor was the one giving the BJP tough and sleepless nights," Mohhamad Rizwan said.

Public anger is so strong that the BJP could not even retain its safest seat: Akhilesh

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Reacting to the Assembly byelection results, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday said the result pointed to the beginning of change. He added that the public anger was so strong that the BJP could not even retain its safest seat.

"Those who boasted of making God dance have been made to dance by God himself. This is a combined result of the unity of the youth and the anger of their parents because of vote theft, paper theft, offerings and donations stolen, job stealing, reservation theft, atrocities on PDA, Gross corruption, the Impact of Inflation, attacking the nation's Gen Z in every way. In all these ways, BJP has betrayed the trust and faith of the people," he said in a post on X.

Taking a jibe at the BJP national president, Nitin Nabin, without naming him, he said, "Now, even the BJP will demand the resignation of one of its own, because how can the boat sail by relying on someone who lost their own Assembly election? In reality, this defeat belongs to those who elected them, or rather, imposed their will on the organisation. This is a double defeat of the double engine."

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
TENDER NOTICE
The APTRANSCO invites on-line bids for Spec No.**PMM23-e-59/2026** for "Supply of 94Nos LTAC Panels for utilization at various substations of APTRANSCO. Date and time of availability of tender **04.08.2026** by **17:30 Hrs.** Further details can be seen in website(s): **www.apeprocurement.gov.in.** For further details Contact No: **9491030344**
Sd/-
R.O. No. GMCC/APTRANSCO/114/26-27 CHIEF ENGINEER/TRANSMISSION

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)
TGSPDCL intends to float tender for procurement of (a) Meter Test benches-4 position (b) Laptops (c) LT Guy Insulators (d) MS Channel 100x50 mm (e) Rain Coats one-procurement platform.
For further details of each item above, please visit www.tgsouthernpower.org, www.tender.telangana.gov.in, www.auction.telangana.gov.in.
Phone:040-23431360, 1033, 1035, 1026
Sd/-CHIEF ENGINEER (P&MM),
DIPR R.O.No.383-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt: 03-08-2026 TGSPDCL, Hyderabad.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (2nd Call)
Adv. No.(1) TTD-44021(34)/5/2026-PRESS Sec & (2)TTD-44021(34)/7/2026- PRESS
e-tenders are invited for Printing and supply of Desktop / Table-Top Calendars (1,25,000 Nos) and Telugu Panchangam Calenders (2,50,000 Nos) of 2027, as per Tender Notice & Details. Please log on to the website http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in For further details contact : 0877- 2264355, (Or) 0877-2264292.
TTD-40021(31)/1/2026-PRO SEC(Adv.No.140),Date: 01.08.2026 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala- 147001
Phone No. - 96461-18774, Email id:-scmeteringpatiala@gmail.com
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in
Tender Enquiry No. MQP-266/2026-27/PO(M) dated 30.07.2026
Chief Engineer/Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites e-tender for Procurement of Portable Secondary Injection Type CT & PT Test Equipment for Testing of LT/HT/EHT Current Transformers & Potential Transformers.
For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 30.07.2026, 11:00 AM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.**
1079/12/2026-27/13885 C 761/26

APPOINTMENT

KALAM INSTITUTE OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY (KIHT)
IMPORTANT UPDATE
KIHT will be conducting interviews for various positions of consultants in KIHT and it's associate organizations. Corresponding job descriptions are available on website www.kiht.in

BIKANER TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
Karni Industrial Area, Pugal Road, Bikaner 334004
https://btu.ac.in/ and https://btucam2026.com Email-id: cam2026@btu.ac.in
CAM 2026
Centralized Admission for M. Tech. and M. Arch. Session 2026-27
Adv. No. BTU/CAM/25-26/Adv./10 Date: 01/08/2026
Online applications are invited for admission to M.Tech. and M.Arch. programs offered by various constituent and affiliated colleges of Bikaner Technical University, Bikaner and affiliated colleges of Rajasthan Technical University, Kota for the academic session 2026-27.
Information brochure, tentative schedule, details of offered specialization, seat matrix of M.Tech./M.Arch., and other relevant information are provided on CAM 2026 Web portal (**https://btucam2026.com**). Fellowship is subject to terms and conditions and approval by AICTE. All the updates or changes will be provided on the CAM 2026 admission portal only. Candidates are advised to visit the web portal of CAM 2026 regularly as all communication will be made available through admission portal only.
Last date of Application Fee Deposit: 14 August 2026
Last date of Application submission: 15 August 2026
Raj.Samwad/C/26/8450 Coordinator, CAM 2026

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA,
PIN:751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020
e-Mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com;
GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM
DESIGNED TO EXCEL
"e"-Procurement Notice No. 13 /OCCL/2026-27 (on-line)
On-line percentage rate tender is invited for the following work :

Sl No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Bid Identification No.	Approx. Value of Work	Bid Security (through On-Line transfer/as per DTCN) (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	Availability & Submission of Tender (on-line)
01	Dredging, Nourishment & Protection to river bank near Lower Baliyatra Ground on Mahanadi Right from Cantonment Gada to Seashore Boat Club for Mahanadi River Front Development Project.	Mahanadi South Division-I, Cuttack	OCCL-CGP/02/ 2026-27	Rs.41.05 Crore	Rs.41,05,000/-	12 (Twelve) Calendar months	From 06.08.2026, 03.30 PM to 20.08.2026, 5.30 PM.

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCCL.
Date of Opening of the Tender : 21.08.2026, 12.00 Noon onwards.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in
MANAGING DIRECTOR
34001/582/2627 OIPR-34001/34120/1/26-27/0014

e-mail ID - sepwd_rgda@yahoo.com; Phone/Fax No - 06856 - 223049
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RAYAGADA (R&B) CIRCLE, RAYAGADA
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. C.C.E (RANDB) RGDA-02 / 2026-27 (Online) Dt.01.08.2026
No.971 Date : 01.08.2026
INVITATION FOR BIDS

1.	The **Chief Construction Engineer, Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate bids** in **double cover mode** to be received in **online mode** only for the construction of works as detailed in the table below:		
2.	Nature of Work	:	**Building Works**
3.	No. of Works	:	**02 (Two) Nos. of work**
4.	Estimated Cost (Approximately)	:	**Rs.267.29 Lakh, and Rs.158.67 Lakhs.**
5.	Bid Cost (Online)	:	**Rs.10,000/-**
6.	**EMD / Bid Security Amount (Online)**	:	**One Percentage of the Estimated Cost.**
7.	**Class of Contractor**	:	**B, A and Special Class only as per Financial Eligibility.**
8.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	**11.00 Hours of Dt.10.08.2026 to 17.00 Hours of Dt.25.08.2026**
9.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	**11.00 Hrs of Dt. 28.08.2026**
10.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tendersorissa.gov.in** . Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.		

Chief Construction Engineer,
Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada.
34001/580/2627 OIPR-34001/34154/1/26-27/0002

INBRIEF

WhatsApp users say their accounts 'put under review'

Instant messaging app WhatsApp on Monday put multiple accounts, including those in India, "under review" for 24 hours and blocked all the app features, prompting several affected users to flag the issue through social media. When contacted, a WhatsApp spokesperson said, "We are always working to stay ahead of those trying to abuse our service and ban accounts to help keep other users safe. Sometimes we get this wrong and if we do, we try to fix it as quickly as possible to get people back to chatting." The disruption was highlighted around 8 p.m., when users started facing the issue without any prior warning from the messaging app. PTI

Greater synergy needed in Defence Ministry, says Rajnath

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday called for deeper integration between the military and civilian components of the Ministry of Defence, saying greater synergy was essential to address evolving security and technological challenges. Addressing the 85th Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) Civilian Services Day celebrations in New Delhi, Mr. Singh said military and administrative integration must progress together, stressing that both uniformed personnel and civilian officials were united by the shared commitment of "Nation First." He also also released the 34th edition of *Samvad* magazine.

'Changes in transgender law can't scrap given rights'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday orally clarified to the Union government that a new law, seen as dismantling the transgender community's right to self-identification, will not retrospectively, and by default, invalidate 'transgender cards' issued under a previous legislation.

Petitioners, who include activists and community members, pointed out that the importance of the transgender identity cards cannot be trifled away by the Union government.

A lawyer, who identified as a member of the community, said the card was an essential part of her basic identity. "Every day I struggle. It is a struggle to even get a house to live in," she told a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, on the Bench, replied, "We assure you, we are concerned about your rights".

"Even if there is a change in legislation, the rights conferred or accrued must remain the same," Justice Bagchi told the Centre, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

States can withdraw FIRs against July 20 protesters, says SC

Court clarifies the expression 'criminal antecedents' used in earlier order meant 'grave and heinous offences', suggests 'classification' of protesters

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday clarified that its July 28 order would not prevent respective State governments from closing or withdrawing proceedings arising out of FIRs registered against student protesters in accordance with law. The court also clarified that the expression "criminal antecedents", used in its earlier order to exclude certain protesters from interim protection, referred to "grave and heinous offences".

The clarification came after a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant had, in its July 28 interim order, permitted the NCT of Delhi and other States to "proceed" with the investigation of FIRs registered in connection with the protests, while restraining the authorities from taking coercive action against "protesting students" who did not have "criminal antecedents". The direction had prompted the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), which spearheaded the protests, to contend that the order was in "direct contradiction" to Centre's assurance that amnesty would be granted to the protesters.

> A congenial way has to be worked out... If both sides agree, we can engineer and enable that process... These FIRs should not be left hanging over the students
>
> **JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI**
> Supreme Court judge

CJI Kant suggested that a "classification" could be undertaken to distinguish students who had participated peacefully in the demonstrations from "hardened criminals" who may have infiltrated the protests.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Union government and the Delhi Police, submitted that the government was "serious" about its assurance and was engaging with representatives of the CJP to work out the "semantics" and the appropriate legal mechanism for bringing the criminal proceedings against the protesters to an end.

The Bench observed that a "congenial way" had to be worked out and called for cooperation from both sides.

"If both of you agree, we can engineer and enable that process... These FIRs should not be left hanging over the students," Justice Joymalya Bagchi said. He added that investigating agencies could file closure reports under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS).

BJP, Opposition spar in panel meet over Meta's processes

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

In a face-off between the ruling party and Opposition MPs on Monday at the meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology, where Meta representatives were summoned against the backdrop of the recent students' protests, the BJP members, led by panel Chairperson Nishikant Dubey, demanded an apology from Meta chief Mark Zuckerberg for restricting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Facebook post, while the Opposition pushed back, arguing that democracy should not be regulated in the name of regulating technology.

Instagram played a crucial role in the protest, acting both as the platform airing discontent and as a tool to mobilise protesters.

Mr. Dubey warned that the social media company could face action if accountability was not fixed. It is learnt that he has asked Meta to provide a complete audit trail of the post, from "report to restoration". The restriction, Mr. Dubey reportedly said in his opening remarks at the meeting, underscored the need for greater oversight of Meta's content moderation processes, automated systems and recommendation algorithms.

Shafi Parambil

The Opposition pushed back against this line of questioning by Mr. Dubey and other BJP MPs, arguing that content moderation decisions on social media platforms should not be subject to political influence. While raising their own concerns about Meta, particularly on issues of privacy and compliance with Indian laws, they maintained that criticism of the government could not be equated with anti-national content.

Congress MP Shafi Parambil is learnt to have told the meeting that "technology should be regulated, not democracy", while emphasising that dissent could not be criminalised.

Domestic cruelty rules cover live-in couples: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said the criminal offence of domestic cruelty would extend to live-in relationships between consenting adults that qualify as "relationships in the nature of marriage".

The judgment authored by a Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Karol said Section 498A (domestic cruelty) of the Indian Penal Code, now replaced by Sections 85 and 86 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, should not be limited to married relationships alone. Live-in relationships were a reality in modern, urban life. The law must adapt.

The court reasoned that relationships in the nature of marriage and which show the requisite intent to marry were the "closest to marriage itself".

Heat stress during pregnancy linked to adverse birth outcomes, says study

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

A nationwide analysis of data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) quantifies the link between prolonged exposure to extreme heat during pregnancy and adverse birth outcomes in India. It was associated with a measurable increase in the risk of low birthweight, preterm birth and stillbirths among the mothers, and was tied to the trimester during which exposure occurred.

The paper 'Effect of extreme heat stress on adverse pregnancy outcomes in India', analysed 209,266 births recorded between 2015 and 2020, and matched each birth to local heat conditions during the pregnancy.

It used nationally representative NFHS-5 data (2019-21) linked to high-resolution heat exposure estimates (India Heat Index) for 2015-20 across 707 districts. It uses 'consecutive sweltering days' instead of average temperature.

The study used NFHS-5 data and linked it to high-resolution heat exposure estimates.

The researchers, Vineetha Vincent *et al*, showed that trimester-specific windows: heat extremes during the first trimester were most linked to preterm birth, the second trimester to low birth weight, and the third trimester showed a higher risk for stillbirth.

The risks were also higher among mothers with low Body Mass Index (<18.5), with lower education levels, and from poorer wealth groups, the study concluded.

It also found that urban residents showed slightly higher low birth weight rates than their rural counterparts.

The study also found associations between climatic zones, heat exposure, and pregnancy outcomes – mountainous zones showed stronger associations, while humid subtropical and arid zones also showed significant low birth weight occurrences. This is presented as the first population-scale evidence from India tying prolonged extreme heat stress (not just temperature) to adverse pregnancy outcomes, using a heat index that incorporates humidity, wind, and radiation.

The authors say research evidence already shows the potential biological effects of high ambient temperature: increased maternal core body temperature raises foetal core temperature, leading to birth defects, and dehydration decreases uterine blood flow and foetal growth, and due to reduced blood flow, there is a heightened chance of uterine contractions and an increased risk of preterm birth.

The study was led by researchers at the University of Queensland - IIT Delhi Academy of Research, in association with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (Centre for Atmospheric Sciences and School of Public Policy) and the University of Queensland's School of Public Health, Brisbane, University of New South Wales, Sydney; the University of Exeter, U.K.; and Korea University, Seoul.

EC seeks papers on amendments to NCP's constitution

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The Election Commission (EC) has sought documents related to the amendments made to certain sections of the constitution of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) from Sunetra Pawar, who is the national president of the party. The NCP on Monday said that it received the letter issued by the EC on July 27.

"We are in receipt of the letter. The EC sought some more documents about the changes made to the party's constitution. We will send them after discussing it with the national president," a party leader told *The Hindu* on Monday evening.

Ms. Pawar was elected as the NCP national president at a national convention on February 26.

The letter accessed by *The Hindu* gave reference to the two letters the party had written to the EC in March and April this year.

"It has been observed that amendments to Articles 6, 7, 12, 18(1), 32 and 36 have been carried out by the party. However, the supporting documents furnished by the party, i.e. the resolution passed in the national convention held on 26.02.2026, mentions amendment to only Article 18(1). In view of the above, it is requested that a copy of the relevant resolution and/or other supporting documents in respect of the amendments made to Articles 6, 7, 12, 32 and 36 also be furnished for consideration of the amended constitution by the Commission," it said.

"Only one change has been made and that pertains to extension of office-bearers' tenure from three to five years," a party leader said.

Top court asks govt. to ensure safe footpaths

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI:

The Supreme Court directed the Union government on Monday to provide pedestrians broad, clearly-marked footpaths exclusively for their use.

A Bench headed by Justice P.S. Narasimha said the right to a clean and broad footpath was a fundamental right the state could afford to everyone without any big investment. "Wherever there is a road, there should be space for walkers. Make sure these spaces are not encroached upon," Justice Narasimha addressed Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Nataraj before posting the case after a fortnight.

On June 19, the apex court had declared the right to walk on demarcated and well-maintained footpaths a fundamental right.

TH CROSSWORD + 14863

(set by Vidwan)

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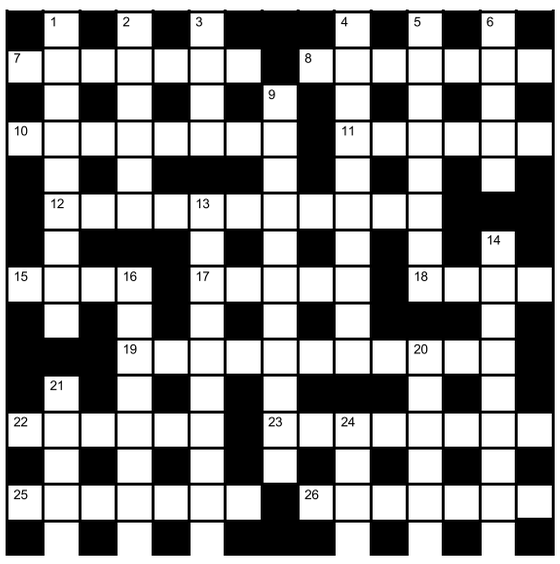
SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Noble lion killed for piece of beef (7)
8 Small food shop with good, hot slice of taco! That is Joy! (7)
10 Better if solicitor spends time with head of monastery at church (8)
11 America about to tax entry (6)
12 Vicky spent time in kitchen, prepared Ukrainian delicacy (7,4)
15 Housing for the poorest, fifty in total (4)
17 Curtsy King and Knight with bare heels (5)
18 Bay blowing cold smell (4)
19 Ruth got cash distributed for having an urgent universal urge for relief (6,5)
22 Scream - an animation movie about India (6)
23 Vigorous Chelsea occasionally occupying space at the top (8)
25 Dirty as beer fermented with piece of meat (7)
26 Second revolt over England withdrawing basic rail support (7)

Down

1 Tiny men in America, run away from cruel fights (9)
2 Boot past student, possibly out on a limb (6)
3 Means racket time (4)
4 Coy sculler regularly participating in swimming games for unit (10)
5 Just not following chapter on B-52 support for ground troops, for instance (3,5)
6 Leader of Xanadu, has fights over love for some African language (5)
9 Kind of cloud below, he almost gets in the puff (11)
13 Revolutionary British King and Luxembourg Knight plan faceless American supremacist organisation (2,4,4)
14 Related to troubles in red tape (9)
16 Manliness? Male suffering, for the most part, is minute and ordinary! (8)
20 Old boy looked and followed (6)
21 Trace quiet communist (5)
24 Dance and haul away (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS6962 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

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

S	H	R	U	G	O	F	F	
	E		H		A			
I	C	O	N	I	C			
	S		S		N			
T	U	T	U					
	U		T		N			
E	L	O	P	E	D			
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H	E	D	O	N	I	S	T	
	O		O					
E	C	E	D	E	N	T		
	T		I		E			
E	G	O	T	R	I	P	S	
	R		T		A			
S	C	Y	L	L	A			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Celebrating *Aadi Perukku*

Rivers are held as goddesses, with the power to negate one's sins. Starting with the Ganga, revering our rivers is an ancient practice dating back eons. Cauvery, the sacred river that flows towards the South, is hailed as Dakshina Ganga. With over 60 crore streams, Cauvery is more than an agricultural lifeline, said P. Swaminathan. Sage Vashishta told Rama that if one bathes in the Cauvery, one's sins will be washed away. Spiritual literature records that Rama bathed in the Cauvery after defeating Ravana in the Lankan war, and on that day, the Cauvery was swollen.

Perukku is a Tamil word denoting abundance or swelling, and the celebration of *Aadi Perukku* along the banks of the Cauvery, Tamirabharani and Thenpennai, on the 18th day of the Tamil month of *Aadi* find mention in the records on Karikalan, the famed Chola ruler. One may ask what the significance of celebrating *Perukku* on the 18th day of the Tamil month is, while Hindu festivals are largely celebrated based on the stars. The number 18 is spiritually very significant. The Mahabharat war was raged for 18 days. It is stated that the war began on the first day of *Aadi* and ended on the 18th day. The Pandavas also bathed in the Cauvery on the 18th day of Aadi, to wash away the sins of killing in the name of war. The Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna's discourse to Arjuna, contains 18 chapters. *Aadi Perukku* also signals abundance. The river, originating in Kodagu, is revered as an aspect of Parvati, held as His beloved sister by Vishnu. Ranganatha, the archa murti of Vishnu in Srirangam, participates in the celebration of *Aadi Perukku* by visiting the river and bearing gifts for Cauvery. *Aadi Perukku* is no less than a celestial celebration.

INBRIEF

Government hikes export levy on petrol, diesel and ATF

In its latest fortnightly review, the government increased the export levy on petrol to ₹3.5 per litre, on diesel to ₹24 per litre and the levy on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) to ₹22 per litre. The excise levy on petrol and diesel for domestic consumption remains unchanged. In the previous fortnightly review on July 16, export levy on petrol was reduced to ₹2.5 per litre, while that on ATF and diesel was increased to ₹15.5 per litre and ₹14.5 per litre respectively. Against the backdrop of the West Asia crisis, the government has instituted export levies since March 27 to ensure adequate domestic availability of the retail fuels by disincentivising exports. The rates are reviewed on a fortnightly basis. The effective rates are prescribed based on the then prevailing average international prices of crude oil, petrol, diesel and jet fuel since the prior review.

Essar Group plans £4.3 bn U.K. energy transition investment

India's Essar Group plans to invest £4.3 billion ($5.79 billion) to build low-carbon energy transition projects in the U.K. by 2035, it said in a statement on Monday. Essar Energy Transition Fuels (EETF), a unit of Essar Group, operates a 2,00,000-barrels-per-day Stanlow refinery. The 4.3-billion-pound investment pipeline will support the U.K.'s energy transition, "generating massive long-term economic value, and creating thousands of highly skilled jobs," said Prashant Ruia, Chairman of EETF. Of the planned investment, more than £1 billion are nearing final investment decision to transform Stanlow into a leading energy transition hub, the statement said. Essar is expanding its retail network in the UK and aims to supply 800 new locations with its fuels. Essar is also exploring building data centres near the Stanlow project. REUTERS

India may extend tax breaks for contract manufacturing

The extension up to March 31, 2041 is 'to provide (tax) certainty', according to a draft of the proposed tax amendments; move a major win for Apple which had lobbied for such changes

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India has proposed extending tax exemptions until 2041 for foreign companies that provide machinery to contract manufacturers, handing a major win to Apple which had lobbied for such changes, and is fast expanding in the market.

India has been a key market for Apple as it diversifies iPhone manufacturing beyond China, and the South Asian nation is set to make 26% of the world's iPhones in 2026, up from 6% four years ago, according to Counterpoint Research. According to a draft of the proposed tax amendments seen by *Reuters*, "to provide (tax) certainty" the government has extended tax breaks until March 31, 2041 to foreign companies that provide equipment to their contract manufacturers in India. India introduced the tax exemption for foreign companies in February, valid only until 2031, after Apple lobbied the Indian government to modify its income tax laws to ensure the company is not taxed for ownership of the high-end iPhone machinery it provides to its contract manufacturers.

Apple lobbied to ensure it is not taxed for ownership of the high-end iPhone machinery it provides to its contract manufacturers. AP

Apple had feared that, unlike in China, tax laws in India could treat ownership of machinery supplied to its contract manufacturers as "business connection", exposing its iPhone profits to tax.

The extended tax exemption will apply to manufacturers of mobile phones, tablets, laptops, hearing and wearable electronic devices, as per the draft bill that will have to be passed by both houses of Parliament.

Storing components

India has exempted from tax foreign firms' income from storing and providing parts used to manufacture such electronics components to contract manufacturers until 2041.

The rule will apply to factories and warehouses in customs-bonded areas, which are technically considered being outside India's customs border.

If devices are sold within India from such factories, they will attract import taxes.

ONGC to reserve half of Mangaluru facility for strategic reserves

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will reserve half of its 1.75 million metric tonne (MMT) oil storage facility in Mangaluru as a strategic storage, Suresh Gopi, Minister of State (MoS) for Petroleum and Natural Gas, told Rajya Sabha on Monday.

Mr. Gopi also informed that the rest of the capacity would be available for commercial use.

"ONGC is developing a strategic petroleum reserve facility of 1.75 MMT capacity at Mangaluru. 50% of this storage will be reserved as strategic storage and rest of the capacity will be available to ONGC for commercial operations," he told Parliament. The project would be entirely funded by it.

Mr. Gopi also told the House that India's current storage capacity for crude oil and petroleum products could meet 74 days of its net crude import requirements.

A view of ONGC's advanced drilling rig. File @LG_LADAKH X/ANI

He said the government had chalked out plans to build a storage capacity of 6.5 MMT, including the 4 MMT capacity in Odisha's Chandikhol and Karnataka's Padur.

On Chandikhol, he said "the estimated project cost is about ₹9,000 crores."

Government to sell up to 6.5% stake in LIC at ₹382 per share

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government will sell up to a 6.5% stake in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) at a floor price of ₹382 per share through a two-day offer for sale (OFS) beginning Tuesday.

The issue opens for non-retail investors on Tuesday and for retail investors on Wednesday.

If fully subscribed, the sale of over 82.22 crore shares or a 6.5% stake at the given floor price will fetch about ₹31,000 crore to the disinvestment kitty.

"Government offers to disinvest 2.5% equity with an additional 4% as a green shoe option," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Arunish Chawla said in a post on X.

The floor price is at a 10% discount over Monday's closing price of the insurer's shares of ₹424.35 on the BSE. The stake sale will help LIC achieve the minimum public shareholding requirement mandated by market regulator SEBI ahead of schedule.

The stake sale will help LIC meet the minimum public shareholding requirement mandated by SEBI ahead of schedule. REUTERS

SEBI had given LIC time till May 16, 2027, to achieve a minimum 10% public shareholding.

Present stake

At present, the government holds a 96.5% stake in LIC. It had earlier sold 3.5% through an initial public offering (IPO) in May 2022 at a price band of ₹902-949 per share, raising about ₹21,000 crore.

LIC currently has a market capitalisation of over ₹5.36 lakh crore.

LIC shares settled at ₹424.35 on Monday, down 0.12% over the previous close on BSE.

So far, in the current fiscal, the government has mopped up ₹21,082 crore through stake sale in seven public sector undertakings (PSUs) and remittances from SUUTI (Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India).

TRAI strengthens call quality app; telcos, public get access to reports

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) unveiled an application to report issues with call quality for Android devices. The MyCall app allows users to score any given call's quality out of five, and report specific issues such as echoes, low audio quality and inaudible calls.

The app's insights will be analysed by the regulator after collecting anonymised data on its own servers and low quality calls will also have signal strength, location and other data sent to telecom operators for them to improve systems, TRAI chairperson Anil Kumar Lahoti said.

The app's insights will be analysed by the regulator.

Publicly available

The data will also eventually become publicly available in some form, Mr. Lahoti said. TRAI is not inclined to mandate the installation of this app on smartphones via phone makers, Mr. Lahoti said responding to a question.

The MyCall app existed for years but most of the features unveiled on Monday were not available till the revamp. The app follows the footsteps of DND and MySpeed, TRAI's revamped apps focusing on spam call, SMS reporting and Internet speed test.

Call quality

TRAI has attempted multiple times to hold telcos responsible for call drops and call quality. A decade ago, it attempted to put in a micro-penalty framework to compensate customers for dropped calls. Telcos successfully argued in the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court stating laws of physics made it impossible to guarantee a call wouldn't drop. In recent years, TRAI worked on financial disincentives under multiple regulations, including the 2024 Standards of Quality of Service of Access (Wireline and Wireless) and Broadband (Wireline And Wireless) Service Regulations to require frequent audits and meeting certain quality benchmarks. Not meeting such benchmarks leads to a disincentive.

Older technologies

Inter-telco call quality is limited due to older technologies used to interconnect such calls between different operators.

Manufacturing growth falls to 5-year low in July: PMI

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's manufacturing sector's growth fell to a five-year low in July on slower rise in new business orders amid increasingly challenging market conditions, a monthly survey showed on Monday.

The seasonally-adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell from 54.2 in June to 53.5 in July – the lowest since August 2021 and below the long-run series average of 54.2.

The PMI index is a gauge of overall conditions based on new orders, output, employment, supplier delivery times and stocks of purchases. A print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction. In July, growth in new orders was the second-weakest in over four years.

Job creation across manufacturing industry weakened for third straight month in July

It indicated advertising and demand resilience supported sales, which were somewhat curbed by increasingly challenging market conditions.

India mulls tax relief for offshore funds using local managers

Reuters
MUMBAI

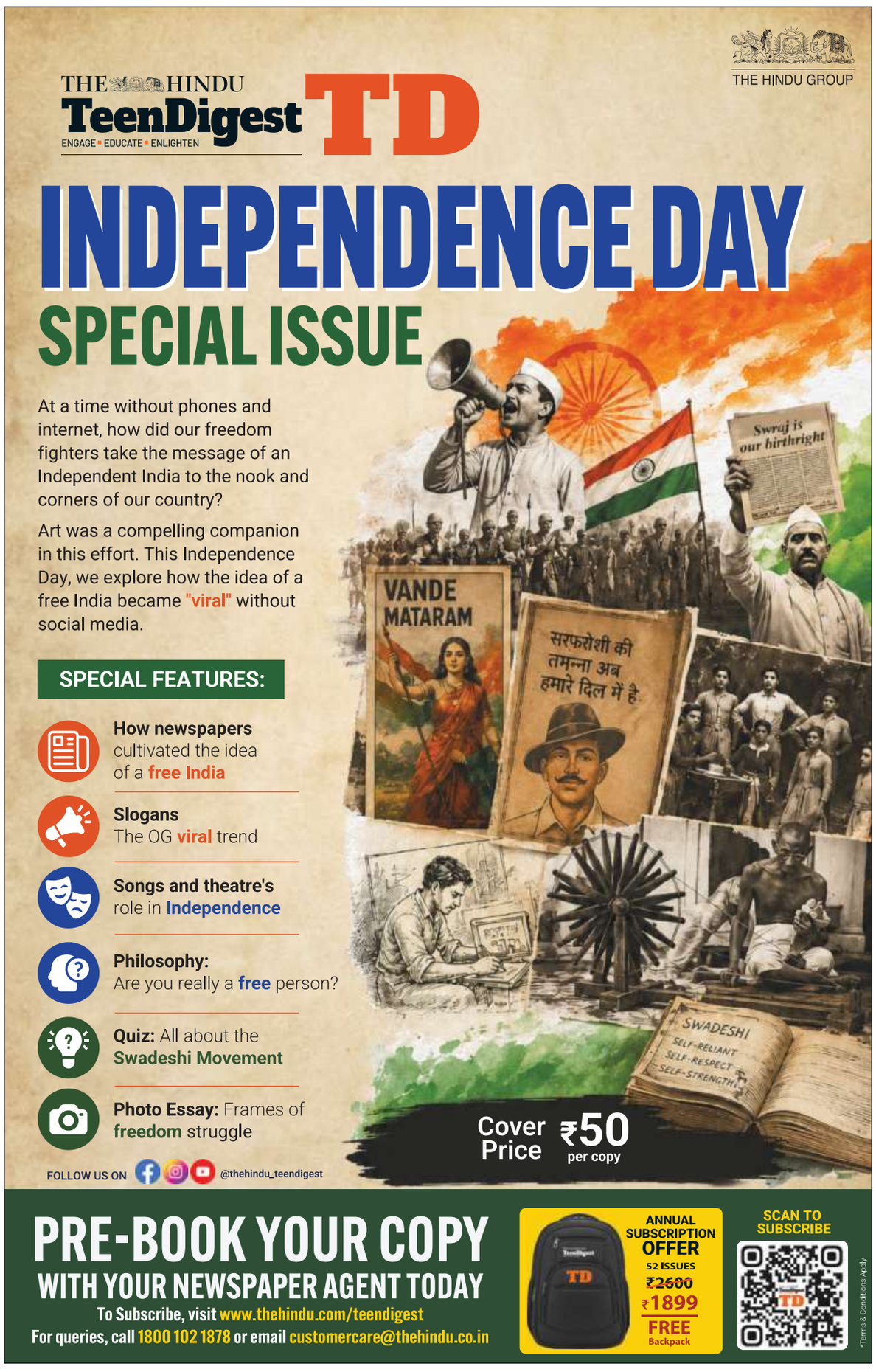
India has proposed tax law amendments to shield offshore investment funds from Indian tax liabilities when they route investments through India-based fund managers, a draft bill showed.

The proposed change comes as the country faces significant foreign outflows, prompting the government to take measures to attract overseas investors by easing access. Investors have long complained about aggressive tax administration in India.

The government described the new rules as being framed "in order to promote fund management activity and provide tax certainty."

An email query sent to India's Finance Ministry was not answered immediately.

Under the existing rules, an offshore fund must maintain a minimum corpus of ₹1 billion ($10.49 million), have at least 20 investors, and cap any single investor's contribution at 25% in order to be shielded from Indian tax. Funds that fail to meet these conditions risk having their India-sourced profits taxed at rates of up to 38%.



KYIV

Russian air strike on warehouse in Ukraine burns eight million books

REUTERS

A Russian strike on a warehouse in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv over the weekend destroyed eight million books, publishing house Ranok said on Monday, slamming it as an attack on Ukrainian culture. "This is the largest loss to Ukraine's book infrastructure since the beginning of the war" in 2022, the publisher said. AP

BANGKOK

Myanmar junta releases latest photos of detained leader Suu Kyi

AFP

Myanmar's detained former leader Aung San Suu Kyi met Arnaud de Baecque, the Red Cross envoy to the country, on Monday, the military-backed government said, a rare moment of contact with the outside world for the Nobel laureate who has been held out of public view since the military seized power in 2021. AP

KHARTOUM

35 killed after Sudan Army drone strike on RSF-held village in Darfur

REUTERS

The Sudanese Army on Sunday struck a traditional court in the village of Garra al-Zawaya in North Darfur state with drones, killing 35 people and wounding others, a rights group said. The village is under the control of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which has been locked in a brutal conflict with the Army since 2023. AFP

WELLINGTON

Nauru, the world's third smallest country, changes name to Naoero

AFP

The Pacific Island country of Nauru has changed its name to the Republic of Naoero, its President said, matching the spelling and pronunciation in the national language. With 12,000 residents, Nauru is the world's third-smallest country by population size. The new name is spoken as Now-ero. AP

Children among 11 killed in Ukrainian strikes on Russia

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Ukrainian strikes, one in a Russian Black Sea resort and another in the annexed peninsula of Crimea, killed a total of 11 people and wounded dozens, officials said.

The death toll from a drone attack on Russia's seaside village of Arkhipo-Osipovka rose to seven, with three children among them, the crisis task force for Russia's southern Krasnodar region said on social media.

Venyamin Kondratyev, the Governor, said earlier that Ukraine had struck the Black Sea resort with a drone. Unverified social media footage showed what appeared to be a drone crashing into a busy beach at Arkhipo-Osipovka, as tourists looked on from the shore and in the water.

Caught in crossfire: Seven people were killed in the drone attack on Arkhipo-Osipovka, a Black Sea resort city. REUTERS

Four people were also killed in a Ukrainian strike on Russia-annexed Crimea, the Moscow-installed Governor Sergey Aksyonov said in a post on Telegram.

Summer destinations

The Black Sea coast and Crimea are both summer destinations popular among Russian tourists.

There has been an uptick in civilian deaths in the conflict throughout 2026, the United Nations has reported, as the four-and-a-half-year war grinds on with no sign of a peace deal. Ukraine has in recent months intensified its counter-strikes on Crimea – seized by Moscow in 2014 – leading to electricity and fuel shortages this summer.

New talks are 'last chance' for Iran to forge deal, avoid escalation: Trump

U.S. leader says negotiations ongoing with Tehran on Hormuz and denuclearisation; Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterates no talks under way with Washington; he adds discussions on managing the waterway remain active with Oman

Reuters
DUBAI

U.S. President Donald Trump said late on Monday that newly planned talks with Tehran are the "last chance" for Iran to forge a deal and avoid an escalation of U.S. strikes on the country.

Earlier in the day, Iran said there were no talks under way with the U.S. and no plans for any meetings, contradicting Mr. Trump who had claimed talks would take place in the afternoon as justification for calling off attacks.

Over the weekend Mr. Trump repeated a pattern that has emerged throughout the past five months: announcing plans for "massive attacks" on Iran, only to cancel them at the last minute.

Mural messaging: People walk past an anti-U.S. billboard on a street in Tehran on Monday. REUTERS

Speaking at the Oval Office, Mr. Trump said he expects negotiations that will reopen the Strait of Hormuz and create a pathway for Iran to address Washington's concerns about its nuclear programme will begin in the next day or two. "The first phase is the opening of the straits. The second phase will be the denuclearisation," the President said. "And that will take a little while."

Mr. Trump, asked about the status of the negotiations, told reporters "they are going on right now," adding that the two sides were speaking at the request of Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar among others. "This is a last chance for them to sign a good document," he said, referring to Iran.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei rejected the claim, saying no negotiations with the U.S were taking place and no meetings were scheduled. Iran had no plans to host foreign delegations or send negotiators abroad in the coming days, he said.

Mr. Baghaei added that all Iranian negotiators were currently in the country, apart from Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who was on a religious pilgrimage in Iraq. The only talks under way, he said, were discussions with Oman over management of the Strait of Hormuz.

Meanwhile, oil prices fell after Mr. Trump's decision to hold back from military action, with Brent crude futures down more than 4% to around $84 a barrel.

(With inputs from Associated Press)

Israel objects to Gaza plan proposed by U.S., defiant on pullout

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel voiced objections on Monday over a plan promoted by U.S. President Donald Trump to end the Gaza war, with a Cabinet member seeking to tear it up, defying pressure to end strikes and begin pulling forces from the Palestinian territory.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office demanded "verifiable" disarmament by Hamas, which on Friday announced it would give up weapons under the Trump plan to a nascent Palestinian governing committee.

"Israel has conveyed its comments and concerns on the proposed framework to our American counterparts. The version that has been made public does not reflect Israel's positions," said Doron Spielman, spokesman for the Prime Minister's office.

The document released by the Board of Peace, the Trump-backed group in charge of implementing a Gaza plan, called for Israel to cease military operations "without delay".

Saying that such language was "completely different" from what Israel understood, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich demanded that Mr. Netanyahu's security cabinet "immediately" hold a new vote on the plan.

Reform UK proposes military operation to stop asylum seekers

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

The hard-right Reform UK party said on Monday that if it was elected, it would carry out "the largest military operation" in the English Channel "since the Second World War" to stop migrants crossing on small boats.

The proposal, which experts and other political parties promptly rubbished, comes days after tens of thousands of migrants entered Spain's North African exclave of Ceuta from neighbouring Morocco, reigniting Europe's debate over irregular migration.

"What happened in Ceuta over the weekend shows you just how serious this situation is," Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage, who leads the anti-immigration Reform, told a press conference unveiling the new policy in a 28-page document.

Reform said the policy, dubbed "Operation Fortress", would make Britain's border impenetrable.

It details plans to deploy Britain's Royal Navy to return small boats to France, something proposed and swiftly abandoned by the Conservative government in 2020. The next general election is not due until 2029.

(With inputs from Reuters)

Hasina's 'homecoming' media event could strain ties with India: Dhaka

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Continued political activities by deposed Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from Indian territory "could harm" bilateral relations, the Government of Bangladesh conveyed to India on Monday through Humayun Kobir, the Foreign Affairs Adviser to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

Mr. Kobir met with Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi in Dhaka after Ms. Hasina's August 5 'homecoming' media event was announced here by the Foreign Correspondents Club.

"Adviser Kobir mentioned that such activities could harm the positive progress of bilateral relations between the two countries. The Indian High Commissioner assured that the matter would be duly considered, necessary inquiries would be made and efforts would be made in this regard," the official news agency of Bangladesh UNB reported. The report added that Dhaka expects India to ensure that no one, including Ms. Hasina, used "Indian territory to make political statements or conduct any activities aimed at creating instability within Bangladesh".

Sheikh Hasina

The Indian High Commission said that the discussion between Mr. Trivedi and Mr. Kobir focused on "mutual interests" and "mutual benefits".

"High Commissioner reiterated India's intent to work positively with the Government of Bangladesh to advance the developmental aspirations of the peoples of India and Bangladesh," said the High Commission in a message.

Ms. Hasina, who has been based in New Delhi since fleeing Dhaka in 2024, has given multiple telephonic and emailed interviews over the past months expressing her desire to return to Bangladesh by the end of the year.

On Sunday, the Foreign Correspondents Club announced that the media event featuring an audio message from Ms. Hasina would be held on August 5 and that the event titled 'Sheikh Hasina's Homecoming' would also feature her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy and several top functionaries of the Awami League.

Waeil Awwad, the club's president, told *The Hindu* on Monday that the event remains on track.

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KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website:www.kiadb.in
No.IADB/ENGG/EIA/ETND-EC-03/2425/2026-27 Date: 03.08.2026
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER TO PROVIDE CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR OBTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE (EC)
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
KIADB is inviting tender under two cover systems for providing consultancy services from Environmental Consultant of NABET under 7(C) category with NABL Accredited Consultant/ MoU with NABET & NABL Accredited Consultancy Services Accredited Consultant are eligible to participate in this tenders.
Name of the work: Providing Consultancy Services for preparing EIA, SIS studies etc., to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) from State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and Consent for Establishment (CFE) from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and submission of Half-yearly compliance report for all the conditions of EC & CFE for 3 years for Vemgal 3rd Phase at Madivala, Chandrashekar, Mallipanahalli, Manchandahalli, Kurugal Villages at Vemgal Hobli, Kolar District in an extent of Extent 656A-13 1/4 G.
● Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **21-08-2026** upto **4:00** pm.
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Sd/- Engineer-In-Chief,
KIADB, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/1978/CCL/2026-27

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(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
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Name of the work: Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan, Design, Preparation of Estimates, Cost Structure etc., for the proposed Vemgal Industrial Area 3rd Phase at Vemgal Taluk, Kolar District. (Extent 656A-13 1/4 G)
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PT1-HE-SCH-POLICY-0003-2026/41754/HE., Bhubaneswar, Dated:03.08.2026
Corrigendum-III
NOTICE INVITING RFP FOR PROCUREMENT, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT & ITS ACCESSORIES FOR BERHAMPUR UNIVERSITY, GANJAM UNDER REGIONAL DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION, BERHAMPUR APPROVED UNDER PM-USHA.
RFP No. PM-USHA:02/2026 Date: 02.07.2026

Sl. No.	RFP Cl.No.	Page No.	Description as per RFP	Modified vide Corrigendum I, dated 20.07.2026	Now Modified Provisions
1	DATA SHEET (Sl. No.7 & 8)	5	Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid - 23/07/2026 till 4:00 PM) (Registered Post & Speed Post only)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid - 07/08/2026 till 4:00 PM) (Registered Post & Speed Post only)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid - 24/08/2026 till 4:00 PM) (Registered Post & Speed Post only)
2		6	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid - 24/07/2026 at 4:00 PM	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid - 11/08/2026 at 4:00 PM	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid - 29/08/2026 at 4:00 PM

All other terms and conditions of the RFP remain unchanged.
Joint Secretary to Govt. & SPD, PM-USHA
11001/245/2627
OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0037

CHALLENGE COMPLETE

‘Bringing home a gold medal feels like a massive accomplishment’

PTI

Competing in the 48kg category is difficult, and managing the weight while training is a huge challenge. But this is a part of our life, and I faced it. Having faced all that and to bring home a (CWG) gold medal feels like a massive accomplishment. I’ll certainly put in my best effort for Asian Games — Mirabai Chanu, weightlifter.

REWARD

Sports Minister felicitates CWG weightlifting medallists

ANI

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday felicitated India’s Commonwealth Games weightlifting medallists. The Indian lifters returned with eight medals — one gold, six silver and a bronze. Mandaviya presented cash awards of ₹30 lakh to gold medallists, ₹20 lakh to silver medallists and ₹10 lakh to the bronze medallist.

WHO NEXT?

Markram not fussed about the prospect of leading LSG in next IPL

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Aiden Markram said he hasn’t given much thought to the prospect of leading LSG in the IPL next year, leaving the decision of finding Rishabh Pant’s replacement to the franchise. “There are some quality leaders in that group, so I’m not too fussed about it. Whoever gets it, I’m sure will take it on and do a good job,” he said.

SEASONED CAMPAIGNER

Chelsea signs veteran midfielder Henderson on a two-year deal

AFP

Chelsea announced the signing of veteran England midfielder Jordan Henderson from Premier League rival Brentford on Monday. The former Liverpool captain, who was part of England’s World Cup squad at the recent tournament in North America, has signed a two-year deal at Stamford Bridge.

Glasgow passes baton to Ahmedabad in a glitzy affair

The closing ceremony seamlessly blends the finest of Scotland’s music, culture and heritage with India’s rich traditions that showcase the values of unity, friendship and hospitality in a fitting finale

C’WEALTH GAMES

K. Keerthivasan
GLASGOW

As Glasgow bid farewell to the Commonwealth Games with a grand and colourful closing ceremony at the OVO Hydro here on Sunday, perhaps no words captured the spirit of the host city better than those of celebrated Scottish poet Jackie Kay.

In a moving love letter to Glasgow, with a backdrop of videos showing residents at the city’s iconic landmarks, Kay posed a simple yet profound question: “What is Glasgow if not a place of welcome to the citizens of the world?”

It was a sentiment that resonated throughout the 11-day Games, during which the Scottish city earned widespread praise for its warmth, hospitality and impeccable organisation.

The ceremonial handover of the Commonwealth Games flag to Olympic and World champion Neeraj Chopra, Indian Olympic Association president P.T. Usha and the Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat, Harsh Sanghavi, accompanied by the voice of Scottish singer Shereen Cutkelvin, symbolically transferred the Games from Glasgow to Ahmedabad, host of the 2030 (centenary) Games.

When the Indian cultural show began, the Indian audience erupted in joy.

Titled ‘The World is One Family: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’, the opening ensemble celebrated the enduring Indian philosophy of universal brotherhood while commemorating the 150th anniversary of the National song *Vande Mataram*. Led by actress and former Miss World Manushi Chhillar, with a musical score by Shankar Mahadevan and choreography by Shiamak Davar and his troupe, the performance presented India’s rich cultural heritage and its message of unity and hospitality to the world.

Shankar Mahadevan’s sons Shivam and Siddharth, along with the energetic performance of renowned Gujarati and Bollywood playback singer Bhoomi Trivedi, added more vibrancy and heft to the spectacle and brought the Indian segment alive on the stage.

Earlier, singer-song writer Sandi Thom set the tone for the night with the number ‘Proud to Be From Scotland’, accompanied by the tribal drum band Clann An Drumma.

Australian singer Delta Goodrem then welcomed the athletes with a medley of her greatest hits as volunteers carrying the flags of the 74 participating nations and territories entered the arena. She followed it with a stirring rendition of Warrior, accompanied by archive footage celebrating memorable moments from the Games.

Goodrem later invited Scottish singer Cammy Barnes onto the stage, and the duo performed John Farnham’s popular rock anthem ‘You’re the Voice, backed by a choir and traditional Scottish pipers, drawing one of the loudest cheers of the evening.

Gaining momentum

The celebrations gathered further momentum as Primal Scream’s hit ‘Loaded’ came alive through a fine collaboration featuring bagpipers, community performers and Glaswegian-Nigerian rapper Bemz.

Final medals table (top-5)

Country	G	S	B	Total
Australia	70	45	56	171
England	29	45	36	110
Canada	19	20	23	62
INDIA	**13**	**17**	**9**	**39**
Scotland	13	9	17	39

The mood then turned reflective with Kay’s poignant poem before the spotlight shifted to electro-trad band ‘Elephant Sessions’. Their pulsating performance, accompanied by poet and musician Hamish Kiernan-Hutcheson, showcased Glasgow’s contemporary spirit.

Later, Scotland’s para-athlete Melanie Woods received the David Dixon Award, presented to the outstanding athlete of the Games.

Overall, it was a fitting finale to a glitzy show that seamlessly blended the finest of Scotland’s music, culture and heritage with India’s rich traditions that showcased the values of unity, friendship and hospitality that perhaps best define the Commonwealth spirit.

See you in 2030! The ceremonial handover of the flag to Neeraj, IOA chief Usha and Gujarat Deputy CM Sanghavi has symbolically transferred the Games from Glasgow to Ahmedabad. Boxer Jaismine leads the Indian contingent in the closing ceremony. REUTERS & PTI

Bumrah injury blow for India, Nabi gets maiden Test call-up

CRICKET

Amol Karhadkar
NEW DELHI

India’s chances of keeping its faint World Test Championship (WTC) final hopes alive suffered a setback as Jasprit Bumrah was ruled out of the two-Test series against Sri Lanka after failing to make a complete recovery from a left knee injury.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed on Monday that the premier fast bowler has failed to obtain the required fitness clearance after sustaining the injury during the ODI series against England. Jammu and Kashmir pacer Auqib Nabi has been drafted into the squad as Bumrah’s replacement, earning his maiden senior India call-up.

When the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee announced the squad last week, both Bumrah and B. Sai Sudharsan had been included subject to fitness clearance from the BCCI’s Centre of Excellence. While Bumrah has fallen short of the benchmark, Sai Sudharsan is understood to have made significant progress in his rehabilitation and is expected to be cleared before the team departs for Sri Lanka on August 4.

A special one: A spot in the Test squad is the highpoint of Nabi’s career. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Bumrah’s absence is a significant blow to Shubman Gill’s side ahead of a series India cannot afford to lose if it is to preserve its remote chances of qualifying for the World Test Championship final. The 32-year-old has been India’s spearhead across formats, and his experience will be particularly missed in conditions where India is expected to rely on disciplined fast bowling alongside the spin attack.

For Nabi, meanwhile, the call-up marks the culmination of a remarkable rise in domestic cricket. Having collected 104 wickets across the last two Ranji Trophy seasons, including 60 in the 2025-26 campaign, he played a central role in Jammu and Kashmir’s maiden Ranji Trophy triumph.

The right-arm seamer also impressed on the recent India-A tour of Sri Lanka, claiming six wickets in two First Class matches, performances that strengthened his credentials before the selectors turned to him following Bumrah’s withdrawal.

The updated squad:
Shubman Gill (Capt.), K.L. Rahul (Vice-capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant (wk), Sai Sudharsan (subject to fitness clearance), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Manav Suthar, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Devdutt Padikkal, Saransh Jain, and Auqib Nabi.

Greaves, Chase fifties lift West Indies to 344

Associated Press
PORT OF SPAIN

The West Indies batters frustrated Pakistan before the home team was bowled out for 344 on the stroke of lunch on day two of the second and final Test on Tuesday.

The visiting side was 136 for two at the time of going to the press.

Earlier, Justin Greaves top-scored with 73 and captain Roston Chase made a defiant 70 as West Indies achieved a decent total on a wicket already showing plenty of assistance to the slow bowlers.

Pick of the bowlers

Off-break bowler Sajid Khan took four for 85 while left-arm spinner Ali Usman, playing in his second Test, Mohammad Ali and Ubaid Shah claimed two wickets apiece.

Resuming on 239 for five in the first innings, Chase and Greaves extended their sixth-wicket stand to 96.

Ali then struck immediately, after captain Babar Azam had given him the second new ball, as the in-form Greaves was caught at point.

Kemar Roach should have been out without scoring, but Pakistan didn’t go for the television review despite replays showing Ali’s ball could have hit leg stump. He went on to score 19.

Chase completed his half-century before he was undone by debutant fast bowler Ubaid, who nipped one back to bowl him.

Sajid then took the last three wickets.

The scores: West Indies 344 in 105.4 overs (Brandon King 46, Justin Greaves 73, Roston Chase 70, Sajid Khan 4/85) vs Pakistan 136/2 in 31 overs (Azan Awais 55).
Toss: WI.

Holding fort: Greaves led West Indies’ fightback in the second Test at Queen’s Park Oval. AFP

Jersey row: Tirkey slams Hockey India DG, seeks detailed reply to queries

EXCLUSIVE

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The jersey controversy in Indian hockey has now developed into a full-blown internal battle with Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey taking strong exception to the less-than-satisfactory response on his notice seeking details on the uniform change.

Tirkey had earlier sought an explanation on the process and basis for the change from HI Director General Cdr. R.K. Srivastava, who had claimed that such operational decisions were not brought before the Executive Board earlier as well. Tirkey has now shot back and, on Monday, directed Srivastava to file a point-by-point response to the objections raised in a fresh mail addressed to all Executive Board members, a copy of which is with *The Hindu*.

Declaring that “Hockey India does not own Indian hockey. We are trustees and custodians of a National sporting legacy,” he directed Srivastava to respond latest by Tuesday, adding that “A response consisting only of general explanations or assertions without supporting documentary evidence will not enable the Executive Board to discharge its constitutional responsibilities.”

Tirkey. FILE PHOTO: M. VEDHAN

Questioning under whose authority the decision to change was taken, Tirkey asked Srivastava to provide the specific authority, approval or delegation under which the decision to change the official jersey was taken, timeline of the change, names, designations and roles of every person involved in the process and copies of all internal correspondence relating to the decision.

Tirkey wrote, “Please clarify whether the potential impact of the change on athlete’s preparation, confidence, comfort, mental focus and competition readiness was assessed. Further, members of the men’s National team were required to address questions relating to the jersey change in the media immediately before the World Cup. Please clarify whether the possible impact of this situation on athlete’s focus, mental preparation and tournament readiness was assessed before the announcement.”

He has also asked for details of the players and team staff consulted, the feedback and documentary evidence of the same and details of any testing conducted before the kit was officially introduced.

The mail also aims to mark clear boundaries in the roles and powers of the elected members of the federation and appointed employees.

“The Hockey India Bye-Laws establish a governance structure under which the elected bodies of Hockey India are responsible for the governance, policy direction and overseeing the Federation.

“The Director General has an important executive and administrative role. However, administrative responsibility cannot be interpreted as replacing or overriding the authority of the elected governance bodies,” he further wrote.

INBRIEF

Cape Verde star Vozinha completes Colo-Colo move

Vozinha, the 40-year-old goalkeeper who made a big impression with Cape Verde at the recently concluded World Cup, arrived in Chile on Sunday to join Colo-Colo after a series of twists and turns that put his move in doubt. Colo-Colo announced the signing of Vozinha, on July 24. However, a series of setbacks – including documentation issues and personal matters – delayed his arrival on three separate occasions.

Pochettino to stay as USA coach till 2030 World Cup

Mauricio Pochettino has agreed a deal to stay on as coach of the United States men's national football team through the 2030 World Cup, after leading his side to the last 16 at this year's global showcase. The 54-year-old year Argentine, who favours a high-pressing, attacking style of play, took over the U.S. team in 2024 after parting ways with Chelsea earlier that year, and he had a contract that ran through the 2026 World Cup.

Newcastle signs goalkeeper Hornicek from Braga

Managerless Newcastle United announced the signing of Czech goalkeeper Lukas Hornicek from Portuguese side Braga on Monday. Hornicek has agreed a five-year deal after the Magpies activated his £25.7 million release clause.

LIVE TELECAST

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

West Indies vs Pakistan: Second Test, Day 3, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

TNPL: Sony Sports Ten 4 Tamil & TNPL Official YouTube Channel *(@tamilnadupremierleague/streams)*, 7.30 p.m.

Ankur's tryst with history

The teen wins the singles crown at the Commonwealth TT championships after missing out on the India squad for the Asian Games; terms the competition 'the most important one' of his life

TABLE TENNIS

Amol Karhadkar
NEW DELHI

The moment he blocked one of Payas Jain's signature forehand topspins from the backhand corner deep into the forehand corner and watched his doubles partner fail to reach it, Ankur Bhattacharjee knew the wait was over.

The 19-year-old dropped his racquet, turned to the near-capacity crowd of over 2,000 – largely made up of schoolchildren – and gestured at them to raise the volume. He then blew a flying kiss towards the stands before embracing Payas and sharing a long hug with his father-coach Angshuman Bhattacharjee. It was more than the celebration of a title.

By prevailing in a topsy-turvy 70-minute final to win the men's singles crown at the 22nd Commonwealth table tennis championships, Ankur had delivered his answer to the Indian table tennis fraternity. Less than a fortnight after narrowly missing out on India's squads for both the Commonwealth Championships and, more significantly, the Asian Games, the Kolkata paddler had produced perhaps the finest week of his seniors career.

Breaking through: Ankur will hope to use this win as a springboard to reach greater heights and put the Asian Games snub behind him. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

"For me, this was the most important event of my life," Ankur told *The Hindu* at the Thyagaraj Sports Complex on Sunday night.

"I had to prove to myself and everyone else that I deserved to be part of the Indian team and the Asian Games squad."

The irony was impossible to ignore. While India, as host, fielded 16 players in the singles events – prompting many to jokingly refer to the tournament as the India Open – Ankur arrived only because of the expanded quota. Yet his path to the title was anything but straightforward.

Beyond the trophy, though, the week represented validation. "I had never been part of the Commonwealth championships team. I came here only for the individual events," he said. "So the first thing was to prove that I can be part of the Indian team."

The omission from the Asian Games squad inevitably added motivation, though Ankur insisted it wasn't the only driving force. "I always want to win every tournament I play. Whatever tournament it is, I take it seriously."

Then, after a brief pause, he admitted the criticism had fuelled him. "I like such challenges when people doubt me. Maybe a lot of people think I have only come because I am the host country's player. But I feel that if I play well consistently, I can beat anyone."

There is little time to savour the biggest title of his young career. His next stop is Europe Smash in Sweden starting over the weekend, where another opportunity awaits against the world's elite.

"Now I'll head to Europe Smash," Ankur said. "I hope I can return with a medal".

Doley hat-trick powers Raengdai past TRAU

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau

FC Raengdai continued its dream debut in the 135th Durand Cup by edging home favourite Tiddim Road Athletic Union (TRAU FC) 4-3 in a thrilling Group D match at Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal on Monday.

The newcomer produced another impressive display to register its second successive win and move to the top of the group with six points. Mridul Doley starred with a brilliant hat-trick, scoring twice before the half-hour mark to put Raengdai in control.

Akash Meitei reduced the deficit for TRAU in the 43rd minute before Chongtham Kishan Singh restored Raengdai's two-goal advantage in first-half stoppage time.

Afdal Varikkodan scored soon after the restart and an own goal by Lanchungrei Pamei in the 67th minute levelled the score at 3-3. Doley completed his hat-trick in the 79th minute to seal a memorable victory.

In a Group F match at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati, another debutant FC1 came from behind to defeat Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC 2-1 despite finishing the match with 10 men. Joseph Mayowa Olaleye gave Karbi Anglong the lead before Shakir Ahmad Sheikh equalised.

Hayat Bashir put FC1 in the lead in the 53rd minute, which the visitor successfully preserved despite seeing its defender Tetty Armando Yoko sent off with 30 minutes of action still remaining.

The results: Group D (Imphal): TRAU FC 3 (Chanam Akash Meitei 43, Afdal Varikkodan 47, Lanchungrei Pamei 67-og) lost to FC Raengdai 4 (Mridul Doley 14, 24, 79, Chongtham Kishan Singh 45+3).

Group F (Guwahati): Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC 1 (Joseph Olaleye 27) lost to FC 1 2 (Shakir Ahmad Sheikh 40, Hayat Bashir 53).

Qualifying playoff round draw revealed

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Associated Press
NYON

Bodø/Glimt, last season's feel-good story in the Champions League, must get past Olympiakos or NEC Nijmegen in the qualifying playoffs round drawn on Monday to return to the elite stage.

Bodø/Glimt faces Union Saint-Gilloise on Tuesday in the first leg of the third qualifying round, and the overall winner next week will then play the Greek league runner-up from last season or the third-place Dutch team making its Champions League debut.

Also in the section for teams that did not win their domestic league, the winner between Fenerbahce and Sturm Graz will advance to the playoffs round against Sparta Prague or Lyon.

First-leg games are on Aug. 18 or 19 and return games are one week later.

Seven teams will advance from the qualifying rounds into the elite 36-team main phase draw to be made Aug. 27 in Monaco. Celtic was paired with LASK of Austria in the qualifying section for national champions.

Red Star Belgrade must first beat Hapoel Beer-Sheva to earn a playoff against AGF Aarhus or Sabah from Azerbaijan. Hapoel hosts the first-leg against Red Star on Tuesday in Hungary.

J&K's Wadhawan to lead North Zone

Wadhawan.
FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

DULEEP TROPHY

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Jammu & Kashmir's Kanhaiya Wadhawan will lead a 15-member North Zone squad in the 2026-27 season-opening Duleep Trophy. North Zone will begin its campaign by facing West Zone in a quarterfinal at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru from August 23. Wadhawan is one of six players from J&K, which won the Ranji Trophy for the first time last season, to make the squad. The others are Qamran Iqbal, Abdul Samad, Abid Mushtaq, Sunil Kumar and Yudhvir Singh. Delhi's Ayush Badoni has been named vice-captain. Sanat Sangwan, Yash Dhull and Ayush Doseja have also made the cut from Delhi.

The bowling attack will be spearheaded by left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh, who is a regular for India in white-ball cricket but is yet to play a Test.

The squad: Kanhaiya Wadhawan (Capt.) (JKCA), Ayush Badoni (DDCA), Sanat Sangwan (DDCA), Qamran Iqbal (JKCA), Yash Dhull (DDCA), Ayush Doseja (DDCA), Abdul Samad (JKCA), Nishant Sindhu (HCA), Arjun Sharma (SSCB), Abid Mushtaq (JKCA), Arshdeep Singh (PCA), Sunil Kumar (JKCA), Anshul Kamboj (HCA), Yudhvir Singh (JKCA) and Nikhil Kashyap (HCA).

Lakra, Anuj shine in Purani Dilli's first win

DPL

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Purani Dilli 6 notched up its first win of the third edition of the Delhi Premier League as it defeated West Delhi Lions by seven wickets at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Monday.

Dev Lakra (64, 33b, 4x4, 6x6) and Anuj Rawat (49 n.o., 26b, 4x4, 3x6) were the chief contributors, helping Purani Dilli chase down a target of 181 with 13 balls to spare. The outfit in blue had lost to Central Delhi Kings in the opening encounter of the T20 league.

Full flow: Lakra's innings was studded with four fours and six maximums. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Lalit Yadav applied the finishing touches by smashing an unbeaten 30 in an unbroken partnership of 73 with skipper Anuj for the fourth wicket. For Lions, Kulwant Khejroliya, Manan Bhardwaj and Ayush Doseja took a wicket each.

Earlier, the defending champion rode on Ankit Kumar's 45-ball 86 to post 180 for six.

Ankit was complemented by Krish Yadav (43, 31b, 7x4, 1x6) in an excellent opening stand of 90 runs. However, Lions couldn't quite capitalise on the robust start. In the last five overs, they added just 28 runs for the loss of three wickets. Pankaj Jaswal was the pick of the bowlers for Purani Dilli with figures of 4-0-30-2.

Jonty on song

In the second game, Jonty Sidhu starred with a knock of 75 as Central Delhi Kings defeated North Delhi Strikers by four wickets. Chasing 210, Kings took 18.2 overs to complete the win.

The scores:
West Delhi Lions 180/6 in 20 overs (Krish Yadav 43, Ankit Kumar 86, Pankaj Jaswal 2/30, Rajneesh Dadar 2/40) lost to Purani Dilli 6 182/3 in 17.5 overs (Samarth Seth 30, Dev Lakra 64, Anuj Rawat 49 n.o., Lalit Yadav 30 n.o.).
North Delhi Strikers 209/3 in 20 overs (Sarthak Ranjan 64, Yash Bhatia 90 n.o., Bharat Sindhwani 43 n.o.) lost to Central Delhi Kings 210/6 in 18.2 overs (Siddharth Joon 31, Jonty Sidhu 75, Aditya Bhandari 46, Arjun Rapria 2/55).

On Sunday:
New Delhi Tigers 178/8 in 20 overs (Lakshay Thareja 86 n.o., Deepak Punia 2/27, Ashish Meena 2/25. Dhruv Kaushik 2/15) bt East Delhi Riders 129/9 in 20 overs (Pradyuman Sanan 2/25, Laxman 2/26).

Andre' lives up to the billing in S. Rangarajan Memorial Trophy

HYDERABAD: Trainer Bharat Singh's ward Andre', ridden by Antony Raj S, won the S. Rangarajan Memorial Trophy, the main attraction of Monday's (Aug. 3) races here. The winner is owned by Mrs. Anasuya Gupta & Mr. Abhiroop Gupta rep. A.G. Bloodstock LLP, Miss. Ameeta Mehra, Mr. Atul Singh & Mr. Shantanu Sharma.

1. HYDERABAD RACE CLUB PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): STARS ENVIED (G. Naresh) 1, Double Bubble (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, Tiger Ruby (Surya Prakash) 3 and Live Legend (Ajay K) 4. 2, 5-1/2 and Head. 1m, 14.62s. ₹30 (w), 21, 10 and 142 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 153, FP: 96, Q: 57, Tanala: 2,147. Favourite: Stars Envied. Owners: M/s. Muthiah Ramaswamy & Ramaswamy Muthiah rep. GMMSR Advisory Services LLP. Trainer: Robin R. Kondakalla.

2. KOTHAGUDEM PLATE (1,200M): EXCALIBUR (Antony Raj S) 1, You Tuber (Akshay K) 2, Vinfast (Yash Narredu) 3 and Pedal To The Metal (Trevor) 4. 5-1/4, 1/2 and 2. 1m, 13.83s. ₹32 (w), 15, 15 and 14 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 47, Tanala: 274. Favourite: Pedal To The Metal. Owner: Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

3. S. RANGARAJAN MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600M): ANDRE' (Antony Raj S) 1, One Nation (B.R. Kumar) 2, Racing Ruler (P. Sai K) 3 and China Town (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. Not run: Krystallos. 3/4, 1/2 and 2. 1m, 40. 55s. ₹14 (w), 11, 12 and 11 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 51, FP: 52, Q: 38, Tanala: 109. Favourite: Andre'. Owners: Mrs. Anasuya Gupta & Mr. Abhiroop Gupta rep. A.G. Bloodstock LLP, Miss. Ameeta Mehra, Mr. Atul Singh & Mr. Shantanu Sharma. Trainer: Bharat Singh.

4. BAKHTAWAR PLATE (1,400M): MADANTE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Cosmic Gift (Trevor) 2, Photograph (G. Naresh) 3 and Surrealist (Yash Narredu) 4. 11-1/2, 4-3/4 and Head. 1m, 25.53s. ₹13 (w), 10, 12 and 29 (p). SHP: 26, THP: 39, FP: 28, Q: 27, Tanala: 139. Favourite: Madante. Owners: M/s. P. Prathap Reddy, A. Soma Raju, Sairam Bhaskar Mocherla rep. by Gallop & Grace LLP and Smt. K. Usha Vishwanath rep. by MBR Family Estate LLP. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

Honouring a winner: Ramesh Rangarajan, second from right, presenting the S. Rangarajan Memorial Trophy to Bharath Singh, trainer of Andre', in the presence of HRC chairman R. Surender Reddy and others committee members. G. RAMAKRISHNA

5. HYDERABAD PLATE (1,600M): N R I SUPERPOWER (Ajay Kumar) 1, Get Lucky (Akshay K) 2, Reigning Beauty (Santosh Raj) 3 and Black Onyx (Arjun) 4. Head, 3-1/4 and Neck. 1m, 38.84s. ₹42 (w), 10, 10 and 19 (p). SHP: 22, THP: 65, FP: 89, Q: 40, Tanala: 1,224. Favourite: Get Lucky. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

6. RACHAKONDA TROPHY (1,200M): DILIGENCE (Yash Narredu) 1, Dino (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, Exclusive Luck (Md. Ekram) 3 and Pranava (B. Nikhil) 4. 3, 6-1/4 and Short Head. 1m, 14.20s. ₹19 (w), 11, 14 and 27 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 84, FP: 42, Q: 27, Tanala: 167. Favourite: Diligence. Owners: M/s. Cyrus S. Poonawalla & Adar C. Poonawalla rep. Villoo Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

7. HYDERABAD RACE CLUB PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): FOX WORTH (Shivam) 1, American Affair (P. Ajeeth K) 2, Linda (Kuldeep Jr.) 3 and Mix The Magic (B. Nikhil) 4. 2-3/4, 1 and 1/2. 1m, 14. 94s. ₹34 (w), 13, 11 and 18 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 64, FP: 111, Q: 61, Tanala: 467. Favourite: Fox Worth. Owners: Mr. Mirza Ayub Baig, The Estate of Late Mr. Rajesh Sanghani & Mr. Suchit Jayraj Shah. Trainer: D. Netto.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹1,221 (419 tkts.), 30%: 146 (1,498 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot: (i) 203 (232 tkts.), (ii) 1,016 (40 tkts.).
Treble: (i) 65 (409 tkts.), (ii) 348 (109 tkts.).

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Reg. Office: Plot No. C308, Door No. 66/40, 4th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai- 600 083, Tamil Nadu, India,
Corp. Office: ICL Fincorp Limited, Main Road, Irinjalakuda, Thrissur-680121, Kerala, India.
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A fraction late, a step ahead

Indian badminton has waited years for its next great identity after Saina and Sindhu. In Taipei, Tanvi's timing and disguise offered the clearest answer yet

The transition from junior promise to senior consistency is one of the toughest in the sport. India has produced gifted juniors before only to discover that success at higher levels demands far greater physical endurance, tactical discipline and mental resilience than talent alone can provide

BIG LEAP: Tanvi, a silver medallist in the World junior tournament at Guwahati last year, is basking in glory through her senior exploits in Taipei now. FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

Devyanshi Bihani

Taipei is the city of Tai Tzu-ying. For more than a decade, the former World No. 1 turned badminton into theatre, delighting spectators with strokes that seemed to bend geometry and deception that left opponents frozen.

On Sunday, the tournament found another teenage champion who left Taipei with a place in its history. At 17 years and 222 days, Tanvi Sharma became the youngest Taipei Open champion since Tzu-ying, who won the title at 18 years and 85 days.

It was a fitting coincidence. For much of the week, Tanvi's badminton too was defined not by brute force alone but by exquisite timing, late deception and a striking ease of shot-making that belied her age.

She defeated Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen 21-16, 21-16 in the final to lift her maiden BWF World Tour Super 300 title. Before soaking up the applause, she slipped her gold medal off her neck and placed it around coach Park Tae-sang's neck. Later, the South Korean revealed that there had been moments when he had wondered whether he should leave India, but said Tanvi's victory had given him "another powerful source of motivation to keep moving forward" after more than four years without a title.

Next gen

Indian badminton has been searching for the next leading woman ever since Saina Nehwal and P.V. Sindhu transformed the sport in the country. Every promising teenager has inevitably been measured against the two Olympic medallists.

But breakthroughs are remembered not just for the trophies, but for the style they reveal. Long before titles accumulate, the finest players develop an identity. Taipei offered the first clear glimpse of Tanvi's. If Saina's game was built on relentless pace and Sindhu's on imposing physicality and steep cross-court smashes, Tanvi's greatest weapon may well be her timing.

The shuttle seems to leave her racquet a fraction later than expected, making her intentions harder to read. Her drops and smashes emerge from nearly identical preparation. Opponents find themselves moving backwards, only to be dragged sharply forward. Even when rallies appear routine, she possesses the ability to inject sudden pace with a wristy straight smash or produce a delicate net shot that catches the opponent leaning the wrong way.

Those qualities were on full display throughout the week in the Taiwanese capital. Tanvi opened her campaign by defeating compatriot Tasnim Mir 21-16, 22-20 before overcoming Indonesia's Titis Rahayu Widyawan 21-17, 22-20 in the second round. In both matches, the second game went down to the wire, with the teenager refusing to let tight scorelines alter her attacking instincts.

The level of opposition only grew tougher thereafter. In the quarterfinals, Tanvi stunned fourth seed Supanida Katethong of Thailand 21-15, 18-21, 21-14 before producing one of her most commanding performances of the week in the semifinal.

Facing local favourite Huang Yu-Hsun, ranked 10 places above her, Tanvi barely allowed the Taiwanese shuttler to settle, winning 21-17, 21-11. Her deceptive pushes to the back line, cross-court smashes and deft forecourt play repeatedly left Huang rooted, while a brief wobble late in the opening game proved little more than a passing interruption in an otherwise dominant display.

Against Nguyen in the final, Tanvi repeatedly opened up the court by concealing her drops with the same action as her smash before unleashing steep winners from either flank. She raced to a 10-2 lead in the opening game, repeatedly wrong-footing the experienced Vietnamese with deft touches at the net and powerful strokes.

The scoreline, however, does not fully capture the match.

Like many gifted teenagers, Tanvi occasionally allowed brilliance and impatience to coexist. A flurry of unforced errors allowed Nguyen to close the gap to 10-8 in the opening game before Tanvi steadied herself to take it 21-16. The second game began with the Indian trailing 0-3, but she quickly wrested back control to lead 8-4 and later 15-8, mixing her trademark smash with clever deception at the net. There were brief lapses again, but Tanvi repeatedly produced moments of quality at crucial junctures, refusing to allow Nguyen's comeback to gather momentum to close out another 21-16 victory.

It is perhaps this blend of audacity and vulnerability that makes her game so compelling. That balance is quite unusual for a player still only 17. More importantly, her mistakes never dented her confidence to stay on the front foot. Even though she admitted to feeling nervous during the tournament, Tanvi continued trusting the strokes that had carried her into the final rather than retreating into safety.

"I was quite nervous, but I just thought I would give my 100%," she said. That composure was built alongside coach Park Tae-sang, who has added focus to her explosive strokeplay. "I'm very happy to win this title. I didn't expect to win a title here. I just thought I'd give my best. So I was going step by step, match by match."

Beyond the title

The triumph also places her among an exclusive group of Indian women to have won a BWF World Tour Super 300 title, joining Saina, Sindhu and Devika Sihag. More importantly, it comes at an opportune moment, with the BWF World Championships in New Delhi later this month.

The transition from junior promise to senior consistency is one of the toughest in the sport. India has produced gifted juniors before, only to discover that success at higher levels demands far greater physical endurance, tactical discipline and mental resilience than talent alone can provide.

Tanvi's own journey already reflects that progression. A former World Junior No. 1, she became the first Indian to win two medals at a single edition of the World Junior Championships, claiming silver in girls' singles and bronze in the mixed team event. She reached the final of the U.S. Open Super 300 last year, finished runner-up at the Odisha Masters and Guwahati Masters, and was part of India's historic Asian Team Championships triumph.

Taipei was not an overnight breakthrough. It was another milestone on a steadily rising trajectory.

There will inevitably be tougher tests ahead. Tanvi knows that better than anyone. Even after lifting the biggest title of her young career, she spoke less about the triumph than the effort it took to get there. "It was pretty hard for me as well, playing five matches. I just needed to be consistent," she said, before adding that she still needed to "work harder" to compete regularly at the Super 500 and Super 750 level.

'A special player'

Sindhu, one of only three other Indian women to have won a BWF World Tour Super 300 title, perhaps summed it up best. Congratulating Tanvi on social media, the two-time Olympic medallist wrote that the teenager had "all the ingredients to become a very special player", praising her talent, stroke-making and courage to take on the best.

The ingredients are certainly there. Natural timing cannot be taught. Neither can the instinct to disguise strokes until the last possible moment or the confidence to attack under pressure. Sindhu added that stability and experience had been the only missing pieces, calling the Taipei triumph "just the beginning" for one of Indian badminton's brightest young prospects.

Moreover, Taipei has long had a habit of revealing special talents. Saina won the title there in 2008 before going on to redefine Indian badminton. Tzu-ying, the hometown favourite, also announced herself there as a teenager before redefining what artistry on a badminton court could look like. Tanvi's journey is only beginning, but her victory carried echoes of both - Saina's fearless ambition and Tzu-ying's genius for deception and timing.

THE GIST

- Tanvi became the youngest Taipei Open champion since Tzu-ying, winning her maiden BWF World Tour Super 300 title at just 17 years and 222 days
- The title ended an 18-year wait for an Indian women's singles champion at the Taipei Open after Saina's triumph in 2008
- Tanvi negotiated a demanding draw, beating fourth seed Katethong, local favourite Yu-Hsun and Vietnam's Thuy Linh to lift the title
- With the BWF World Championships in New Delhi later this month, the breakthrough offers a timely confidence boost as Tanvi prepares for the biggest test of her senior career

Golden moment: Tanvi wrapped the yellow metal around coach Tae-sang's neck after the triumph.

You get better care when you stop nodding and start asking why

Medical schools teach budding doctors to prevent disease, minimise risk, and, when in doubt, to investigate — whereas what you want out of treatment may be vastly different; when this is not discussed, a mismatch in expectations can develop, resulting in a trust deficit and disappointment

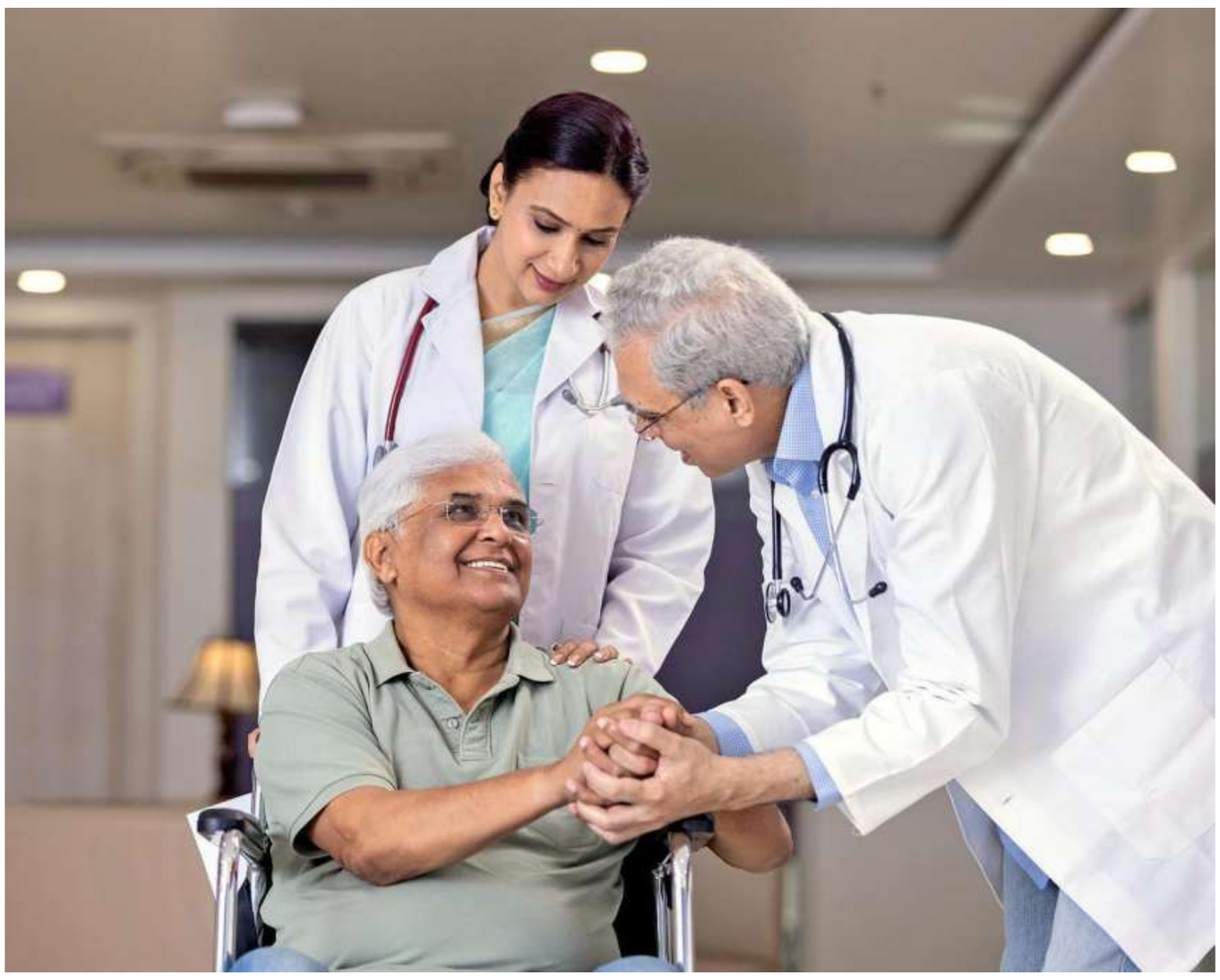
Narayana Subramaniam

Priya walks into an orthopedician's clinic with knee pain that she says she has had for three months. The doctor spends eight minutes with her, orders an MRI, and asks her to come back with the images.

MRI shows signs of early osteoarthritis. The doctor lists three options: injections, physiotherapy or wait and watch. Priya nods, does not ask why she needed an MRI when the doctor could have examined her knee, and does not ask what 'early osteoarthritis' actually means or what happens if she does nothing. She opts for injections because of how she thought the doctor said it – some inflection and tone.

Six months and four injections later, she has spent ₹15,000 but her pain is back. She is wondering if she got scammed, and if injections were ever the right call.

Priya was probably not scammed – but she made a decision about her body without understanding it. She did not know that she could have asked questions and she did not know that the doctor was not sure either.



You are taught that doctors discover diagnoses, that there is always a right answer, and that diagnoses are always objective. They are not. ISTOCKPHOTO

Medicine is not certainty

You are taught that doctors discover diagnoses, that there is always a right answer, and that diagnoses are always objective. They are not. When the orthopaedician looked at Priya's knee, he was thinking that the probability of osteoarthritis was 40%, a meniscal tear 30%, a muscle strain 20% and in fact a 10% chance it was something else. He did not know for certain; his estimates were based on knowledge and experience, and probably what his last 10 patients had.

The MRI showed signs of arthritis – but arthritis on imaging does not always mean it is also the cause of pain. Plenty of people have degenerative changes and feel nothing while an equal number have almost no changes and have terrible pain. Instead, the orthopaedician interpreted the image, made an educated guess, and advised treatment.

Another doctor might have looked at the same image and said, "Wait. Let us see if physiotherapy helps first." A third doctor might have said, "This is asymptomatic degeneration. Leave it alone."

None of them would be objectively wrong. They are all interpreting the same evidence differently based on their experience, training, risk tolerance, and – honestly – how busy their practice is and what procedures they are equipped to do.

This is clinical medicine. It is not a process of discovery. It is almost always going to be a series of educated guesses filtered through a doctor's particular worldview.

And once you understand this, you realise something: if there is no objective right answer, you need to have a say in the decision. Your life is not the doctor's life. Your pain tolerance is not theirs. Your willingness to spend ₹15,000 on injections is not theirs.

On different tracks

Doctors are trained to approach illness in a particular way – whereas what you want out of treatment may be vastly different. When this is not discussed, a large mismatch in expectations can develop, resulting in a trust deficit and ultimately disappointment.

Medical schools teach budding doctors to prevent disease, minimise risk, and, when in doubt, to investigate. This makes sense if you have seen someone die of a missed diagnosis. The goal becomes to not miss anything, ever.

The orthopedician was thinking: arthritis found, need to prevent progression, imaging confirms it, treat aggressively. Priya was thinking: my knee hurts, what is the quickest solution? One of them is inevitably frustrated and dissatisfied.

This happens every day in Indian hospitals. A doctor sees borderline blood pressure and recommends medication. Patient thinks: I feel fine, I do not need this. Both are right. Both are wrong. That is because they are having two separate conversations.

Crucially, the system does not teach doctors to fix this. As a patient, you can respond by asking questions.

A good patient

To be a good patient:

First, demand clarity on usefulness. Ask "what will this tell us that changes my treatment?", "what happens if it is normal?", "what happens if it is abnormal?", "how will you use this information?", and "what are the guidelines to treat this?".

Why? A doctor who can answer gets to keep your trust. But if the doctor dodges or gets irritated, you now know something important about how they practice.

Second, insist on options. Even osteoarthritis does not have just one treatment. The options include observation, physiotherapy, medications, injections, and surgery.

You know your body and yourself. The doctor knows medicine. Both of you are necessary to make a good decision. Making an informed choice is always better than a compliant one

Why? A doctor operating in good faith might say, "We could try A, which works for some people but has risks, or B, which is safer but might not work. What matters more to you?"

Third, interrupt when you are confused. Do not nod and leave confused. Say "I did not follow that. Please explain it differently."

Why? Doctors do not mind. They would rather know and try again than have you leave thinking you understood.

One important question

Before any major treatment, ask: "What would you do if this was your mother?"

The answer is often different from what the doctors are recommending for you. This does not mean they are being unethical; it often means something else. Maybe they do not know your full picture: your job, your life, your ability to cope with side effects. With their mother, they know all of it. Or maybe they are being more cautious with their mother not because it is better medicine but because emotion changes judgment. Or maybe they realise there are actually multiple valid approaches and they have been presenting one option like it is the easiest one.

Your doctor knows there are choices – and they may have recommended one for reasons they have not explained. So Priya could have asked, "If this was your mother's knee, would you do four injections over six months?" The likely reply: "No. I would try physiotherapy first, and injections if that does not work."

When you are still suffering

You followed the plan. You are compliant, you are taking your medicines, doing your exercises, and generally doing what you were told. Nothing is working. In these circumstances, you should have a different conversation, e.g.: "I am following your plan but not getting better. What does that mean?"

Do not think you are accusing the doctor; you are simply investigating. Maybe the diagnosis was wrong, you need to wait longer, you need surgery or something else. You and your doctor need to figure it out together.

Stop thinking your job is to obey. You know your body and yourself. The doctor knows medicine. Both of you are necessary to make a good decision. Making an informed choice is always better than a compliant one. It will also improve doctor-patient relations. As much as you deserve a good doctor, doctors also deserve good patients.

(Narayana Subramanian is Lead Consultant, Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology, Aster Hospitals, and Adjunct Faculty, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. narayana.subramaniam@gmail.com)

A Greece Air Force Canadair CL-415GR water bomber aircraft drops water over a forest fire. AFP

Water-bombing aircraft helps Greece battle wildfires

Agence France Presse

Water-bombing aircraft resumed firefighting operations in Greece on Monday after winds eased, joining hundreds of firefighters battling multiple blazes that have already claimed five lives.

Greece, which had largely avoided major blazes at the start of the summer unlike France and Spain, is now grappling with a second consecutive week of wildfires that have scorched thousands of hectares of forest, scrubland and farmland.

"Today we are facing three difficult fronts: Psatha, Kryo Pigadi and Kandyli," a department spokesperson said, referring to areas located between 45 and 70 kilometres west of Athens.

Lighter winds allowed aerial firefighting operations to resume early on Monday, with nine water-bombing aircraft joining nine helicopters and about 450 firefighters battling the flames in the regions of Boeotia and Attica, according to the fire service.

Lighter winds allowed aerial firefighting operations to resume early on Monday, with nine water-bombing aircraft joining nine helicopters and about 450 firefighters battling the fires

In recent days, wind gusts reaching 80 kilometres per hour had grounded aircraft for safety reasons, hampering firefighting efforts. Authorities ordered new evacuations on Monday morning in villages near Kandyli, about 45 kilometres west of the capital, Greece's Civil Protection agency said.

"The battle against the fires is uneven," Deputy Minister for Civil Protection and Climate Crisis Kostas Katsafados told public broadcaster ERTNews on Monday.

The wildfires have claimed five lives since last week. On Sunday, two Bell helicopters collided while conducting firefighting operations near Psatha. A Danish pilot and a Greek co-pilot aboard one of the aircraft were killed. Their deaths followed those of three firefighters who died last week while battling separate wildfires in Crete and the Peloponnese.

'Extremely difficult'

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis warned that Greece faced "extremely difficult" days ahead, as high temperatures and dry conditions continued to fuel the blazes. More than 12,000 hectares of forest and agricultural land have burned over the past week, according to analyses from the European Union's Copernicus Earth observation programme cited by local media.

Greece, like much of the Mediterranean region, has experienced increasingly frequent and intense wildfires that scientists link to climate change.

Pending the outcome of an official investigation, all Bell helicopters deployed to the firefighting operation have been grounded, public broadcaster ERT reported. The helicopters were leased from Australia's McDermott Aviation as part of a fleet of 15 aircraft. The company said it has supported operations in Greece for the past seven years.

Police have arrested two employees of an electricity utility company in connection with one of the fires, which investigators believe may have been sparked on Friday by an electrical cable near the coastal village of Porto Germeno.

At the height of the tourist season, authorities warned that the wildfire threat would remain "very high" on Monday.

Civil Protection placed Attica, which surrounds the capital, and neighbouring Boeotia at level four on a five-point fire danger scale.

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THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

The chemistry of champagne and wine

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Champagne is a kind of sparkling wine produced in the Champagne region of France. Name the Benedictine monk sometimes credited with inventing it on this day, August 4, in 1693. This history is not clear, however, although this monk also made well-known contributions to the quality of sparkling wine.

QUESTION 2

The process of making champagne and that of wiping the glasses it is served in leaves behind small _____ fibres. These fibres trap carbon dioxide, which later grow to become the bubbles in the liquid. Fill in the blank with the name of a material made of long chains of glucose.

QUESTION 3

When the cork of a champagne bottle is released, the gas escaping via the bottle's neck briefly exceeds the speed of sound, producing a shockwave that is often indirectly visible in high-speed photography as a small X cloud. Name X, a process whereby water vapour cools and condenses.

QUESTION 4

The colour of red sparkling wine comes from pigment molecules in the skins of grapes called _____. Red wine gets its colour from fermenting juice with the skins on while white wine — even from red grapes — is typically pressed before coming in contact with the skin. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5

When wine is exposed to oxygen, it reacts with compounds like tannins and volatile sulphur compounds, softening its harsh notes and releasing aromatic Y. Name Y, a compound made of an acid and an alcohol, known for its sweet smells.

VISUAL: Name the 'tears of wine' effect depicted here. It happens because at the surface, alcohol evaporates faster than water, creating a surface tension gradient that pulls liquid up in small rivulets. FLAGSTEWARD (CC BY-SA)

Answers to July 30 quiz:

1. Planet whose debris saps the strength of its natives – **Ans: Krypton, kryptonite**
2. Synthetic alloy that's indestructible one it has cooled – **Ans: Adamantium**
3. Light, tough metal mined in the Misty Mountains – **Ans: Mithril**
4. Room-temperature superconductor that can levitate mountains – **Ans: Unobtainium**
5. Crystalline substance that mutates organisms, releases minerals – **Ans: Tiberium**

Visual: Dilithium

First contact: Tamal Biswas | K.N. Viswanathan | Kavitha Ashu | Trisha Das | Ripudaman Singh