



MOB LYNCHING CASES

Can't micro-manage from Delhi, says SC

NEWS » PAGE 12



WARNING TO HAMAS  
Gaza truce faces threat from Trump

WORLD » PAGE 14



BUDGET DISCUSSION

Economy in the midst of speedy rebound: FM

NEWS » PAGE 10



CALL FOR ACTION

Addressing the growing threat of forest fires

Analysis reveals 10-fold increase in incidence

OPINION » PAGE 7



FINAL ONE-DAYER TODAY  
Rohit's Men in Blue look for clean sweep

SPORT » PAGE 15

IN BRIEF



Mann meets Kejriwal, says no rift in AAP

NEW DELHI

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday dismissed speculation of a rift within AAP's State unit. He was speaking to the media after meeting AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi. » Page 3

'OPS bought land meant for SC/STs, obtained patta'

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has found that former CM O. Panneerselvam purchased a piece of land that could be owned only by those belonging to SC/ST categories, and also obtained patta for it. » Page 4

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 18

## Manipur crisis drags on as BJP weighs its options

Centre will wait a few more days before deciding on President's Rule; Governor did not summon the House even though the 6-month period within which an Assembly should meet ends today

Vijaya Singh  
Rahul Karmakar  
NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI

The Manipur administration remained in a state of uncertainty on Tuesday evening as the Union government waited for an alternative leadership to emerge within the State's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), two days after N. Biren Singh stepped down as Chief Minister.

The Manipur Assembly's last session was on August 12, 2024, meaning that the six-month period within which an Assembly shall meet lapses on Wednesday. However, the Centre will wait a few more days before any formal decision is taken regarding the imposition of President's Rule, a government

Leadership struggle

BJP appears to be facing internal divisions over N. Biren Singh's successor



No consensus has been reached on selecting Biren Singh's successor, as Sambit Patra held closed-door meetings with Imphal-based NDA legislators for the second consecutive day

Patra's separate meetings — first with Biren Singh and later with the Governor, accompanied by State BJP chief A. Sharda Devi and some legislators — suggest a divide within the party ranks

The Congress said that the constitutional mandate to hold consecutive Assembly sessions within a six-month gap is breached

official told *The Hindu*.

According to Article 174 (1) of the Constitution, "six months shall not intervene" between the last sitting of the Assembly in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session. No notification summoning the

Assembly was issued by Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Tuesday.

However, the official noted that the provision does not explicitly state that the Assembly must be dissolved in case the six-month period has lapsed. According to a 2002 Su-

preme Court judgment in the *Bharathai Bhagwanji vs State of Gujarat* case, "Merely because the time schedule fixed under Article 174 cannot be adhered to, that per se cannot be a ground for bringing into operation Article 356 (President's Rule)."

No party stakes claim

After Mr. Singh resigned on February 9, none of the parties in the State — neither the ruling BJP nor the Opposition — had staked their claim to form the government till late on Tuesday night. Another government official said that the next step would be the Governor submitting a report to the President of India on the constitutional crisis.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 10

## History shows technology won't take away work: PM

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Governance frameworks for artificial intelligence are "not just about managing risks and rivalries", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the AI Action Summit in Paris on Tuesday, calling for a collective approach to set standards for AI that benefit everyone, especially the Global South. India is co-chairing the summit with France this year.

Mr. Modi acknowledged the fear of widespread job losses from AI, but asserted that "history has shown that work does not disappear due to technology. New types of jobs are created". Reskilling workforce was important to prepare it for the changes AI would bring about, he said.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 10  
CALL FOR INCLUSIVE AI  
» PAGE 12



Tech talk: Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking at a plenary session of the AI Action Summit in Paris on Tuesday. AFP

when it comes to AI, Mr. Modi said. "Therefore there is a need for collective global efforts to establish governance and standards that uphold our shared values, address risks, and build trust. Governance is also about ensuring access to all, especially in the Global South. It is where the capabilities are most lacking, be it compute, power, talent, data, or financial resources."

Mr. Modi called for pooling together of resources and talent, and developing open source systems for improving trust in AI systems.

"We must build quality datasets, free from biases," he said, referring to the data on which AI models are trained. "We must democratise technology and create people-centric applications."

## Don't erase or reload EVM data, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday clarified that checking and verifying the burnt memory of microcontrollers of electronic voting machines (EVMs) for signs of tampering does not envisage the erasing or reloading of data in the machines.

"Do not erase the data. Do not reload the data. All we directed was for an engineer to come and certify, in the presence of the applicant-candidates, that the microchip has not been tampered with," Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, heading a Special Bench with Justice Dipankar Datta, addressed the Election Commission, re-

presented by senior advocate Maninder Singh.

Petitioners represented by senior advocate Devadutt Kamat and advocate Prashant Bhushan said checking or verification of EVMs was being done like a "mock poll".

**'Pleas not maintainable'** Mr. Singh argued that the petitions were not maintainable and some of the petitioners were in the third round of litigation on the same issue since the pronouncement of the judgment upholding use of EVMs.

The court listed the case in the week commencing on March 3. It asked the EC to file a short affidavit with its response on the issue raised by the petitioners.

### Full-moon tradition



Riverside mela: Thousands of people take a dip at the Sangam and perform rituals on the eve of 'Magh Purnima' festival as part of the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj on Tuesday. PTI (REPORT ON PAGE 12)

## Sensex slides 1,018 points as trade war fears hit markets; Adani stocks hold up

Lalatendu Mishra

MUMBAI

India's stock markets tripped for the fifth straight day on Tuesday, as U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff pronouncements and the fear of a growing trade war continued to spook markets, with the benchmark indices BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty tumbling over 1.3%.

The shares of small and mid-cap firms took an even more severe beating, with a decline of around 3%, and the NSE Nifty Midcap index falling to its lowest level since June 4, 2024. The BSE Smallcap index slumped 3.4%.

The Sensex plunged 1,018 points to close at

### Downward spiral

The Sensex has plunged 2,215.29 points or 2.82% in the past five days to close at 76,293.6 points on Tuesday



nounced by the U.S. on all steel and aluminium imports.

However, shares of several Adani Group companies, including Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports and Adani Power, gained by

1.3%, 0.34% and 1.39% respectively after Mr. Trump signed an executive order pausing the enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. The law had been invoked to initiate bribery investigations against the Adani Group firm Adani Green Energy.

The market breadth got sharply worse with the advance:decline ratio of shares listed on the BSE dropping to 0.15, the weakest since Lok Sabha poll results were announced on June 4 last year.

In the NSE Nifty, Reliance Industries Ltd. had the largest impact on the index decline, decreasing by 1.5%, said Devarsh Vakil, head of prime research at HDFC Securities.

## Trump pauses foreign bribery Act in a possible reprieve for Adani, others

Sriram Lakshman

WASHINGTON DC

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday signed an executive order pausing the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) of 1977 for a period of at least 180 days, until the Attorney General completes a review of the legislation.

The move may come as a reprieve to the conglomerate Adani Group, its billionaire founder Gautam Adani and other executives, who, in November, were charged by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York in connection with an alleged bribery scheme. The order

says the pause can be extended beyond the initial suspension of 180 days. During this time, Attorney General Pam Bondi, a Trump loyalist, is required to cease any new FCPA investigations and review existing ones. After the new guidelines are in place, the Attorney General could institute "remedial measures" with respect to "inappropriate" investigations.

Charges for violating the FCPA directly, were charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and securities fraud. Five other individuals associated with the alleged scheme were charged with conspiring to violate the FCPA. The two companies at the heart of the allegations had raised funds from U.S. investors or had traded on the New York Stock Exchange during the alleged scheme.

Mr. Trump had objected to the FCPA during his first term as well. "It's going to mean a lot more business for America," he told reporters on Monday as he signed the order.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 10



It's going to mean a lot more business for America

DONALD TRUMP

U.S. President

Mr. Trump had objected to the FCPA during his first term as well. "It's going to mean a lot more business for America," he told reporters on Monday as he signed the order.

**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
e-Procurement Notice  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

1. The Executive Engineer Electrical Division No-I, HPPWD Shimla-9. On behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on percentage rate, in electronic tendering system, in Single /2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms. Eligible contractors registered with HPPWD in appropriate Class. The bidder shall have to fulfil the criteria as specified in Technical Qualification Criteria (TQC) in Form-8 available online in tender document.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Time	Cost of form	Class of contractor Eligible
1.	Construction of Parking Cum Chief Minister Office below Ellerslie building at H.P Secretariat Shimla-2. (SH: Providing E.I therein).	Rs. 1,20,33,998.00	40700.00	Two Years	2000.00	"A"

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://htenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://htenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:

1. Date of Online Publication	20/02/2025 5.00PM
2. Document Download Start and End Date	20/02/2025 5.30 PM 27/02/2025 5.00 PM
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	20/02/2025 5.30 PM 27/02/2025 5.00 PM
4. Date of Technical bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	28/02/2025 11.00 AM

4. Tender details:  
The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 1 Cover/2 Cover : Cover 1: Shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Document / Eligibility information"  
Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer or each item.

5. Submission of original documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in O/o Executive Engineer Electrical Division No-I, HPPWD Shimla-9 as specified in Key dates under Sr. No. 3 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. Bid opening details: The bids shall be opened on 28/02/2025 at 11:00 AM Hrs in the office Executive Engineer Electrical Division No-I, HPPWD Shimla-9 by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderers are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders.

7. If it happens to be holiday on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue and no separate notice will be given in this regard.

8. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 30 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

9. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

10. The competent authority on behalf of Governor of H.P reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason.

11. Registration with HP Sales Tax is essential. If the bidder has not registered and found to be the lowest bidder he is supposed to register him on award of work. He shall submit the sales tax paper to the employer, before any payment is made to him.

Executive Engineer,  
Electrical Division No-1,  
HPPWD Shimla-9.  
HP / 5108/24-25 -HIM SUCHNA AVAM JANSAMPARK

## Mahakumbh 2025 Prayagraj

# Maghi Purnima Holy Dip

12<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

### Message of Mahakumbh One Nation, Stronger Together

Mahakumbh 2025 Prayagraj

13 January - 26 February

Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh | [mahakumbh\\_25/](#) | [upmahakumbh](#) | [MahaKumbh\\_2025](#) | <https://kumbh.gov.in/>

Emergency Assistance | Kumbh Administration | Hotel and Food | Achievements of UP | Scan to Chat | Send 'Hi' to Kumbh Sati Al yak No: 8887847135

Upcoming Snan Date | Maha Shivaratri - 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

Mahakumbh Helplines

1920	Mahakumbh Mela Helpline	112	Emergency Service	1010	Food and Civil Supplies Helpline	102, 108	Ambulance Service	18004199139	Railway Helpline
------	-------------------------	-----	-------------------	------	----------------------------------	----------	-------------------	-------------	------------------

Government of Karnataka  
**SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT**  
Indira Gandhi Centre for Career Development,  
Dr. Babu Jagajeeva Ram Research Centre, Outer Ring Road,  
Summanahalli Circle, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore-560091.  
Ph.No.080-25578422

No: SWD/GCCD/S4/CR-02/2024-25 Date: 11.02.2025

**Notification of Tender (Through e-tendering only)**

Short Term Tender is invited from Reputed & Prestigious Training Institution through E-Procurement portal, to provide pre-examination coaching for KAS course to Schedule Castes & Scheduled Tribes candidates for the year 2024-25. Short term Tender notification (15 Days) number given below.

NO: SWD/GCCD/S4/CR-02/KAS/2024-25

For more details, please visit <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-  
Assistant Director, & Tender Inviting Authority  
Indira Gandhi Centre for Career Development (IGCCD)  
DIPR/CP/4978/SSC/2024-25 Bengaluru.

**वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय, रॉयली सर्वसाधारण के लिए सूचना।**

नाम—मनीश एकका, उम्र—32 वर्ष, रंग—सॉल्वा, ऊँचाई—5 फीट 3 इंच पहनावा—हाफ निकर एवं हल्का नीला रंग का चीटर पहने हुए है।

उपरोक्त लापता व्यक्ति मनीश एकका, उम्र—32 वर्ष, पेटा—चुनवा उर्जव, माता—मनोरंजन उराईन, साठे—हेसमी, थाना—माण्डड, जिला—रॉयली जो दिनांक—28.01.2025 से लापता है जो आजतक अपने घर वापस नहीं आए है। जिले के संबंध में माण्डड सनहा—25 / 2025 दिनांक—31.01.2025 दर्ज कर खोजबीन की जा रही है। इनकी खोजबीन हेतु जनाका का सहयोग आविष्ट है। उपरोक्त सूचना को सार्वजनिक किया जाना आवश्यक है।

अतः सभी जन सधारण से अनुरोध है कि यदि उपरोक्त लापता व्यक्ति कहीं लिलते / दिखते हैं तो इसके संबंध में वर्तये पुलिस अधीक्षक के कार्यालय में या सिनलिंखिट फोन नम्बर पर सम्पर्क कर इसकी सूचना दें।

पुलिस उपायीक, खलारी, रॉयली | —9431742777  
थाना प्रभारी माण्डड, रॉयली | —9431706187

पुलिस उपायीक, खलारी, रॉयली | —9431742777  
थाना प्रभारी माण्डड, रॉयली | —9431706187

पुलिस उपायीक—सह वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक, रॉयली

PR 34630 Police(24-25)D

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA		CORRIGENDUM	
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM
1	UHBVN	NIT 49/SE/PROJECTS/ERPSI/RDSS/2024-25	DATE OF CLOSING OF ONLINE E-TENDER FOR SUBMISSION OF TECHNO-COMMERCIAL BID & PRICE BID: 04.03.2025 UP TO 13:00 HRS. OPENING DATE OF PART-II OF PROPOSAL ON WEB PORTAL 05.03.2025 AT 15:00 HRS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

SAMVAD-13/2025/40/32367/I/1997

**HIMACHAL PRADESH (online)  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer, Chowari Division, HPPWD, Chowari HP on behalf of Governor of HP invite the percentage rate bid in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractor registered with HP PWD for the following work as detailed in the table:-

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of tender form	Time Limit	Eligible Class.
1.	Landslide mitigation measures on landslides disaster on Samote to Drammalla road Km 0/00 to 12/435 (Samote to Tikkri Km 1/390 to 1/411, Portion A, Km 1/411 to 1/433 Portion B, Km 1/433 to 1/460 Portion C)	41405989/-	828120/-	Rs. 5000/-	Twelve Months	Class A

**KEY DATES:-**

- Starting Date for downloading bid 10.02.2025 upto 5.00 PM
- Deadline for submission of bid 22.02.2025 at 11:00 AM
- The date of Technical Bid opening 22.02.2025 11:30 AM
- The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bid without declaring any reasons thereof.

The bidders are advised to note other detail of tender from the department website [www.hptender.gov.in](http://www.hptender.gov.in)

Executive Engineer, Chowari Division, HPPWD, Chowari.

THE HINDU  
India's National Newspaper

**TO ADVERTISE  
PLEASE CONTACT**

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

[selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in](mailto:selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in)

THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

### Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department

#### “NOTICE INVITING BIDS”

The Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No.III, HP.PWD., Shimla-3 invites sealed bids to engage bidders for disposal of weeded out records i.e. old files/documents pertaining to the office of "Executive Engineer Shimla Division No.III HP.PWD., Shimla-3" on "as is where is" basis which is kept in Executive Engineer Shimla Division No.III HP.PWD., Shimla-3 on the following terms and conditions:-

- That the sealed bids should accompany FDR duly pledged in favour of undersigned from any nationalized bank amounting to Rs. 25,000/- only as security which will be returned to all participants after acceptance of highest bid. The security amount of lowest bidders shall be refunded on the same day and the security of highest/qualifying bidder shall be refunded after completion of complete job and production of all required certificates.
- The highest bidders will be required to collect, and shred the weeded-out records and finally dispose the same as per rules and regulations of pollution control board if any.
- The highest bidder to whom work will be assigned is also required to bear all expenditure such as shredding the old/weeded-out record in the shredding machine at site, packing of shredded material in gunny bags at the site, carriage/transportation, loading/un-loading of weeded out record providing of weight machine taxes or duties involved in the process and any other incidental expenditure. The bids should be net of all the expenditure and the amount payable to this department will be the amount quoted by the bidder. The bidder who has quoted highest amount of rate of the weeded-out records will be selected for award of contract. In case of a tie-up the bidder having experience of working with Govt. PSU's will be preferred. In case there is still a tie, the work will be awarded proportionately.
- The interested parties have to deposit the bid as per the bid documents I, II & III enclosed with this notice in the tender box placed at the office of undersigned on or before **17-02-2025** upto 10:30 A.M. which will be opened on the same day. The bid documents may be collected from the office of undersigned upto 4:00 P.M. on dated **15-02-2025** dated from any working days.

It is also hereby informed that the sealed bids will be opened on **17-02-2025** in the presence of the undersigned. At the time of opening the bids, the bidder himself or one of his representatives may remain present. The bid inviting authority, however, reserves the right to amend/cancel this bid notice at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever.







**Trust and Investors First**  
are the values that define  
**Madhya Pradesh**



Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister

Dr. Mohan Yadav  
Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

# Curtain Raiser to GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT



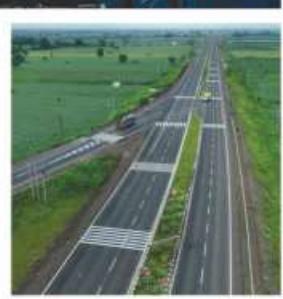
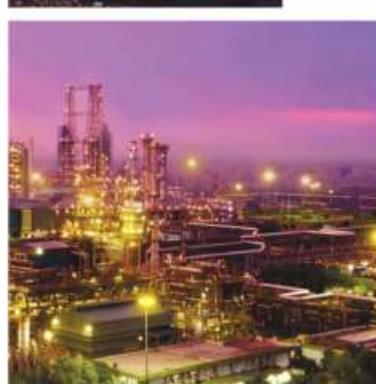
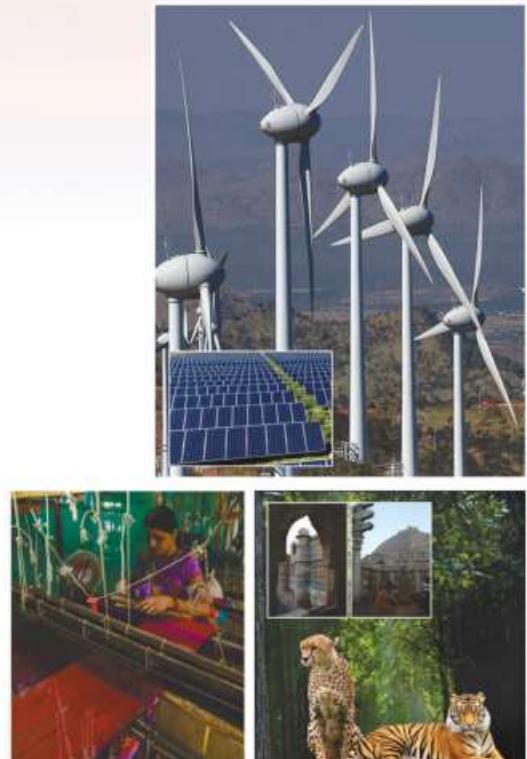
— INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —

## INVEST MADHYA PRADESH

24 & 25 FEBRUARY 2025, BHOPAL



Hotel Taj Mahal, Man Singh Road Area, New Delhi  
12th February, 2025 | 3:00 PM onwards



Abundant resources and robust investment ecosystem awaiting you...

**Attractive Policies**  
Transparent Policies with customized package

**Ease of Doing Business**  
Top in EODB Rankings

**State-of-the-art Infrastructure**  
340+ Industrial Parks (including MSME, IT, EMS Parks)  
7 Smart Cities, 5 IT SEZs

**Power Surplus**  
31 GW installed Capacity  
30% Clean Energy

**Strategic Connectivity**  
6 Airports, 20 Railway Junctions  
6 Dry Ports, 1 Multi-Modal Logistics Park

**Industrial Land Bank**  
1 Lakh+ Acres

**Robust Road Network**  
5 Lakh+ Kms Road Network  
46 National Highways

**Abundant Water Supply**  
1000+ MCM for Industrial needs at Doorsteps



SCAN  
TO REGISTER

[www.investmp.in](http://www.investmp.in)

LIVE STREAMING

@Cmmadhyapradesh  
@jansampark.madhyapradesh

@Cmmadhyapradesh  
@jansamparkMP

JansamparkMP

#InvestInMP | #MPGIS2025



## Self-inflicted injury

Trump's tariffs will not spare the United States from economic damage

**E**conomic estimates from United States President Donald Trump's first term suggest that the sweeping tariffs his administration imposed on nearly \$400 billion worth of goods hurt the American economy. They also resulted in a net loss in real (inflation-adjusted) Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a decline in annual household income, and job losses in the manufacturing sector. A 2019 discussion paper by the Federal Reserve Board, 'Disentangling the Effects of the 2018-2019 Tariffs on a Globally Connected U.S. Manufacturing Sector', found that industries most exposed to tariff increases saw relative reductions in employment. The negative effects of rising input costs and retaliatory tariffs outweighed the benefits of import protection, leading to a net decline in manufacturing jobs, an estimated 0.6% loss, or about 75,000 fewer jobs than would have existed without the tariffs. Similarly, a 2019 report from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), 'An Update to the Budget and Economic Outlook: 2019 to 2029', projected that trade barriers would reduce U.S. economic output. By 2020, the CBO estimated a 0.3% decline in real GDP and a \$580 reduction in average real household income (in 2019 dollars).

The 25% tariff on iron and steel imports by Mr. Trump, in his second term, mirrors a similar policy from March 2018. In his first term, Canada, Mexico and the European Union were initially exempted until June 2018, after which retaliatory tariffs followed until a truce was reached in May 2019 through a revised North American trade agreement. Economists have pointed to these tariffs, which continued to a large extent under the Biden administration, being one of the factors that contributed to high inflation in recent years. In 2023, China dominated global steel production with 1,019 million metric tons per annum (mmtpa), accounting for 54% of global output, followed by India (140.8 mmtpa, 7%) and the U.S. (81.4 mmtpa, 4%). Despite its domestic production, the U.S. relies heavily on imports from Canada, Mexico, and Brazil. Steel is a critical material across industries, including automotive, construction, appliances, and oil and gas. While the American steel industry has welcomed the new tariffs, imports are unlikely to decrease immediately, as a global surplus, driven by China, keeps prices competitive. Even a slight increase in steel prices could ripple across the economy, raising costs for consumers struggling with affordability. If history is any indication, Mr. Trump's tariffs may be the start of another round of self-inflicted economic damage for an already strained U.S. economy, albeit still the world's largest.

## Perilous path

Bangladesh is displaying an intolerant streak against minorities

**A**fter the government of Sheikh Hasina was brought down by a student-led uprising on August 5, 2024, Bangladesh's new rulers, a military-backed interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, promised a new beginning. Six months later, the country of 170 million is far from having a stable political order, let alone a new dawn. The lawlessness across the country was on full display on February 5 when a mob demolished the residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the first President, in Dhamondi, the trigger being reports of Ms. Hasina, who is in exile in India, planning to broadcast a speech on February 5. Protesters circulated their plan online to destroy the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum. Using excavators and bulldozers, they unleashed the attack on the building, in the presence of security personnel, where the father of the nation was assassinated in 1975. The residences of Ms. Hasina and other Awami League leaders were also vandalised. The interim government promised stern action, and Mr. Yunus called for calm. But three days later, a security crackdown targeted Awami League members and saw over 1,000 arrests in a single day.

The attack is not an isolated incident. Mr. Yunus and student protesters have accused Ms. Hasina of running an authoritarian regime. Mr. Yunus has also promised to build a *naya* Bangladesh with reformed institutions, transparency and accountability. But six months after Ms. Hasina's ouster, the interim government has made little progress in its reform agenda and has yet to announce a schedule for general elections. There have been repeated complaints about mob violence against Hindu and Christian minorities as well as Ahmadiyya Muslims and ethnic minorities of Chittagong Hill Tracts. More than 100 people have been killed since August 5, and at least 11,000 people arrested. Among those arrested are 140 journalists, who face murder charges over their reporting of the events that led to Ms. Hasina's ouster. The government has also scrapped more than 150 press accreditations, which are required for official events and briefings. The Chhatra League, the Awami League's student wing, has been banned. A Human Rights Watch report released in January, has warned that those who opposed the Awami League "are now mirroring its intolerance for criticism". The Yunus administration and the student leaders are still blaming Ms. Hasina for the lawlessness and violence. This amounts to an absolute abandonment of accountability. Bangladesh cannot progress into a better system if the violence and lawlessness continue. As the ruler, Mr. Yunus has the primary responsibility to ensure that law and order prevails. He should also expedite the reform process and announce elections so that Bangladesh can have an elected, legitimate government at the earliest.

## A role for India in South-South climate cooperation

**C**OP29, at Baku, Azerbaijan, aptly referred to as the 'Climate Finance COP', has played a crucial role in operationalising core elements of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (PA). The adoption of Article 6 at Baku represents a renewed focus on the market mechanism which could help countries that are often constrained by limited resources and face difficulties in achieving an economy-wide transition to a carbon-neutral economy.

Article 6 has the potential to meet climate ambitions through cooperative approaches. Its key component, Article 6.2, facilitates the transfer of Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) between host and partner country to help countries meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), by offering flexibility for tailored agreements. The process not only supports emissions reductions in the host country (developing country) but also fosters technology exchange, promotes capacity building, and facilitates financial resources from the partner country (developed country), helping in the transition to a low-carbon economy and reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### Article 6.2 and India's climate policies

India, which is considered to be the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases (GHG), though in absolute terms only, and a rapidly growing economy, is well-positioned to draw benefits from Article 6.2. The country has had a challenge in balancing its developmental goals with its climate commitments due to a lack of adequate finance and also a lack of support from developed countries. India's NDCs, *inter alia*, include ambitious targets, such as reducing emissions intensity by 45% by 2030. However, the financial and technical constraints are considerable, as just before COP29, India reiterated its call for the developed nations to mobilise at least \$1 trillion annually in climate finance for developing countries to meet the challenges of global warming.

It is an opportune time for India as it moves to its own domestic emissions trading scheme (ETS), launched as a Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) in 2023, with the aim of integrating market mechanisms into national policy. While not directly linked to Article 6.2, the CCTS proposes to strengthen India's institutions by providing a framework for transparent carbon credit tracking and verification. India's prior experience with the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), voluntary carbon market (VCM), Energy Saving Certificates (ESCserts) and Renewable Energy Certificates (REC), has laid the groundwork for effective engagement with



**Shubhi Goel**  
is a climate finance expert, consultant and freelancer



**Gopal K. Sarangi**  
is Associate Professor and Head of the Department, TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi

Join FREE Whatsapp Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>  
international carbon markets under Article 6.2, unlocking opportunities for emission reduction projects and climate finance.

India has identified 14 key activities for international collaboration under Article 6.2, which include Renewable Energy (RE), energy storage, and Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage programme. These technologies, such as green hydrogen and sustainable aviation fuel, require advanced expertise, research and significant investment, which India seeks through partnerships with leading nations such as South Korea, the European Union, and Japan.

Engaging in ITMO transactions under Article 6.2 gives India the opportunity to meet its SDGs by transferring surplus emissions reductions certificates to partner countries through different unique project implementations. There are also co-benefits such as reducing health problems and enhancing income through green jobs. On other hand, by encouraging South-South cooperation India can also generate ITMOs while facilitating investments in key sectors, in which India has extensive experience such as RE and sustainable infrastructure.

### Opportunities for the country

Article 6.2 offers India an opportunity to unlock large-scale climate finance through South-South cooperation. Countries under pressure to meet stringent NDCs can purchase ITMOs from India, generating financial resources for climate-resilient projects and green technology development. For example, India's renewable energy sector attracted over \$10 billion in foreign direct investment in 2022. Further, ITMO transactions could scale up these efforts for other developing countries. The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) also encourages such South-South cooperation as developing countries have been extending climate finance to other developing countries on a voluntary basis; however, their contributions are often unreported. Hence, Article 6.2 may foster such partnerships beyond the traditional North-South dynamic, enabling India to lead South-South cooperation, through the transfer of technology, and building capacity in developing countries (Africa) to help them meet their NDCs.

While India signs memorandums of understanding with developed countries to facilitate ITMO transfers, there is also a strong case for India to focus on building partnerships with African nations (India as partner country and Africa as host country). Africa, with its vast renewable energy potential and urgent climate vulnerabilities, is ideal for South-South cooperation. Many African nations face severe impacts from climate change, particularly in agriculture and water resources. India's close

partnership with African governments, extending to trade, investment, and developmental projects, strengthens this case. Under the 10 principles for India-Africa engagement enunciated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a key pillar is economic cooperation – emphasising sustained engagement, creating local capabilities, enhancing agricultural productivity, and addressing climate change. With its expertise in RE deployment, digital tools, and sustainable agriculture, India is well-positioned to help the region. This can also help India meet its NDCs while also accessing carbon market opportunities to fund sustainable development projects across the African continent.

The sharing of ITMOs between India and partner countries will depend on agreement specifics, reflecting India's role as the host country and the developed partner's contributions to technology and capacity building, which are also aligned with the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). The share ratio may vary based on each party's contributions – India could claim a larger share if it extends significant financial or technical inputs. A similar approach is seen in the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), where credit allocation is decided through mutual consultation based on contributions to GHG reductions. Japan typically offers technology, funding, and capacity building, while the host country implements the project. The JCM Joint Committee reviews and issues credits, ensuring transparency by publicly sharing allocation details.

### The challenges

ITMO sharing offers opportunities for international cooperation. But, at the same time, it also presents challenges for India. Developed nations might rely on low-cost emission reductions from India, potentially avoiding significant domestic decarbonisation efforts and shifting costly mitigation burdens onto India. For India, ITMO transfers could involve opportunity costs, as these reductions might otherwise support its own climate targets or sustainability goals.

Additionally, inadequate transparency and governance in ITMO mechanisms may lead to inefficiencies and can accentuate inequities, affecting India's interests. Over-reliance on ITMO transfers by partner nations could also hinder India's broader priorities, such as capacity building, green technology deployment, and climate-aligned economic growth. To address these risks, India must ensure ITMO agreements include safeguards for equitable benefit-sharing, transparency, and alignment with national and global climate ambitions.

## A legal 'remedy' that perpetuates survivor trauma

**T**he Allahabad High Court, in *Atul Gautam vs State of Uttar Pradesh* (2025), recently granted bail to a man who has been accused of raping his inter-faith live-in partner on the 'promise of marriage'. The bail was granted on the condition of his marrying the survivor under the Special Marriage Act and arranging for a deposit of ₹5 lakh.

In another case, *Abhishek vs State of Uttar Pradesh and Ors.* (2024), the same High Court had granted bail to a rape accused on the condition that he marry the survivor and care for both her and their newborn child. This reasoning aligns with a precedent set in *Ramashankar vs State of Uttar Pradesh* (2022), wherein bail was granted on similar grounds.

### On the court and state

These cases raise key issues: first, whether courts can impose bail conditions requiring a rape accused to marry the survivor and assume responsibility for her and the child. And, second, whether the state is neglecting its responsibility to provide welfare measures for survivors and children born out of such crimes.

In *Aparna Bhat vs State of Madhya Pradesh* (2021), the Supreme Court of India, while issuing guidelines for bail conditions, lay emphasis on the point that courts must ensure that the conditions of bail strictly prohibit any contact between the accused and the survivor to avoid secondary trauma. The bail conditions which mandate that the accused marry the survivor, violate this guideline.

The Court also directed that the bail conditions should not reinforce gender stereotypes and patriarchal notions on women and must strictly comply with the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. While dealing with Section 437(3)(c) of the Code, the Court, in *Kunal Kumar Tiwari vs State of*



**Esha Shrotriya**  
is an Assistant Professor and Co-Director, Centre for Criminal Justice Studies at the School of Law, RV University



**Shantanu Pachauri**  
is an Assistant Professor and Co-Director, Centre for Criminal Justice Studies at the School of Law, RV University

The judiciary offering bail on the condition of marriage to the perpetrator of sexual violence is problematic

Join FREE Telegram Channel <https://t.me/+Bu7senHpQdh1ODg1>  
Bihar (2017), observed that the courts may impose bail conditions in the interest of justice. However, such conditions cannot be arbitrary or extend beyond the ends of the provision.

However, the approach adopted by courts (*Atul Gautam*) appears to stem from regressive societal perceptions that equate a woman's dignity with her marital status.

### Impact on survivor

Such reasoning perpetuates the problematic belief that marriage is a remedy for rape, restoring an alleged loss of purity or honour. This not only violates the autonomy of the survivor but also legitimises an unequal and coercive marital relationship. Such conditions create a perverse incentive for the accused to manipulate the survivor, furthering the possibility of abuse under the guise of reconciliation. The courts inadvertently reinforce a narrative where the survivor is forced into a dependent relationship with the accused, often without genuine consent. In such cases, marriage might result in abusive behaviour under legal protection. The prospect of marriage often becomes a strategic escape route for the accused, allowing bail, compromises, or even leniency during sentencing.

Courts that suggest or facilitate such marriages inadvertently risk legitimising the heinous act under the guise of matrimony. Such conditions undermine the integrity of the trial process and the survivor's quest for justice.

The responsibility of ensuring the welfare of survivors and their children lies squarely with the state. In *Re: Right to Privacy of Adolescents* (2024), the Court held that the state must provide essential support such as shelter, food, education, and counselling for victims. The lack of an adequate support system often leaves survivors

with no choice but to rely on their perpetrators. This reliance not only perpetuates cycles of exploitation but also violates their fundamental right to live with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution. By failing to provide holistic support to victims, the state shifts its responsibility to the judiciary, leading to solutions that may conflict with constitutional principles. This creates a perverse mechanism where victims are coerced into dependence on the accused, with the courts further enabling the state's neglect.

### A conflict of interest

Granting bail on the condition of marriage during the pendency of a trial is particularly problematic. While considering the question of granting bail, courts are not supposed to look into the merits of the case, as the accused's guilt is not to be determined at this stage. Bail hearings and conditions should not influence the trial. However, imposing marriage between the accused and the survivor as a bail condition has irreversible effects, altering their relationship and interpersonal dynamics. Such conditions may affect the trial's outcome and the survivor's ability to testify freely.

Moreover, if marriage is deemed as a measure for the survivor's welfare, it raises concerns about the court's impartiality in convicting and sentencing the accused, as this could conflict with the survivor's welfare if she becomes dependent on the accused. These practices demand a critical re-evaluation of the judiciary's approach to cases involving rape and other forms of sexual violence. Justice must not be diluted by societal norms or convenience; it must prioritise the rights, the dignity, and the autonomy of survivors, ensuring that legal remedies do not perpetuate their trauma or compromise the principles of fairness.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Trump and the world

Nations across the world appear to be transfixed by the idiosyncratic announcements flowing one after another from Trump 2.0. The 47th U.S. President's imperialistic proposal to own the Gaza Strip and relocate its population to other countries deserves an instant and outright response from the Arab world and countries such as India which have all along been advocating a two-state solution to the

Palestine crisis. It is time nations closed ranks to call Mr. Trump's bluff.

**Manohar Alembath,**  
Kannur, Kerala

**YouTuber's comment**  
It is appalling that someone who is in a position of influence would make immoral and offensive jokes, particularly against parents, who deserve utmost respect in society ("Case registered after row breaks out over YouTuber's comment", February 11). Public figures, especially

those with a large following, have a responsibility to set a positive example. This is not just an issue of bad humour but also reflects a dangerous trend where so-called influencers think they can get away with anything. Freedom of speech does not mean a licence to insult and degrade others.

**K.J. Haroon Basha,**  
Vaniyambadi, Tamil Nadu

**A venture worth exploring**  
I read the interview with renowned composer

Ilaiyaraaja, "I was not an Indian or Tamil film music composer when I wrote symphony Valiant: Ilaiyaraaja" (January 31), and wish to make my observation on the London Symphony being conducted by none other than our own "emperor of music". Almost 15 years ago, I had proposed to a few prestigious Sabhas in Chennai city on having a Carnatic symphony orchestra, with one of the Sangeeta Kalanidhi as artistic director, and

creating an epoch-making venture in the world of *Bhaaratyeeyaa Sangeet*. The idea was that this ensemble (symphony orchestra) would have gone around the world propagating the greatness of Carnatic music. Unfortunately, none paid heed to my suggestion, offering the excuse of 'no funds' and also blaming it on the difficulties of asking musicians to be engaged in year-long hard work, practising and engaging themselves in mastering the symphony techniques.

The maestro is right in pointing out that this mammoth production can be achieved only with government support. But if he does undertake such a venture, corporate houses are sure to line up offering support. My request is that the Madras Music Academy or the Narada Gana Sabha should come forward to have such a venture.

**V.P. Dhananjayan,**  
Chennai

Letters emailed to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) must carry the postal address.

# Addressing the growing threat of forest fires

**A**s wildfires swept throughout Los Angeles last month, destroying homes and causing casualties and displacements, the urgency of addressing and preventing forest fires took centre stage once again. Unfortunately, forest fires become a point of conversation only when some major incident causes irrevocable damage and captures media and public attention. The fires are a stark reminder that no place is immune from their impacts and that we need a clear pathway to prevent and manage them as their frequency increases.

In India, the situation is equally alarming. According to the Forest Survey of India, more than 36% of the country's forest cover is prone to fire. An analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water states that there has been a 10-fold increase in forest fire incidences in the last two decades, whereas the total forest cover has increased by merely 1.12%.

Living on the fringes of the Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand, I see the immense value of India's forests, not just as critical enablers of wildlife conservation and sources of biodiversity, but as lifelines for local communities that live around them. While Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh often capture headlines for forest fires, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Karnataka, among others, are also grappling with the frequency and intensity of forest fires.

**Devastating consequences**  
According to various reports, nearly 90% of these fires are caused by human activities such as deliberate land clearing, slash-and-burn agriculture, and unattended campfires. These factors, coupled with climate change-driven factors such as rising temperatures and extended dry spells, intensify the risk of forest fires.

Forest fires have widespread consequences – natural, social, and economic – that are all



**Suryaprabha  
Sadasivan**

Senior Vice President,  
Chase India

interconnected. Besides the direct loss of trees, wildlife, and biodiversity, they contribute significantly to carbon emissions. A report by the World Resources Institute estimates that Indian forest fires emit approximately 69 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually. Forest fires result in the loss of timber and non-timber forest products, essential for forest-dependent communities, contributing to direct economic losses. A 2018 report by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change estimated that forest degradation (including forest fires) results in an annual economic loss of approximately ₹1.74 lakh crore. Forest fires also disrupt the water cycle, cause soil fertility degradation, and worsen human-wildlife conflict as animals seek refuge in human settlements.

India has put in place several policies and schemes to address forest fire management, such as the National Action Plan on Forest Fires and the Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FFPMS). The centrally sponsored FFPMS assists State governments in strengthening their forest fire prevention and management capabilities.

#### A more robust response

However, given the growing intensity of forest fires in India, much more remains to be done. First, Budget constraints have proven to be an obstacle. For example, the FFPMS's funding allotment has fluctuated over time. In 2019-2020, it received ₹46.40 crore, followed by ₹32.47 crore in 2020-2021, ₹34.26 crore in 2021-2022, and ₹28.25 crore in 2022-2023. The budget projection for 2023-2024 was ₹51 crore, which was revised to ₹40 crore. The planned allocation for 2024-2025 is ₹50 crore. This shows the need for more steady support.

On the technology front, the existing Forest Fire Alert System cannot distinguish between forest fires and other types of fires, delaying ground-level validation and response. India could use

India has put in place several policies and schemes to address forest fire management, but needs to do much more

advanced predictive modelling to help identify high-risk areas based on climatic and geographic data. This must be supplemented by using drones equipped with thermal imaging cameras to monitor fire-prone areas, assess damage, and guide firefighting efforts. States such as Tamil Nadu and Odisha have already piloted such initiatives, which could be scaled nationally. In addition, there is merit in also exploring how relevant and existing data from the Forest Survey of India, the India Meteorological Department, and the Indian Space Research Organisation can be integrated and analysed for better forest fire management.

Equipping more and more local communities to collect and share real-time data to report fires as soon as they are sighted through mobile applications, toll-free helplines, and SMS-based systems can strengthen early warning systems and ensure rapid, localised response. In Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, self-help groups, primarily women, collect pine needles to blunt future fires. India can also draw from Nepal's Community Forest User Groups and Indonesia's Fire-Free Village Program to strengthen community forest fire management.

Empowering communities with awareness, training, and resources and engaging youth as 'forest fire scouts' can foster stewardship, combining local knowledge with modern tools like fire risk mapping and controlled burns.

Forest fires are not just an environmental issue – they are societal and economic, affecting livelihoods, health, and the foundation of our ecosystems. Addressing this challenge requires the collaboration of policymakers, scientists, civil society groups, and communities. From creating supporting infrastructure through policy intervention, improved budgeting, technology adoption, and building a cadre of trained personnel to empowering communities – all measures must go hand-in-hand to turn the tide.

# Struggling with poor cyber security

Karnataka's critical information infrastructure has come under attack again

#### STATE OF PLAY

**K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj**

aditya.bharadwaj@thehindu.co.in

**K**averi 2.0, a web portal that was launched in 2023 to streamline property registrations in Karnataka, came under a distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack carried out through Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered bots recently. A denial-of-service (DoS) attack occurs when legitimate users are unable to access information systems, devices, or other network resources due to the actions of a malicious cyber threat actor, while a DDoS attack occurs when multiple machines are operating together to attack one target. The DDoS attack crippled the portal, bringing property registrations across Karnataka almost to a halt for many days in January and February, possibly causing huge revenue losses to the State exchequer.

This is not the first time that the State's critical information infrastructure has come under attack. In 2017, the Karnataka State Data Centre fell victim to the WannaCry ransomware attack, which spreads by exploiting vulnerabilities in the Windows operating system. In 2019, the State's e-procurement portal was hacked leading to a theft of ₹11.5 crore. In 2022, the systems of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences were attacked. However, as the DDoS attack shows, no lessons seem to have been learned from earlier attacks and the gaps identified in the State's response have still not been filled.

Most government portals, including Kaveri 2.0, are designed and run by the State's e-Governance Department



and hosted by the Karnataka State Data Centre.

The attack on Kaveri 2.0 began in December 2024 and brought the portal to a virtual halt in the last week of January and the first week of February. During this period, the e-Governance Department was on firefighting mode. On February 6, the Revenue Department claimed that the issues had been "fixed". Surprisingly, throughout this process, the State cyber crime police were not kept in the loop. The Inspector General of Registrations and Commissioner of Stamps lodged a complaint with the cyber crime police only on February 7.

Earlier too, the State's response to cyber attacks was marred by a lack of coordination between the e-Governance Department and the State police. So far, the e-Governance Department has identified a few IP addresses from which the attack originated. Involving the cyber crime police much earlier could have helped combat the problem in real time, police officials said. However, sources said that there was resistance within the departments to go to the police.

According to the Karnataka Cyber Security Policy, 2023, the State has a Cyber Security Committee, led by the Chief Secretary. This is filled with bureaucrats and not a single representative from the State police. Compare this to the na-

tional level, where the cyber security architecture – the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), which is affiliated to the Home Ministry and is the nodal point to curb cyber crimes, and the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC), which protects the country's critical infrastructure – have evolved.

Many experts feel that a similar cyber security architecture with clearly defined standard operating procedures to deal with such attacks should be put in place in Karnataka as well. The State immediately needs a control room set-up involving both technical experts and the cyber crime police to handle crises so that it can respond to such attacks in a coordinated manner in real time.

In his last Budget, presented in February 2023, former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had proposed to set up a Cyber Security Operation Centre at a cost of ₹20 crore, on the lines of I4C and NCIIPC. However, when the Congress came to power in the State in May 2023, a revised Budget was presented and the proposal was dropped.

Bengaluru is known as the Silicon Valley of India. It is also an emerging cyber crime hotspot, according to a 2023 report titled 'A Deep Dive into Cybercrime Trends Impacting India', by the Future Crime Research Foundation, an IIT Kanpur incubated start-up. Karnataka has among the highest number of cyber crime cases in the country. Yet, the State does not have proper infrastructure. In contrast, Maharashtra and Odisha have robust cyber security infrastructure in place.

It is time for the Karnataka government to act to protect critical data.

# Elector surge in Maharashtra and Delhi polls is par for the course

Data show that the net addition of 39.6 lakh electors in Maharashtra in about seven months is not unusually high

#### DATA POINT

**Vignesh Radhakrishnan  
Sambavi Parthasarathy**

**T**he surge in the number of electors during the recent Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Delhi is not unusually high, an analysis of Election Commission data shows.

The spurt in electors in Maharashtra became a subject of controversy after the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, raised the issue at a recent press conference. In Maharashtra, between the Lok Sabha polls held on April 19, 2024, and the Assembly elections held on November 20, 2024 – a period of 215 days – there was a net addition of 39.6 lakh electors. However, between the Assembly elections on October 21, 2019, and the Lok Sabha polls in April 2024 – a period of 1,642 days – there was a net addition of only 32.2 lakh electors.

"Why did the Election Commission add more voters in Maharashtra in five months than it did in five years?", Mr. Gandhi asked.

**T**able 1 shows the number of electors recorded across various Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra. Data show that the net addition of 39.6 lakh electors in 215 days is not unusually high. Between the Lok Sabha polls on April 20, 2004, and the Assembly elections on October 5, 2004 – a period of 176 days – there was a net addition of 29.5 lakh electors. A similar analysis of 2009, 2014, and 2019 shows net additions of 30 lakh, 27.2 lakh, and 11.6 lakh electors, respectively.

In fact, if the increases are expressed as electors added per day, the context becomes clearer. The net addition of 39.6 lakh electors in 215 days amounts to 18,434 net electors added per day. This figure is not a far cry from the 16,782 net electors added per day in the 176 days in 2004.

**T**able 2 shows similar informa-

tion for elections in Delhi. Between the Lok Sabha polls on May 25, 2024, and the Assembly elections on February 5, 2025 – a period of 256 days – there was a net addition of 3.9 lakh electors. However, between the Assembly elections on February 8, 2020, and the Lok Sabha polls in May 2024 – 1,568 days – there was a net addition of only 4.16 lakh electors.

As with Maharashtra, past data for Delhi also show that such surges in electors during brief periods are not unusual. In fact, the net additions have often been much higher. For instance, between the Lok Sabha polls on May 12, 2019, and the Assembly elections on February 8, 2020 – a period of 272 days – there was a net addition of 4.7 lakh electors. Between April 2014 and February 2015, there was a net addition of 6.02 lakh electors. And between December 2013 and April 2014, in just 127 days, there was an addition of 7.7 lakh net electors.

It is intriguing that a significant number of electors were added during the brief periods between two elections, while longer gaps did not result in substantially higher additions. But the elector surge during the recent State elections in Maharashtra and Delhi, over a short period, is not a new phenomenon; it is part of a long-standing trend in these States.

**T**ables 3 and 4 provide data for Jharkhand and Haryana. Departing from the trends observed in Maharashtra and Delhi, in these two States, shorter intervals between elections resulted in smaller net additions of electors, whereas longer intervals lead to significantly higher elector additions.

These contrasting patterns suggest that the effectiveness of Chief Electoral Officers assigned to these States, population demographics, and migration patterns might significantly influence voter additions. Political reasons such as welfare measures might help in higher voter registration but that requires a deeper study.

Join FREE Telegram Channel <https://t.me/+Bu7senHpQdhlODg1>

## Not far away from the trend

The data for the tables were sourced from the Election Commission of India

**Table 1:** Number of electors recorded across various Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra

	Year	Electors	Poll date	Elector difference	Gap in days	Voters per day
LS	1999	5,68,53,196	Sept. 6, 1999			
LS	2004	6,30,12,208	Apr. 20, 2004	61,59,012	1,688	3,649
AE	2004	6,59,65,792	Oct. 13, 2004	29,53,584	176	16,782
LS	2009	7,29,54,058	Apr. 16, 2009	69,88,266	1,646	4,246
AE	2009	7,59,68,312	Oct. 13, 2009	30,14,254	180	16,746
LS	2014	8,07,98,823	Apr. 10, 2014	4,830,511	1,640	2,945
AE	2014	8,35,28,310	Oct. 15, 2014	27,29,487	188	14,519
LS	2019	8,86,76,946	Apr. 11, 2019	51,48,636	1,639	3,141
AE	2019	8,98,38,267	Oct. 21, 2019	11,61,321	193	6,017
LS	2024	9,30,61,760	Apr. 19, 2024	32,23,493	1,642	1,963
AE	2024	9,70,25,119	Nov. 20, 2024	39,63,359	215	18,434

**Table 3:** Number of electors recorded across various Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Jharkhand

	Year	Electors	Poll date	Elector difference	Gap in days	Voters per day
LS	2004	1,68,12,339	Apr. 20, 2004			
AE	2005	1,77,66,202	Feb. 3, 2005	9,53,863	289	3,301
LS	2009	1,79,34,095	Apr. 20, 2009	1,67,893	1,537	109
AE	2009	1,80,45,638	Nov. 25, 2009	1,11,543	219	509
LS	2014	2,03,49,796	Apr. 10, 2014	23,04,158	1,597	1,443
AE	2014	2,08,52,808	Nov. 25, 2014	5,03,012	229	2,197
LS	2019	2,24,04,856	Apr. 29, 2019	15,52,048	1,616	960
AE	2019	2,30,58,035	Nov. 30, 2019	6,53,179	215	3,038
LS	2024	2,58,77,892	May 13, 2024	28,19,857	1,626	1,734
AE	2024	2,60,87,698	Nov. 13, 2024	2,09,806	184	1,140

AE: Assembly elections

LS: Lok Sabha elections

Vignesh.r@thehindu.co.in, Sambavi.pi@thehindu

# Text & Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### Religious groups that have sued the Trump administration

**27** More than two dozen Christian and Jewish groups representing millions of Americans filed a federal court lawsuit on Tuesday challenging a Trump administration move giving immigration agents more leeway to make arrests at houses of worship. AP

### The growth in net direct tax collection till February 10

**15** In per cent. Net direct tax collection grew 14.69% to over ₹17.78 lakh crore so far this fiscal, government data showed on Tuesday. As per the data released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), mop up from net non-corporate taxes grew 21% year-on-year to about ₹9.48 lakh crore. PTI

### The increase in IRCTC's PAT in the December quarter

**13** In per cent. The IRCTC reported a 13% rise in consolidated profit after tax from continuing operations at ₹341.08 crore for the December 2024 quarter, on account of higher income. It had posted ₹299.99 crore profit after tax in the year-ago period. Total income increased to ₹1,281.20 crore. PTI

### Lives claimed by man-elephant conflicts in Jharkhand

**474** Man-elephant conflicts in Jharkhand have claimed 474 lives over a span of five years since the 2019-20 fiscal. A total of 87 lives were lost due to such incidents in 2023-24, lower than the figure of 2022-23 and 2021-22 when the deaths were 96 and 133 respectively. PTI

### Number of chickens culled in Andhra Pradesh

**4,500** Following the detection of Avian Influenza in Velpur in West Godavari district and Kanuru Agraharam in East Godavari district, officials in Andhra Pradesh have begun culling birds. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us [facebook.com/thehindu](https://facebook.com/thehindu) [twitter.com/the\\_hindu](https://twitter.com/the_hindu) [instagram.com/the\\_hindu](https://instagram.com/the_hindu)

## How will freeze on USAID affect the world?

Why is the U.S. administration halting foreign assistance and scaling back personnel in the United States Agency for International Development? What will happen if the agency stops funding development projects in many countries? Which are the key sectors it is involved in? What will be the fallout in the Global South?

### EXPLAINER

Ramya Kannan

#### The story so far:

In January 20, his first day in office for a second term, U.S. President Donald Trump put in place a 90-day freeze on foreign assistance. The executive order read, [There will be a] "90-day pause in United States foreign development assistance for assessment of programmatic efficiencies and consistency with United States foreign policy." Consequently, personnel of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) were stopped from disbursing assistance across the world. By late last week, the website of USAID also wiped content, leaving just a message that all USAID personnel (about 10,000 globally) would be placed on administrative leave, with a few exceptions for mission-critical personnel. Shortly before the plans to scale back personnel were to take effect, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order till February 14, but that does not extend to the freeze on funds disbursement.

#### What is the USAID?

The U.S. Agency for International Aid was set up as an independent agency, through an Act of Congress in 1961. It was an attempt to align all U.S. efforts to administer civilian foreign aid and development assistance. Its mission is "to promote and demonstrate democratic values abroad and advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world" while advancing the U.S.'s security and prosperity. In pushing this agenda, it provides financial aid across various sectors in over 100 countries worldwide. Broadly, it works in the sectors of economic development, health, education, food security, humanitarian assistance, climate change, and democracy and governance.

It works in partnerships with governments, NGOs, businesses, and other international organisations, primarily providing grants, technical assistance, and funding for development projects that are in sync with its goals. Notable among its flagship schemes are the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Feed the Future (addressing hunger and food security issues), Power Africa (expanding access to electricity across Africa) and Water for the World Act (improving water, sanitation, and hygiene services).

It receives funding allocated in the U.S. budget. In 2024, USAID received a total of \$44.20 billion, which is 0.4% of the U.S. federal budget for FY 2024 (as per the official website USAspending.gov). In the same year, the agency had distributed \$44.20 billion among its four sub-components. Media reports claim it contributed to nearly 42% of all humanitarian aid tracked by the United Nations in 2024.

#### What has Elon Musk said?

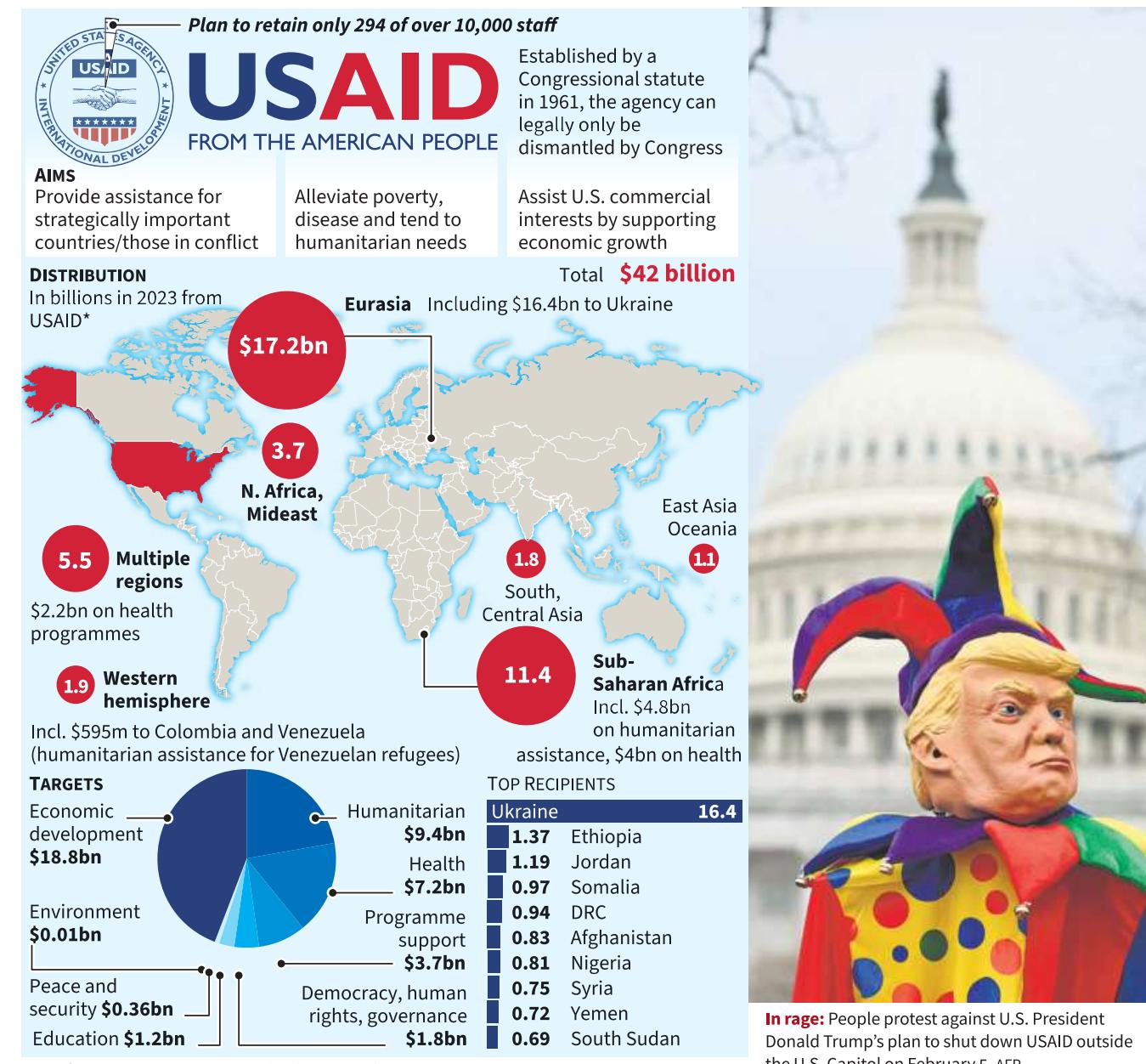
Elon Musk, head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), has threatened that the agency would be shut down, while Secretary of State Marco Rubio who is now the acting administrator of USAID, has talked about 'restructuring' it.

#### How will this impact countries?

According to the official U.S. foreign assistance website, the top countries the USAID engages with are Ukraine, Ethiopia, Jordan, Somalia, Congo

### Dismantling aid from the U.S.

The withdrawal of USAID, arising out of a decision born of petulance, might severely impact the fortunes of many nations, as a number of projects will have to be dropped, in the light of aid being stopped through an executive decision by the Donald Trump administration.



In rage: People protest against U.S. President Donald Trump's plan to shut down USAID outside the U.S. Capitol on February 5. AFP

### THE GIST

The U.S. Agency for International Aid was set up as an independent agency, through an Act of Congress in 1961. It was an attempt to align all U.S. efforts to administer civilian foreign aid and development assistance.

In India, the quantum of funding has reduced over the years, with the government of India objecting to certain aspects of the conditions for the agreement for grants.

While health remains the main sector where USAID has been involved in India, with a funding of \$79.3 million in 2024, it also has interests in economy, energy, water supply and sanitation, and environmental health.

but about structuring it in a way that furthers the national interests of the United States," there are not too many takers for this defence. Mr. Trump has made no secret of the fact that he has always advanced his point of view of America, a stand his critics see as rendering the nation in isolation from the rest of the world. Even as a front-runner for the President's seat, he said: "We're rebuilding other countries while weakening our own. Ending the theft of American jobs will give us the resources we need to rebuild our military, which has to happen and regain our financial independence and strength." His trusted aide Mr. Musk poured vitriol over USAID, calling it a 'criminal organisation' and 'a viper's nest of radical-left Marxists who hate America'.

Andrew Natsios, former USAID administrator, in an interview with PBS News Hour, said USAID was one of the great humanitarian powers in the world, to protect the U.S. and people in the developing world from hunger and disease. "The programmes they are attacking now are Biden-era programmes," he said, hinting at political vengeance being the driving force behind the move. The withdrawal, he claimed, would be a "disaster for the U.S. and for the Global South".

Meanwhile, foreign agency reports speculate that only 294 employees of the total of 10,000 would remain, including 12 in the Africa bureau and eight in the Asia bureau, because these are areas that are critical to combating poverty, disease, and conflict.

While Mr. Rubio has told the media that "this is not about ending foreign aid,

aspects of the conditions for the agreement for grants. In the last decade, India is said to have received around \$1.5 billion from USAID – about 0.2% to 0.4% of USAID's total global funding (as per the foreign assistance website).

The association between India and USAID began in 1951 when President Harry Truman signed the India Emergency Food Aid Act. Over the decades, USAID's role has evolved from food aid to infrastructure development, capacity building, economic reforms, and more. In the early years, the agency weighed in strongly in the education sector, immunisation and health care. While health remains the main sector where USAID has been involved in India (including HIV/AIDS, TB, maternal and child health, and immunisation programmes) with a funding of \$79.3 million in 2024, it also has interests in economy, energy, water supply and sanitation, and environmental health.

In this sense, pundits in the development sector feel that the withdrawal of USAID may not affect India in a major way.

However, it remains to be seen how these existing projects, particularly in healthcare fare now, and whether Central or State governments will be able to pick up the tab to keep these projects, and beneficiaries going.

Meanwhile, USAID has directed all organisations implementing projects in India to suspend operations for the time being.

## KEYWORD

# The banality of evil: learning about Gaza from Nazi history

What a moral philosopher's view of the life and career of Nazi officer Adolf Eichmann can tell us about our own beleaguered age, especially in the backdrop of the Israel-Palestine war

Prathmesh Kher

**N**either perverted nor sadistic', but 'terrifyingly normal' is how historian and philosopher Hannah Arendt had described Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi officer in charge of the mass deportation of millions of Jews to the extermination camps across Nazi-occupied Europe. Arendt had reported on the trial of Eichmann, and described it in her seminal work *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. The subtitle of the book has achieved independent notoriety, with the expression 'banality of evil' often being employed to describe the "innumerable men in the federal and state administrations and, generally, in public office whose careers had bloomed under the Hitler regime".

#### Normal people, evil deeds

The expression was coined to describe the behaviour of the proverbial "cautious bureaucrat" whose "deeds were monstrous" and yet the doer "quite ordinary, commonplace, and neither demonic nor monstrous". The description was apt not merely for Nazi-era bureaucrats but also for the many "good Germans" who stood by haplessly as millions were sent to death. Furthermore, the very decade that witnessed the barbarism of the Holocaust witnessed the profound dereliction of the British government in famine afflicted India or the purges in erstwhile USSR.

These were well-oiled states that allowed their individual members to acquiesce their personal responsibility to allow for the commission of crimes so vast and heinous that they beggar the imagination. What is further beleaguering is the realisation that many of the people who had to partake in these cruelties were perfectly civil and courteous in private life. By all accounts, Eichmann was a family man. His last words were reportedly: "I greet my wife, my family and my friends. I am ready. We'll meet again soon, as is the fate of all men. I die believing in God."

During his trial, half a dozen psychologists, who had examined Eichmann, had submitted that "his whole psychological outlook, his attitude toward his wife and children, mother and father, brothers, sisters, and friends," was "not only normal but most desirable". Another contemporaneous figure said that he was "a man with very positive ideas". His last moments were not the wrangling of some deranged lunatic but rather a modest drink of dry wine. Not exactly the bloodlust of a psychopath. But the 'banality of evil' was not meant to be a mere insight into one man but rather a look into what drove hundreds and thousands of administrative officials to engage in what they knew would lead to the death of millions.

During his trial, Eichmann had referred back to Immanuel Kant's idea of a categorical imperative in defence of his actions, and argued that that he had always done his "duty" without reference to other considerations. Arendt was shocked at the rather tenuous use of an enlightenment concept of ethics in defence of a horrifying genocide. In Arendt's understanding Eichmann "was



In absolute ruin: Displaced Palestinians walk through a muddy road amid the destruction in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip on February 6. AFP

Join FREE Whatsapp Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>

not stupid". It was "sheer thoughtlessness" not "identical with stupidity" that inclined him to become "one of the greatest criminals of that period".

A stark contrast to Arendt's observations, in the book *Eichmann Before Jerusalem*, the German historian Bettina Stangneth explores another side to the man besides the banal, apparently apolitical administrator, merely working as any other career bureaucrat.

Through a careful consideration of the audiotapes of Eichmann's interviews by the Nazi collaborator and journalist William Sassen, Eichmann is revealed as a sworn ideologue strongly committed to National Socialist dogma. He expresses neither remorse nor guilt for his role in the Holocaust. This is no simple bureaucratic officer merely following distasteful orders but a radically extremist functionary living behind the mask of an unglamorous official.

These notions of otherwise good Germans who simply followed orders

takes a particularly stark appraisal in our own day and age.

#### Here and now

The incumbent U.S. President Donald Trump has advocated for the ownership of the Gazan enclave by the Americans, and has proposed its transformation into an "international city". He has in the past made remarks about "cleaning out" Gaza and has suggested that Gazans "should not be going back to Gaza" since it has been "very unlucky for them", where they have "lived like hell".

He has proposed that Gaza could be made "a good, fresh, beautiful piece of land" as it is a "phenomenal location, on the sea, the best weather", and has called it effectively a "Riviera" of West Asia that "could be so magnificent". Trump said the U.S. would play the lead role in this real estate development that would make Gaza into "an international, unbelievable place". But it would not have the Palestinians getting back to Gaza; most of them would be relocated in other

countries, while "representatives from all over the world would live there". Under his plan, Trump said that Gazans "would have already been resettled in far safer and more beautiful communities, with new and modern homes, in the region".

Trump's words echo the "sheer thoughtlessness" that Arendt spoke of with regards to Eichmann. It is not some sadistic act with malice writ large but rather something done with the sheer bluster of someone hoping to make their mark on the pages of history.

There are many who also feel that Palestinians as a whole must pay for Hamas' crimes. This too reverberates a pernicious idea of the 'blood libel' that was affixed onto the Jews as a whole by bigoted Christians – an idea which became the fount of the hate that allowed for the callous murder of millions of innocents during the Holocaust. The doctrine of collective guilt necessarily leads to collective punishment, and with it a denial of the autonomy that individuals have in the face of social control. Human history is littered with such mass violations of innocents lives, and in all cases a political machinery manned by bureaucrats and administrators becomes requisite to eliminate those fellow human lives.

#### Whence and wherefore

It must be noted that under international law, attempts to forcibly transfer a population from occupied territory are strictly prohibited. It must also be mentioned that 15 months of sustained fighting have left the Gaza Strip, largely uninhabitable, with nigh 50,000 people having been killed and nearly twice as many injured. It must be pointed out that it was the Democrats, who had allowed President Biden to provision Israel with massive arms sales, to continue its war with Hamas.

These observations are important to remind us that the many bureaucrats and officials working in these disparate nation states are faced with the prospect of "following orders". They can as Eichmann did, choose to further their own careers while forcing out hapless victims out of their homes in order to make way for condominiums and casinos, with the best prospect of the victims' return being in the form of factotum employed to serve the very people who forced them out in the first place. The bureaucrats and officers in charge of these programmes that are being put forth must judge for themselves how they wish to conduct in the face of these "orders" from high above.

These choices are not easy, particularly for those who still retain a conscience while being employed while still having to worry about their own survival.

While the idea that so many individuals who had participated in the Holocaust were merely "following orders" came under much criticism, many could not imagine what sort of resistance a meagre bureaucrat could offer against the state, particularly a dictatorial one.

Responding to the criticism in a speech titled 'Personal responsibility under dictatorship', Arendt argues that an "adult consents where a child obeys". George Sabine once wrote that "even the most despotic government cannot hold a society together by sheer force".

Arendt similarly recalls the Madisonian dictum that even the worst of tyrannies "rest on consent". Arendt argues that in such a situation it is "better to suffer than to do wrong" even when doing wrong is the law.

By suffering through the rejection of a law that is evil, one might in Arendt's words recover a "measure of self-confidence and even pride" and "regain what former times called the dignity or the honour" of "being human".



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

# Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

S. Upendran

"What is the meaning of 'personality'?"

"In India, it is used in the sense of physical features. A person who has good physical features is said to have a good personality. But it is not the real meaning of 'personality'. 'Personality' means 'the distinctive character or qualities of a person'. It doesn't refer to the physical features of a person. It is also used to refer to a famous person. He is a TV personality. 'He has a personality of his own' means 'he has a distinctive character or lively qualities'."

"What is personality cult?"

"The excessive admiration of a famous person, especially a political leader is called personality cult. It is often used in a derogatory sense. There is something in the soil of India which promotes and nourishes personality cult. Incidentally, 'personality' without 'i' after 'l' is a legal term which means 'one's personal property or estate.' This is the opposite of realty or real estate which means 'immovable property, consisting of land, building, etc.'

"What is the meaning of 'captious'?"

"A person is captious when he raises objections about unimportant matters. This is a formal word."

"What is 'potamology'?"

"It is a branch of science that deals with rivers. It is from Greek 'potamos', river. The first and second 'o' in the word are pronounced like the 'o' in 'hot'. The 'a' and the third 'o' are pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'."

"What is the difference between 'colloquial' and 'formal language'?"

"'Colloquial' language is language used in informal conversation. Informal means language of familiar, everyday affairs. Formal language is the kind of language you find used on formal occasions. Look at the following passages."

(a) We finally got to the game and went to our seats right away. Boy, it sure felt cold, and were up high. I kicked myself all over for not wearing heavier clothing. Our seats were on the goal line, which isn't very good. I made a big mistake not joining the Rooter Club. Those lucky bums were on about the 40-yard line.

(b) It was a very impressive spectacle somewhat reminiscent of stories about ancient Roman pageantry, but it was immediately obvious that such a massive formation of musicians could not be used in a serious musical endeavour, primarily due to the considerable distance between the musicians at opposite ends of the formation and the fact that sound travels at a fairly slow velocity, rendering it almost impossible for the sounds from all of the instruments to reach the ear of a listener simultaneously on any given beat.

We'll discuss levels of language next week."

Published in *The Hindu* on May 9, 1995.

## THE DAILY QUIZ

### Toponymy is the study of place names. A quiz on how some places got their names

#### Vasudevan Mukund

##### QUESTION 1

Many people living in this city call it "Chatigao". The Portuguese called it the "Grand Harbour of Bengal". Ibn Battuta called it "Sadkawan". Its current name is derived from that given by a 9th century Burmese invader, in whose language it meant "to make war is improper". Name the city.

##### QUESTION 2

In 1989, one conflict in this (now erstwhile) country was over whether the two halves of its name should be hyphenated. Opponents to the idea said the hyphenation was reminiscent of Nazi Germany's annexation of the territory denoted by the second half. Name the country.

##### QUESTION 3

This region has in the past been called

"Pathanistan". The British called it the "North West Frontier Province". Political efforts to rename the area ultimately led to a two-word name in 2020, one representing the local Pashtun people and the other the non-Pashtun. What's the name?

##### QUESTION 4

In the Turkish language, this water body is called the "Gulf of Basra". The Iranian Shia cleric Sadegh Khalkhali suggested the name "Muslim Gulf" but it lost favour after Iran invaded Iraq in 1980. Name it.

##### QUESTION 5

The name of this country is also the historic name of a region in Iran. Specifically, it was the name of a region south of the Aras river. When the Russian empire collapsed in 1918, the country was born on the river's north, and assumed the name of the southern region. Name the country.



##### Visual question:

This British Overseas Territory in the south Atlantic Ocean is an archipelago. A part of its flag is shown above. Argentina calls the territory "Malvinas", which the islanders reputedly dislike due to its association with a 1982 incident. Name the territory. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This pop singer was brought in to perform at halftime in 1993. Ans: Michael Jackson

2. This artist was picked up by a helicopter from stage for her exit at the 1996 Super Bowl. Ans: Diana Rose; her outro song was 'Take Me Higher'

3. Name the hit TV show and the episode which was aired as a lead-out after the game in 1996. Ans: Friends, 'The One after the Superbowl'

4. The halftime event during the first Super Bowl in 1967. Ans: Marching bands of the University of Arizona and Grambling State University

5. Name the artist who revealed her pregnancy to the world during her halftime performance. Ans: Rihanna

Visual: Name the singer and his song. Ans: Prince; 'Purple Rain'

Early Birds: Viswanatha Rao Batchul| Siddhartha Viswanathan| Piyali Tuli| K.N. Viswanathan| Tamal Biswas

## Word of the day

### Wrangle:

an instance of intense argument (as in bargaining); an angry dispute; to quarrel noisily, angrily or disruptively

### Synonyms:

haggle, brawl

Usage: The wrangle over ownership of the house dragged on for years.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/wranglepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ræŋgl/

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



## Just not confident of HAL, says IAF chief over delivery delays

Dinakar Peri  
BENGALURU

In sharp remarks over delays in the deliveries of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-MkIA by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh on Tuesday said that at the moment, he was "just not confident" of HAL, which was a "very wrong" thing to happen.

HAL Chairman and Managing Director D.K. Sunil, responding to questions on the comments by the Indian Air Force chief, said the concerns over delays were well understood but were "simply not attributable to the laziness of the industry", while stating that 12 LCA-MkIA would be ready soon.

"HAL is our company, we have all worked there. But I find that HAL is just not in mission mode," the Air chief said.

"I was promised that when I come here in February, 11 Tejas MkAs would be ready. And not a single one is ready," he told two HAL employees while inspecting a jet trainer at the Aero India here.

A video of the comments was posted on YouTube and later went viral on X.

"The aircraft that you flew, calling it MkIA. It is not MkIA. It cannot happen just by change of one software or by looks. When the weapons come and the capability comes,



Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh

then it's a MkIA," Mr. Singh said.

The Air chief said he would be the happiest person if "proved wrong".

"Feel that only a few are putting in any effort. Or maybe everyone is putting in effort in their own silos without looking at the overall picture. Something has to change. Some drastic change. This needs a magic wand so everything gets aligned. It's high time," he said.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Sunil asserted that the supply chain issue by General Electric (GE), which delayed engine deliveries, had been resolved and they would receive 12 F-404 engines for the LCA-MkIA this year.

"GE has stabilised its manufacturing process for the F404 engines. We have already made three aircraft, and by the end of this year, 11 will be manufactured. As the engines start coming in, our delivery to the IAF will start," Mr. Sunil said.

## Rajnath tells global firms to co-develop advanced defence systems in India

India seeks global partnerships based on equality, trust, mutual respect, international law, says the Defence Minister; niche tech developed by DRDO licensed to companies to boost manufacturing

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh invited the global community to co-develop and co-produce advanced systems in India as the country looks to scale up defence exports. He was addressing a conclave of Defence Ministers at Aero India, an exhibition of military aviation, on Tuesday.

At another event, 35 licensing agreements to transfer 19 niche technologies developed by 16 Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratories were handed over to 32 companies, in an initiative to nurture indigenous technologies in the defence sector.

"India does not believe in transactional relationships; its approach emphasises mutual capacity building, prosperity and security of partner nations," Mr. Singh said, addressing the conclave on "Building Resilience through International Defence and Global Engagement" at Aero India.

"Our commitment extends beyond the Indian Ocean Region. It serves as a blueprint for fostering global partnerships on [the basis of] equality, trust, mutual respect, and adherence to international law."



**Kissing the sky:** Hawk Mk-132 jets of the IAF's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team showcase breathtaking manoeuvres on the second day of the Aero India event in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

An increasing number of conflicts, new power plays, new methods and means of weaponisation, the growing role of non-state actors, and the emergence of disruptive technologies have made the world order more fragile.

The distinction between border security and internal security is getting blurred as hybrid warfare has the ability to target critical national infrastructure even during peace time. Cyberspace and outer space are challenging the

established definition of sovereignty," he said.

The Defence Ministry said that delegates had conveyed their desire for the transfer of technology, co-development, and co-production of the latest equipment and products, terming India as partner in a resilient supply chain.

"They acknowledged India's role in peacekeeping and its efforts towards upgrading the capabilities of many countries in various fields, including defence, health and education," the Ministry said in a statement.

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth released a revised DRDO policy aiming to further streamline the process of transferring technologies from the DRDO to industry players, the statement said.

Mr. Seth released an updated compendium, titled "DRDO Products for Export", which includes more than 200 products and systems showcasing India's cutting-edge defence capabilities to friendly nations. An Airworthiness Policy Framework (IMAP-23) was released during the event along with an Airworthiness Certification Kit.

## IN BRIEF



### Civil Aviation Minister takes sortie on trainer aircraft

Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu on Tuesday took a sortie on the indigenous trainer jet Yashas at the Aero India 2025 being held in Bengaluru. The Minister took a sortie on the trainer jet manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., according to an official release. "Had the incredible opportunity to do a sortie on the HJT-36 'Yashas', a remarkable jet aircraft proudly made in India by the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. This indigenous marvel is a testament to India's growing prowess in aerospace and defence manufacturing," the Minister said. PTI

### GE Aerospace signs contract with IAF for T700 engines

GE Aerospace signed a five-year Performance Based Logistics (PBL) contract with the Indian Air Force (IAF) for the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) of the T700-GE-701D engines powering the IAF's fleet of AH-64E Apache helicopters. Under this contract, GE Aerospace will also be responsible for flight line parts to ensure engine availability to the IAF. The PBL solution is designed to streamline engine sustainment operations, improve turnaround times, and enhance the availability and operational readiness of the Apache fleet. "We are honoured to continue our partnership with the IAF through this PBL contract..." said Youngie Kim, vice-president and general manager, Asia Pacific, Defense and Systems for GE Aerospace. "This agreement demonstrates GE Aerospace's focus on supporting the Indian Air Force's operational needs and mission readiness by ensuring the T700 engines are maintained at the highest level of performance," he added.

## Russia offers to partner with India for joint production of Su-57 fighter

Hemant C.S.  
BENGALURU

Rosoboronexport, Russia's state-owned defence exports company, a participant in the ongoing Aero India 2025, has offered to partner with India on the Su-57, Russian fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA).

"Rosoboronexport, together with United Aircraft Corporation (UAC), proposes to localise FGFA aircraft in India. This production of the FGFA at the HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) plant might take place as early as 2025. It can be provided this year itself," a representative of Rosoboronexport said on the second day of the air show. The UAC is the ma-



**Standing tall:** Russia's fifth generation Su-57 fighter jet on the second day of the event in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

nufacturer of the aircraft.

The representative further said that fifth-generation technologies would be provided to India. "Additionally, Rosoboronexport offers technological development in terms of fifth generation technologies comprising

engine, Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radars, optics, AI elements, software communication means, and air weapons that might also boost the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) national programme of India," the re-

presentative said.

He added that India can manufacture these critical technologies without any fear of sanctions.

#### No threat of sanctions

"There shall be no fears in terms of potential threat of sanctions or a decision from above that some parts or components of the aircraft won't be delivered to India," he said.

He also said that Russia offered long-term cooperation to India, including partnership in the upgrading the aircraft's capabilities.

"The Russian side proposes to continue 60 years of successful cooperation in terms of aircraft production between our countries," he said.

## Products developed in-house by service innovators catch eyeballs

Sharath S. Srivatsa  
BENGALURU

An artificial intelligence weapon system developed in-house by Army personnel has been receiving a stream of visitors.

It is being seen as a path-breaking weapon system that has completed field trials, promises to enhance border surveillance, especially to prevent infiltration of terrorists.

The movement of terrorists in the bushy and jungle terrain in Kashmir, which is difficult to capture, can now be done through secondary vision technology. The Ten AI Weapon System (TAIWS), developed by Colonel Ashish Dogra and Lieutenant Colonel Prashanth Agrawal



Colonel Ashish Dogra and Lieutenant Colonel Prashanth Agrawal with the Ten AI Weapon System in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of EME in association with IIT Bombay and students of MIET, Jammu, has completed field trials and after certain modifications is expected to be deployed along the Line of Control.

These are products developed in-house by "service innovators" based on

the need, enhance operational requirements and improve efficiency, an officer in the Army Design Bureau said.

The secondary vision technology is integrated with the medium machine gun, which has a killing range of 2 km. "The gun is

already available with the Army. Even the gun can be changed if needed. The ground reality on the border spurred the development of the new system," said Col. Dogra.

Among the others being readied for induction are the 50-metre footbridge which can be laid across an water body in less than one hour. Another 9mm sub-machine gun has also been developed by a serving Indian Army officer, and about 550 guns have been inducted already.

The Army Design Bureau has filed for the registration of 75 IPRs of which 12 have been granted the IPR, officials said.

Currently, the board is funding 100 projects of which 75 are in final stages.

## 'Over 800 apps, 3,266 websites blocked due to security reasons'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah informed a parliamentary committee on Monday that 805 mobile applications and 3,266 website links have been blocked so far due to "national security" reasons.

The Minister stated that a total of 1.43 lakh first information reports (FIRs) have been registered on the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (ICCC) portal, and over 19 crore people have used the website [cybercrime.gov.in](#).

Mr. Shah said that over 6 lakh suspicious data points have been shared through a common system linking ICCC, police, banks, and

## Bharatiya Influencers Association to organise online content creators

Nistula Hebbar  
NEW DELHI

Among those who have come out strongly against the offensive comments made by podcaster Ranveer Allahabadia aka 'Beer-Biceps', on the show 'India's Got Latents', is the little known Bharatiya Influencers Association (BIA), in what appears to be a first in the dispersed field of online influencers and podcasters.

Rajshree Rai, editor the APN TV channel, is the president of the BIA and Neelkant Bakshi, a communications professional who was part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Delhi communications team between 2017-19, its general secretary.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Shah said that India has witnessed a "digital revolution" in the last decade. There has been an expansion of digital infrastructure, he said, which has led to a rise in the number of cyberattacks.

"We formed the associa-



We formed the association in November 2023, says BIA general secretary Neelkant Bakshi.

tion in November 2023, after the Manish Kashyap incident, when he was arrested for videos about north Indian migrants in Tamil Nadu," Mr. Bakshi said. Mr. Kashyap later joined the BJP in the midst of the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

The vastness of the online field of influencing and content, say the founders

of the association, led them to form the body to push for self-regulation, take on big data platforms, and face of instances of legal action being taken by State governments on offensive content.

"Our simple view is that we need an association that can come up with a self-regulation code for this field. The kind of offensive and vulgar comments that Ranveer Allahabadia made need to be checked. We also want to provide help to individual influencers in terms of their issues with platforms like YouTube and others, on any problems regarding payments, etc.," Mr. Bakshi told *The Hindu*.

The BIA has a membership of around 350 or so in-

fluencers, including Tech Guruji and Ankit Bayanpuri (who appeared with the Prime Minister as part of a campaign for physical fitness), as well as some lawyers who specialise in laws related to online content. Their initiative received encouragement from the then Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur and Minister for Petroleum Hardeep Puri.

"We also want a concerted effort by influencers on positive campaigns like 'Tobacco Free India' or 'Mission Road Safety,' Mr. Bakshi said. While media bodies are now quite established in India, it appears that the online content space may also be becoming organised.

## CBI files case against former Coast Guard Director-General

**Devesh K. Pandey**  
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against the former Coast Guard Director-General K. Natarajan and unknown others for alleged tampering or alteration of the Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) or dossiers of senior officers.

The agency has invoked provisions related to criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery and named Mr. Natarajan as an accused. Mr. Natarajan served as the 23rd D-G of Coast Guard. He was superannuated on December 31, 2021.

The first information report mentions that the then Inspector-General Ra-

kesh Pal made a representation dated June 7, 2021, to the office of the Defence Secretary, raising the issue of "alleged deliberate reduction in numerical assessment of his ACRs/dossiers to deprive him of his next possible promotion" to the rank of Additional Director-General (ADG) in a Departmental Promotion Committee meet in 2019.

**Preliminary inquiry**  
The CBI initiated a preliminary inquiry into the matter on April 29, 2024. The CBI purportedly found that alterations had been made in the ACRs for 2014 and 2015.

Based on the preliminary inquiry findings, the CBI registered the case.

## INBRIEF



## YouTube blocks comedy show episode after row

Social media platform YouTube has blocked an episode of the comedy show *India's Got Latent* featuring Ranveer Allahbadia following a notice from the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. Mr. Allahbadia is facing huge public backlash for making obscene comments on the show. "The 'India Has Latent' episode on @YouTube with obscene and perverse comments by Ranveer Allahbadia has been blocked following Government of India orders," Kanchan Gupta, senior adviser to the Ministry, said in a post on X. The Mumbai Police on Tuesday visited Mr. Allahbadia's house in connection with a formal complaint regarding the contentious comments.

## Captain among 2 soldiers killed in IED blast near LoC

Two soldiers, including a Captain, were killed when an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by militants along the Line of Control (LoC) exploded in Jammu's Akhnoor sector on Tuesday, officials said. The deceased soldiers were identified as Captain K.S. Bakshi and Naik Mukesh. Official sources said a third soldier was also injured in the blast. An Army spokesperson said the blast was reported during a fence patrol. "Our troops are dominating the area and search operations are under way," the spokesperson said. The latest incident takes place a day after a suspected sniper fire hit a soldier along the LoC in Jammu's Rajouri district.

## Unnatural sex by husband not an offence: Chhattisgarh HC

The Chhattisgarh High Court (HC) has said that sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his wife is not rape and therefore, if any unnatural sex as defined under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code is committed by the husband with his wife, it too cannot be treated as an offence. The court's order came on Monday on an appeal filed by a 40-year-old Bastar resident against his conviction in a case pertaining to the death of his wife in 2017. A sessions court had held that the woman became ill [and died subsequently] owing to forced physical relationship. The trial court had convicted the appellant based on a dying declaration by the wife.

## HC permits Adani Electricity to cut mangroves for project

The Bombay High Court has granted permission to Adani Electricity Mumbai Infra Ltd. (AEMIL) to cut 209 mangroves for the construction of a high voltage transmission line that is proposed to increase electricity supply in the city and suburbs, noting that it was a project of public importance. "We deem it appropriate to confer the desired permission by taking into consideration the importance of the project to the public at large," Chief Justice Alok Adarsh and Justice Bharati Dangre wrote in their order on February 6. The project covers an 80 km stretch. It consists of 30 km of overhead lines and 50 km of underground cables.

# India, 57 countries call for inclusive and sustainable AI

**U.S. and U.K. have not signed the joint statement at the Paris summit; U.S. Vice-President Vance rails against 'excessive regulation' of the AI sector**

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

**F**ifty-eight countries, including India, China, Brazil, France, and Australia, signed a joint statement on "Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet" at the AI Action Summit in Paris on Tuesday, with more signatories possible after the summit ends.

The statement was not signed by the U.S. and the U.K. The statement calls for promoting accessibility of AI and ensuring trust and safety in deploying the technology.

India and France are co-chairing the summit. The statement calls for making "innovation in AI thrive by enabling conditions for its development and avoiding market concentration driving industrial recovery and development", and fostering the tech in a way that "positively shapes the future of work and labour markets".

This is the third such international statement,



**United effort:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi with French President Emmanuel Macron at the AI Action Summit in Paris on Tuesday. AP

with previous ones being issued after the summits in the U.K. and South Korea. It calls for AI "to be human rights based, human-centric, ethical, safe, secure and trustworthy while also stressing the need and urgency to narrow the inequalities and assist developing countries in artificial intelligence capacity-building so they can build AI capacities".

The U.S. did not immediately explain its reasons for not signing the statement.

Earlier in the day, U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance struck a defiant tone

against the themes highlighted in the statement. "I'm not here this morning to talk about AI safety, which was the title of the conference a couple of years ago," Mr. Vance said. "I'm here to talk about AI opportunity."

"...We believe that excessive regulation of the AI sector could kill a transformative industry just as it's taking off, and we'll make every effort to encourage pro-growth AI policies, and I'd like to see that de-regulatory flavour making its way into a lot of the conversations at this conference," Mr. Vance said.

# Cannot monitor from Delhi, SC says on mob lynchings

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it cannot "micro-manage" criminal prosecutions of mob lynchings and violence in "different areas or different States" across the country sitting in Delhi while urging victims to approach the local courts and State authorities to comply with the top court's directions in a 2018 judgment to prevent and fairly investigate hate crimes and communal violence.

A Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai, hearing a petition filed by National Federation of Women, disagreed with a plea for payment of "uniform" amount of compensation to victims of mob lynchings.

Justice Gavai, in the order, reasoned that injuries would be different from case to case. Ordering uniform compensation would be unjust to the victims. Compensation should be fixed by States according to the seriousness of the injuries.

The 2018 judgment in the *Tehseen Poonawala* case had issued a series of guidelines to the States and their police forces to take steps to prevent communal violence and lynchings.



"When directions are issued by the Supreme Court, they are binding on all courts and authorities across the country under Article 141 of the Constitution. Sitting here in Delhi, we cannot monitor incidents in different areas of different States. Such a micro-management is not feasible," the court observed, disposing of the case.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said mob lynching was a separate offence under the new criminal law. Any violation, the law would take its own course.

Advocate Nizam Pasha, appearing for the petitioner, submitted the directions were being complied more in breach. Private bodies, armed with police powers, were behind mob lynchings of minority community members in the name of cow protection.

# 'Sole lottery distributor not liable to pay service tax'

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday held that a sole distributor who purchases lottery tickets from a State government for onward sales is not liable to pay service tax.

The judgment, pronounced by a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma, reasoned that a distributor was not an agent of the State. The Bench dismissed the appeals filed by the Sikkim High Court decision which declared clause (zzzzn) of the Section 65(105) of the Finance Act, 1994 as inserted by the Finance Act, 2010 as unconstitutional.

The clause introduced the activity of "promotion, marketing, organising or in any other manner assisting in organising game of chance, including lottery" as a taxable service.

The respondents in this case were lottery distributors, including Future Gaming Solutions. Agreeing with the High Court, Justice Nagarathna observed there was no service rendered by the lottery distributor to the State. There was no service tax leviable between the distributor and the State.

## 14 get perfect score in JEE-Main; five of them are from Rajasthan

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Fourteen candidates from across the country have bagged perfect score in the first edition of the engineering entrance exam JEE-Main, 2025.

Five of the toppers are from Rajasthan, two from Delhi, two from Uttar Pradesh, and one each from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Telangana, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Tuesday.

Thirteen toppers are men while one is a woman. Two of the top scorers belong to the OBC and SC categories, while the rest belong to the general category. A total of 12,58,136 candidates had appeared for the exam.

"The NTA score of a candidate is not the same as percentage of marks ob-



Aspirants waiting outside an exam centre in Patna for the JEE-Main 2025 exam. FILE PHOTO

tained but normalised scores converted into a scale of ranging from 100 to 0 for each session of examinees," the NTA said in a statement.

While the first edition of the exam was conducted in January-February, the second edition will be held in April. Based on the results, the candidates will be shortlisted for the JEE-Advanced examination scheduled for June.

## Ahead of Magh Purnima bath, Maha Kumbh area declared 'no-vehicle zone'

**Mayank Kumar**

LUCKNOW

With chaos and congestion prevailing in Prayagraj as lakhs of devotees descend on the city for the Maha Kumbh, the Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday declared the entire fair area as a "no-vehicle zone" till the *Magh Purnima Snan* on Wednesday. Devotees have been directed to park their vehicles in designated zones along specific routes.

"The entire mela area has been declared a 'no-vehicle zone' starting from 4 a.m. on February 11, with entry restricted only to essential and emergency services. All private and public vehicles arriving in Prayagraj on February 11 after 4 a.m. are being directed to designated parking areas along their respective routes. This measure aims to prevent traffic congestion in the city and al-



**Chock-a-block:** The crowded Charbagh railway station in Lucknow on Tuesday as pilgrims rush to Prayagraj. SANDEEP SAXENA

low pilgrims to reach the bathing ghats conveniently on foot. Additionally, from 5 p.m. on February 11, the 'no-vehicle zone' will expand to the entire Prayagraj city. Only emergency services will be exempt from this regulation," the Uttar Pradesh government said in a statement.

Earlier, the administration accepted that the infrastructure of Prayagraj

had been pushed to the limits, making delays in traffic movement inevitable not due to mismanagement, but due to the sheer volume of devotees," Uttar Pradesh Director-General of Police Prashant Kumar said.

For the *Magh Purnima Snan*, the State government has implemented comprehensive measures to ensure the safety and health of devotees.

## Angry passengers attack express train in Bihar

**PATNA**

A group of angry people trying to reach the Maha Kumbh attacked the Swatantra Senani Express in Bihar's Madhubani railway station on Monday night, throwing stones and breaking windows as they were unable to board the train. There are no seats available in most trains to Prayagraj.

maximum capacity, making delays in traffic movement inevitable not due to mismanagement, but due to the sheer volume of devotees," Uttar Pradesh Director-General of Police Prashant Kumar said.

For the *Magh Purnima Snan*, the State government has implemented comprehensive measures to ensure the safety and health of devotees.

## SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

**Solution to previous puzzle**

D	O	L	R	L	W	S
P	A	T	O	R	E	I
T	T	O	E	Y	N	O
L	E	T	O	F	D	W
S	T	R	W	H	T	S
R	N	S	I	O	E	V
M	O	S	N	H	R	E
O	M	E	O	E	O	E
S	P	R	A	I	F	E
U	I	A	S	L	S	S
C	A	P	T	V	E	R
L	U	O	T	A	O	X
C	L	A	M	R	I	N
Y	N	E	C	S	S	S

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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

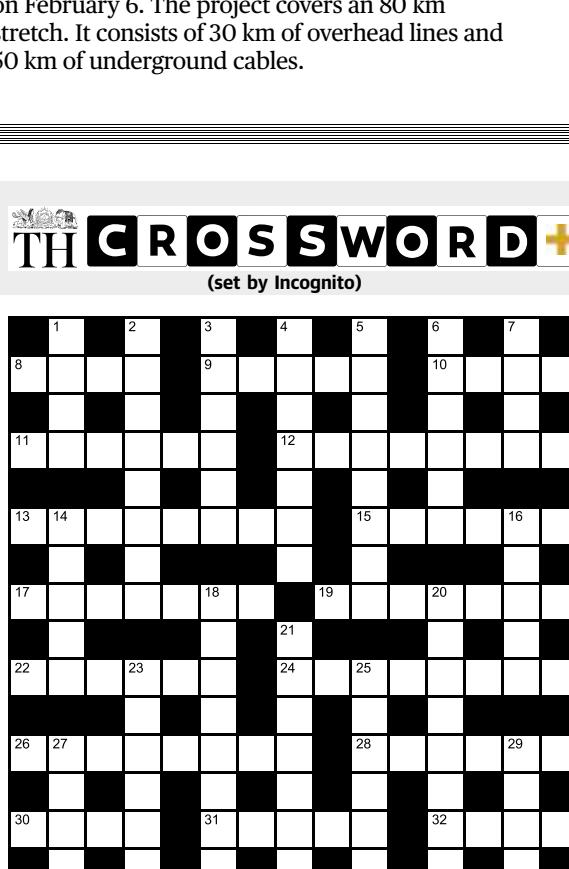
## FAITH

### Lessons birds teach us

Nature gives us many teachers. These teachers do not speak. They lead by example. Animals and birds are these silent teachers, said Malayaman in a discourse. If a crow dies, other crows caw to express their sorrow. A crow always shares its food with other crows. Thiruvalluvar says we must be like the crows, always sharing what we have with others. Storks wait patiently for big fish. They let the smaller fish pass. Their patience is finally rewarded when they grab a fat, juicy fish. Thiruvalluvar says that we must wait like the stork for the best time to act, and achieve our goals. Moodurai draws attention to the patience of the stork, and of how its patience is ultimately rewarded.

Birds know when to attack another bird, and when to withdraw, to avoid getting injured. Owls see well only at night. So they attack crows when darkness falls. But owls are poor-sighted during the day. And so, the crow chooses daytime to attack an owl. A koel never builds a nest. It lays its eggs in a crow's nest, and the crow guards the eggs, and even when the eggs hatch, the crow cannot tell the difference between its young ones and baby koels, because the latter are black too. Only later, when the koels make a different sound, the crow realises they are not its offspring. Crows are intelligent birds, and yet even they are fooled by the koel. The moral of the story is that even an intelligent person can be fooled. The Tamil work *Needhi Venba* draws attention to this, giving the analogy of the koel and crow.

The turkey is not an Indian bird, but there is a reference to it in *Modurai*. Moodurai says that when a person who is not well-read thinks of himself as a scholar, it reminds one of a turkey trying to dance like a peacock.



**Across**  
8 Nurse's vehicle has engine at the rear (4)  
9 A charge to use road in a ring of islands (5)  
10 One container's open to some extent (4)  
11 Possibly soldier of Nepali origin is in Kuir Ghaganate (6)  
12 Setback about deceptive kind of operation trials (8)  
13 American daughter gets choice for approval (4)

**Down**  
1 Bachelor at King University? Capital! (4)  
2 Woman to speak about chink in one's armour (4,4)  
3 Note about a rule in African country (6)  
4 Large amount for part of music (7)  
5 Mathematician's cross? (4,4)  
6 Husband gets answer: "Pieces for sisters' clothes" (6)  
7 Report from carrier containing

## INBRIEF



## Vodafone Idea Q3 net loss narrows to ₹6,609 crore

Vodafone Idea Limited's third-quarter (Q3) net loss narrowed to ₹6,609 crore from ₹6,986 crore in the year-ago period. The telecom company's revenue from operations during the quarter increased 4% to ₹11,117 crore from ₹10,673 crore in the same period last year. Customer average revenue per user (ARPU) grew 4.7% quarter on quarter. For the quarter, it stood at ₹173 from ₹166 in Q2. Total subscriber base stood at 19.98 crore and 4G subscriber base at 12.6 crore.

## Readymade garment exports may improve in FY26: Ind-Ra

Readymade garment exports are likely to improve in 2025-2026, according to the textile sector outlook released by India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) on Tuesday. Political issues in Bangladesh and increasing U.S. tariffs on other exporting nations, will play a key role in improving India's export market share in the textile space. However, the industry needs adequate infrastructure and capacities to capitalise on the prospects, Ind-Ra added.

## Cyient DLM bags production contract from Boeing

Integrated electronics manufacturing solutions provider Cyient DLM has bagged a production contract from Boeing Global Services (BGS) for precision-machined parts and assemblies. "The contract is a significant achievement for Cyient DLM, showcasing our advanced manufacturing capabilities... look forward to strengthening this relationship by consistently delivering products that meet highest industry standards," Chief Executive Officer Anthony Montalbano said.

## Net direct tax kitty up 15% to ₹17.8 lakh crore

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

Net direct tax collection grew 14.69% to over ₹17.78 lakh crore so far this fiscal, government data showed.

As per the data released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), mop up from net non-corporate taxes, which include mainly personal income tax, grew 21% year-on-year to about ₹9.48 lakh crore. Net corporate tax collection rose more than 6% to over ₹7.78 lakh crore between April 1, 2024 and February 10, 2025.

**Refunds up 42.6%**  
Net collections from securities transaction tax jumped 65% to ₹49,201 crore. Refunds worth more than ₹4.10 lakh crore were issued during the period, a 42.63% increase against the year-ago period. Gross direct tax mop up till February 10 grew 19.06% to over ₹21.82 lakh crore.

In the revised estimates (RE) for the current fiscal, the government has pegged income tax collections at ₹12.57 lakh crore, up from the Budget estimate of ₹11.87 lakh crore.

The collection from STT is pegged at ₹55,000 crore in this fiscal in RE, higher than the Budget estimate (BE) of ₹37,000 crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

In total, RE pegs direct tax mop-up at ₹22.37 lakh crore, higher than the ₹22.07 lakh crore in BE.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

In total, RE pegs direct tax mop-up at ₹22.37 lakh crore, higher than the ₹22.07 lakh crore in BE.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

Corporate tax collection target was revised lower to ₹9.80 lakh crore, down from Budget goal of ₹10.20 lakh crore.

**CAIRO**

**Sisi calls for Gaza reconstruction without 'displacing Palestinians'**



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi urged on Tuesday the reconstruction of Gaza "without displacing Palestinians". During a phone call with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, Mr. Sisi "stressed the necessity of reconstruction of the Gaza Strip...without displacing Palestinians", said a statement from his office. **AP**

**SEOUL**

**North Korea has given Russia 200 long-range artillery pieces: Seoul**



North Korea has given Russia 200 long-range artillery pieces, a South Korean Defence Ministry official said on Tuesday, as Moscow and Pyongyang deepen their military ties. The North has given Moscow "11,000 troops, missiles, 200 pieces of long-range artillery and a substantial amount of ammunition," the official said. **AP**

**ISLAMABAD**

**5 killed and 7 injured in a suicide bombing in northern Afghanistan**



A suicide bomber blew himself up near a bank in northern Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing at least five people and wounding seven others, police said. The attack happened near a branch of the Kabul Bank in Kunduz province, said Jumauddin Khaksar, a police spokesman. The dead included a guard at the bank. **AP**

**GOMA**

**At least 55 civilians killed by militia fighters in northeastern Congo**



Militia fighters killed at least 55 civilians in an attack on a cluster of villages and a camp for displaced people in northeastern Congo, local authorities said on Tuesday. Armed men from the CODECO militia attacked the Djaiba group of villages in the province of Ituri Monday night, Antoinette Nzale, the leader of the camp said. **AP**

# Gaza truce under strain after Trump's warning

U.S. President said 'hell' would break out if Hamas failed to release all Israeli hostages by the weekend; the group says the language of threat has no value and further complicates matters'

**Agence France-Presse**

GAZA CITY

The Gaza ceasefire appeared increasingly fragile on Tuesday after Hamas said U.S. President Donald Trump's latest warning "further complicates" the agreement with Israel, which has so far led to five hostage-prisoner swaps.

Mr. Trump said that "all hell" would break out if Hamas failed to release all Israeli hostages by the weekend. The truce, in place since January 19, largely halted more than 15 months of fighting in Gaza but has come under strain in recent days.

International efforts to



**War's aftermath:** Rubbles of the northern Gaza Strip as seen from Israeli side of the border in southern Israel on Tuesday. **GETTY IMAGES**

salvage it intensified, with Jordan's King Abdullah II expected to raise the issue during his meeting with Mr. Trump in Washington later on Tuesday.

Senior Hamas leader Sami Abu Zuhri said, "Trump

must remember that there is a pact that must be respected and this is the only way to return the prisoners [hostages]. The language of threats has no value and further complicates matters."

## Will end ceasefire if hostages not returned: Israel

**JERUSALEM**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday said Israel would resume "intense fighting" in Gaza if Hamas did not return hostages by Saturday noon, without specifying whether he was referring to all captives. "If Hamas does not return our hostages by Saturday noon, the ceasefire will end, and the IDF [Israeli military] will resume intense fighting until Hamas is decisively defeated," Prime Minister Netanyahu said in a statement issued after a meeting with his security cabinet. Official sources based in

# Maldives to finalise free trade pact with India soon, says Minister Saeed

**Meera Srinivasan**

COLOMBO



**Mohamed Saeed**

The Maldives will soon finalise a trade pact with India, a senior Maldivian Minister has said, barely two weeks after New Delhi appeared to caution the island nation over possible "revenue loss" from similar deals inked with other countries, including China.

According to Maldivian media, Minister of Economic Development and Trade Mohamed Saeed confirmed the move Monday night in an interview to a local television channel. Mr. Saeed had said President Mohamed Muizzu – during his state visit to India in October 2024 – and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "expressed keen interest" in signing the Free Trade Agreement. Official sources based in

with China that came into effect on January 1, 2025. "Most of the aquatic products" originating in the Maldives exported to China will enjoy zero tariff treatment, China's Ministry of Commerce said following the signing of the agreement.

bility of the country."

While he didn't name the two countries, he flagged possible implication to India's Maldives policy and noted: "We would, obviously, need to take that into account while framing our own policies."

Meanwhile, Mr. Saeed said in his interview that such trade pacts would help the Maldives boost its exports and become less reliant on imports.

The Indian Ocean archipelago is currently negotiating a foreign currency crisis amid low foreign reserves and high public debt. In its October 2024 update, the World Bank said the Maldives faces "heightened external and fiscal vulnerabilities" that require urgent implementation of comprehensive economic reforms.

# Ukraine 'may be Russian' someday, says Donald Trump

**Agence France-Presse**

KYIV



U.S. President Donald Trump floated the idea that Ukraine "may be Russian someday", as his Vice President J.D. Vance gears up to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy later this week.

Pushing for an end to the nearly three-year war with Russia, Mr. Trump discussed the conflict in an interview with broadcaster Fox News that aired Monday.

"They may make a deal, they may not make a deal. They may be Russian someday, or they may not be Russian someday," he said.

Mr. Trump also emphasised reaping a return on investment with U.S. aid to Ukraine, suggesting a trade for Kyiv's natural resources, such as rare minerals.

"We are going to have all this money in there, and I say I want it back. And I told them that I want the

## Bangladesh's BNP condemns unrest after protesters smash buildings

**Agence France-Presse**

DHAKA

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has spoken out publicly for the first time against the interim government after a surge of unrest and a sweeping security crackdown.

Police have arrested more than 1,500 people nationwide since Saturday as part of 'Operation Devil Hunt', targeting groups allegedly connected to ousted premier Sheikh Hasina, who was toppled in a student-led revolution in August.

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, BNP secretary-general, met interim leader Mohammed Yunus late on Monday to "raise concerns over the incidents that have swept across the country".

Protesters smashed buildings connected to Ms. Hasina's family using excavators – including a museum to her late father, Bangladesh's first President – on February 5, six months to the day since she fled as crowds stormed her palace in Dhaka.

Police stood by as protesters torched the building.

"It all happened in front of law enforcement agencies, so the government cannot avoid its responsibility," Mr. Alamgir said.

**MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**  
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India  
Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)  
Extension Centre - Coimbatore Organizes

**CYBER SECURITY**  
For Registration  
For 3540/-  
"Become an intermediate expert & Protect your Data privacy"  
COURSE CONTENT: 1) Cyber Security Objectives, 2) Cyber Security Fundamentals, 3) Types of Malware, 4) Cyber Security Breaches, 5) Types of Cyber Attacks, 6) Prevention Tips, 7) Mobile Protection, 8) Social Network Security, 9) Prevention Software  
Date: 15, 16 & 22, 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2024 (Days Course) 6.00 p.m - 9.00 p.m  
For more Details: 7358887633, 9600776611, 8667359360  
4 Days Visit us on www.ppcda.dmsme.gov.in Weeks-ends  
E-Certification will be Awarded

**KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-Tender Notice**  
O/o The Chief Engineer (P & CMM) Vidyuth Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram  
E Tender ID No. 2025\_KSEB\_735660\_1, PAC: Rs. 6,21,38,800/-, Last Date: 20/02/2025, 05.00 pm  
E Tender ID No. 2025\_KSEB\_732909\_1, PAC:Rs. 4672 lakhs, Last Date: 22/02/2025, 05.00 pm  
O/o The Chief Engineer (IT, CR & CAPS) Vidyuth Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram  
E Tender ID No. 2024\_KSEB\_720963\_1, PAC: Rs. 12,00,00,00/-, Last Date: 03/03/2025, 06.00 pm  
O/o The Executive Engineer, PMU, Electrical Circle, Nilambur, Malappuram  
E Tender ID No. 2025\_KSEB\_734902\_1, PAC: Rs. 14,25,983/-, Last Date: 05/03/2025, 04.00 pm  
Tender Extension Notice  
O/o The Deputy Chief Engineer, Electrical Circle, Shoranur, Palakkad  
E Tender ID No. 2025\_KSEB\_728491\_1, PAC: Rs. 3,44,00,00/-, Last Date: 17/02/2025, 11.00 am  
Visit [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in) and [www.kseb.in](http://www.kseb.in) Ref: PRMC/1/E54/2/e-tender/2025

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE BANGALORE-560 012**  
IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2024-25 Date: 07.02.2025  
**Tender Notification - IISc/Tender-CIV-16/2024-25**  
Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform <https://eprocure.gov.in>. Any specialized firms company registered under KPWD / CPWD/ railways/ MES/ central PSUs/ or any Government department of Class I/Class A Civil Contractors are eligible to apply for the work of "Estimate for Extension of existing Tennis court and provision of new acrylic cushion replacing old clay court in IISc Bangalore" Estimated Cost of Project is Rs. 77,12,837.21/- Last date of receipt of application is 27th Feb 2025 at 1530Hrs. Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail [office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in](mailto:office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in). REGISTRAR

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE Bangalore - 560012**  
IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2024-25 Date: 07.02.2025  
**Tender Notification - IISc/Tender-CIV-14/2024-25**  
Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform <https://eprocure.gov.in>. Any specialized firms company registered under KPWD / CPWD/ railways/ MES/ central PSUs/ or any Government department of Class I/Class A Civil Contractors are eligible to apply for the work of "Arresting of Roof Leakage by replacing of old damaged Mangalore tile roof with new Mangalore tile roof, Cleaning of external stone wall surface and antifungal wash treatment, Painting and polishing of First floor Reception hall, faculty hall and side passages and other miscellaneous works at Main Building, IISc Bangalore" Estimated Cost of Project is Rs.1,05,84,665/- Last date of receipt of application is 27th Feb 2025 at 15:30Hrs. Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail [office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in](mailto:office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in). Sd/-, Registrar

**TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI**  
Office of the Chief Engineer TENDER NOTICE  
ADV No.46/D3/CE/TTD/2024-25 & NIT No.309 SE-II / TTD/ 2024-25 Dt:10-02-2025  
Name of work: 1) Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of HEAT PUMP SYSTEM along with AMC for a period of five years after warranty period of 24 months in Additional PAC-5 at Tirumala. OpenTenderType (Short Tender). Note: For full details log on to the Website [https://www.tirumala.org](http://www.tirumala.org). TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv.No.323), Date:11-02-2025 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**कार्यालय नगरपरिषद् हनुमानगढ़ - राजस्थान**  
क्रमांक एफ.15(विकास)।/। 2024-25 / 18142 दिनांक 03.02.2025  
- ई-निविदा संख्या संख्या 67/2024-25 :-  
नगरपरिषद् हनुमानगढ़ द्वारा ई-निविदा संख्या 67/2024-25 को सार्व 3:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित प्राप्त में ई-टेंपलिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा दिनांक 25.02.2025 को 3:00 बजे खाली जावेगी। निविदा की विस्तृत जानकारी विवराइट ड्राइवरशिप एवं रेसिटेंडर को प्रपोर्टी को भी जाउलाऊ दिया जाएगा। एनाईडी डब्ल्यूएलबी 01 DBLB425A5303 यूपी०१०८०० संख्या (कुल 01 कार्य) DBLB425WSOB16102 आग्रह नगरपरिषद् हनुमानगढ़

E-mail ID: [cebbuildings\\_orissa@yahoo.co.in](mailto:cebbuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in); [cebbuildings@rediffmail.com](mailto:cebbuildings@rediffmail.com); Tel. - (0674)-2391523 File No. B-IV-H-(H8D)-61/2025-5702 / Bhubaneswar, the 10th Feb., 2025  
**OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
Invitation For Bids - 1<sup>st</sup> Corrigendum - Tender Reference No.C.E.(B)-30/2024-25  
No. of Works - 1 No.  
The following changes have been made in Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 30/2024-25  
1. Bid documents such as DTCN / BOQ etc. can be seen / downloaded from the Govt. Website [i.e. www.tendersoda.gov.in](http://www.tendersoda.gov.in), during the period from dt.18.02.2025 to 17.00 hours of dt.04.03.2025 instead of dt.10.02.2025 to 25.02.2025 for ONLINE BIDDING respectively.  
2. Online bids shall be received till 17.00 Hours of dt.04.03.2025 instead of dt.25.02.2025.  
3. The technical bids will be opened at 11.30 A.M. of dt.06.03.2025 instead of dt.27.02.2025.  
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.  
B-995: Chief Engineer, Buildings-I (I/C), Odisha, Bhubaneswar. OIFR-34117/1/0063/2425

**GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY AFD PROJECT UNIT**  
Subash Chandra Bose Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor (Computer Design Centre) P.W.D., PUDUCHERRY No.1035/PW/AFD-PU/F.No.46/2025  
Notice Inviting e-Tender  
The Executive Engineer, AFD project unit, PWD Puducherry invites on behalf of the President of India, online National Competitive Bidding in accordance with Agence Francaise de Développement ("AFD") Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding system (item rate) for the following works.  

SI. No	NPC Tender No	Name of Work	Bid Security / EMD (Rs.)	e-tender processing (Non-refundable) (Rs.)	Eligibility of contractor
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
01	02/PWD/AFD/PDY/2025	Comprehensive water supply scheme for Villianur Subzone and surrounding areas in Puducherry.	66,52,000/-	1,500/- + GST @ 5%	Appropriate eligible class
02	03/PWD/AFD/PDY/2025	Comprehensive water supply scheme for Jayaram Nagar and its surrounding areas in Puducherry and Comprehensive water supply scheme for Amaithi Nagar and its surrounding areas in Puducherry.	71,46,000/-	1,500/- + GST @ 5%	Appropriate eligible class

Availability of Notice Inviting Bid along with Bid documents From 10.00 A.M on 13.02.2025 to 4.00 P.M. on 31.03.2025  
Pre-bid Meeting to be held in the Conference Hall, Central Office, PWD, Puducherry Closing time for submission of Technical & Financial bid documents 31.03.2025 at 4.00 P.M.  
Date and time of opening of bid 01.04.2025 at 11.30 A.M.  
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website [www.pududetersgov.in](http://www.pududetersgov.in) Executive Engineer  
No.501/DIP/AD/Press/2024-25

**Associated Press**

MAYVILLE



Author Salman Rushdie took the stand in a New York courtroom Tuesday to testify against the man charged with stabbing him in a frenzied knife attack.

"I only saw him at the last minute," Mr. Rushdie said. "I was aware of someone wearing black clothes, or dark clothes and a black face mask. I was very struck by his eyes, which

were dark and seemed very ferocious to me."

Hadi Matar, 27, is charged with attempted murder and assault for attacking Mr. Rushdie.

## &lt;h

**MAJOR SETBACK**

**Bumrah out of Champions Trophy; Harshit, Varun added to squad**



FILE PHOTO: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the Champions Trophy due to a lower back injury. **The squad:** Rohit (Capt.), Gill (Vice-capt.), Kohli, Shreyas, Rahul (wk), Pant (wk), Hardik, Axar, Washington, Kuldeep, Harshit, Shami, Arshdeep, Jadeja and Varun; **Non-travelling substitutes:** Jaiswal, Siraj and Dube.

**MAXIMUM IMPACT**

**Gayle calls Rohit the 'new king in town' after losing sixes record**



K.R. DEEPAK

Chris Gayle, known for his big-hitting ability, called India captain Rohit Sharma the "new king in town" after the latter (338) broke the Jamaican's record (331) for most number of sixes in the ODI format. "Sports always need a new entertainer and Rohit has been entertaining all these years. He is the new king in town," said Gayle.

**SOLID SUPPORT**

**Kohli is still the best player regardless of form: Gayle**



K.R. DEEPAK

Virat Kohli may have been going through a poor run of form but the senior India batter remains the "best player in the world," feels former West Indian opener Chris Gayle. "He is still the best player in the world regardless of the form. The stats prove that, how many centuries across formats he has scored," Gayle said.

**BIG PICTURE**

**Even a 0-3 loss in the ODI series won't hurt if we win CT: Duckett**



REUTERS

England opener Ben Duckett said on Tuesday even a 3-0 ODI series loss in India will not affect the team's morale as it is focused on winning the Champions Trophy. "We have come here for one thing and that is to win the Champions Trophy. We still believe we can do that. It'll be completely different conditions," said Duckett.

# Final chance for England to break free against cavalier Team India

The Men in Blue, who have done well in the limited-overs series, would look to cover all bases as a Bumrah-less Champions Trophy looms

**ENGLAND IN INDIA**

**N. Sudarshan**  
AHMEDABAD

In early January, Indian cricket was in dolls' drums. The Test team had just lost its second straight series (1-3 away to Australia after 0-3 to New Zealand at home); its premier batters were woefully out of form and its best bowlers had ominously-sounding fitness concerns.

But just over five weeks since then, across seven limited-overs internationals and a smattering of domestic cricket matches, those despondent times seem too far long in the past.

Late on Tuesday, ace pacer Jasprit Bumrah was ruled out of next week's ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates. Yet, it is not all gloomy. India beat England 4-1 in the T20Is and holds a 2-0 lead going into Wednesday's third and final ODI at the Narendra Modi Stadium here.

Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill are back among the runs and speed merchant Mohammed Shami is fully fit. If Virat Kohli re-

gains his touch, the turnaround will be complete.

With the series in the bag, it remains to be seen if head coach Gautam Gambhir and skipper Rohit Sharma choose to give game time to those who have got none this series - Arshdeep Singh, Rishabh Pant and Washington Sundar. But what augurs well is the fact that whenever they have tried to mix it up, they have hit bull's eye.

The addition of Varun Chakaravarthy has lent a cutting-edge to an already potent spin-bowling line-up featuring Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav.

The variety on offer has stifled England, which despite choosing to bat first in both games, has found run-making hard.

**Trust in Harshit**

Harshit Rana, who has been zeroed in as Bumrah's replacement, has had a crazy two and a half months, having made his debut in all three formats. Though profligate, the think-tank appears to trust his wicket-taking ability, an invaluable skill that Bumrah's absence has robbed the team of.



Cutting-edge: The addition of Varun has further boosted the Indian spin-bowling line-up. K.R. DEEPAK

For England, this will be the last chance to tick a few boxes if it hopes to do well in the Champions Trophy and avoid a repeat of the ICC World Cup in 2023 when it finished seventh in the 10-team competition.

In the two matches so far, its bowling has been largely one-dimensional - express pace with negligible variations. The otherwise explosive batting unit has made middling totals - by modern-day bat-

standards - and Jos Buttler has only been able to marvel at the free-spiritedness with which the Men in Blue have batted.

That style was once patented by England, and something its current all-for-

mat coach Brendon McCullum swears by. And to reproduce it, the side has to find answers to India's middle-overs riddles.

So well-rounded is the Indian bowling front - despite Bumrah's absence - that one can barely ease off. It's the kind of challenge not many sides present and if Butler & Co. can serve it up hot on what is expected to be a warm and sunny day, it will be the best possible preparation ahead of the Champions Trophy opener against Australia.

**The teams (from): India:** Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill (Vice-capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh and Varun Chakaravarthy.

**England:** Jos Buttler (Capt.), Harry Brook (Vice-capt.), Phil Salt (wk), Joe Root, Ben Duckett, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Saqib Mahmood, Jofra Archer, Jacob Bell, Brydon Carse and Tom Banton.

**Match officials: Umpires:** Sharuddoula Saikat & Virender Sharma; **Third umpire:** Chris Brown; **Match referee:** Javagal Srinath.

Match starts at 1.30 p.m.



Rohit... on the go. K.R. DEEPAK

didn't tone down his attacks and unflinchingly – and successfully – executed the same shots that have led to his downfall in the recent past.

# Selfless Rohit hits his way out of trouble

**N. Sudarshan**  
AHMEDABAD

Self-advocacy is an essential trait in elite sportspersons. When there is a downturn in form, when the critical press sharpens its pens and fans question their stars' worth, it is this quality that's the beleaguered athlete's best friend.

+

Over the course of the last two months, Rohit Sharma has passionately defended himself amidst nosediving fortunes and a barrage of criticism. And in Cuttack against England on Sunday, he backed up his words with action, scoring a splendid century (119, 90b, 12x4, 7x6), his 32nd in ODIs.

"When people have played for a number of years and scored runs, that means something," Rohit told bcci.tv, basking in the glory of his match-winning hundred, but in a rather understated manner.

"I have played for a long time now and I know what is required of me. It was about doing the things I have done in the past, and try and bat the way I do. I have been here long enough. One or two knocks will not change my mind. It was just another day in the office."

The innings from Rohit was typically selfless. He didn't tone down his attacks and unflinchingly – and successfully – executed the same shots that have led to his downfall in the recent past.

"When you go to bed every day, if you feel that you have given your best, that is what matters," Rohit said. "Every time I walk in, I want to do well. Sometimes it happens, sometimes it may not. As long as I am clear in what I have to do, nothing else matters.

"When you have scored so many runs, you have done something right. You just need to get back to that mindset. Sounds very simple, but it is difficult. In my mind, it was just about enjoying and that is what we play the sport for - to enjoy the game more than anything else."

# Chanda surprises herself with stunning two-lap show; Ishaque and Vaidehi clinch tennis gold

**NATIONAL GAMES**

**Stan Rayan**  
DEHRADUN

K.M. Chanda looked at the giant screen a few times, unable to believe her gold-winning time of 2:00.82s in the women's 800m in the National Games athletics competition at the Ganga Stadium here on Tuesday.

"I was not expecting that at all," the Asian Championship silver medallist told *The Hindu* after her stunning season-opener that bettered her own three-year-old Games record and her personal best (previous 2:01.16s).

Delhi's Chanda, who is coached by Olympian O.P. Jaisha in Bengaluru, had picked up plenty of lessons while watching the Paris Olympics and tried using them here.

"I noticed that athletes were running the opening lap in 58, 59 seconds and going all out in the last 150m and I tried to do that," said Chanda who played a waiting game, shadowing race leader Amandeep Kaur for a major part of the two-lapper, before breaking away just before the penultimate corner. She collapsed in exhaustion



after crossing the finish line.

Meanwhile, National record-holder Praveen Chithravel (17.37m) led a Tamil Nadu 1-2 in the men's triple jump with Mohammed Salahuddin. Praveen's gold came with a fourth-round effort of 16.50m.

"I didn't expect anything here, for the start of the season this is good," said Praveen, who trains at JSW's IIS centre at Ballari.

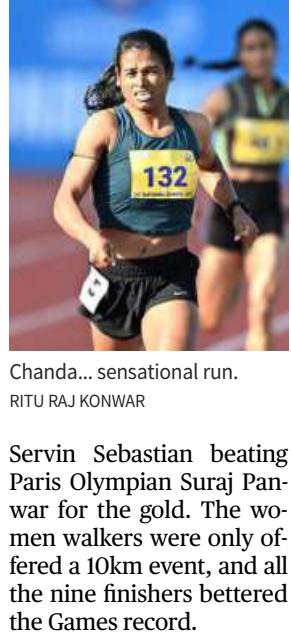
Asian Games silver medallist Mohammed Afsal worked his way from the



back of the pack to win the men's 800m while Asian silver medallist Jyothi Yarjali made sure everybody noticed her stylish hairdo as she cruised to the women's 200m gold to add to the 100m hurdles title she had won earlier.

Odisha's Animesh Kujur completed a 100-200m double and now has three golds, including one in the sprint relay.

The race walk saw the first six bettering the Games record in the men's 20km event with Services'



Services' Ishaque Eqbal capped a fine run and won the tennis men's singles title at the Parade Ground Stadium.

The unseeded 27-year-old from Kolkata jolted Gujarat's top-seeded Dev Javia 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(5) in the final.

Gujarat's Vaidehi Chaudhari took the women's title with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Maharashtra's second seed Vaishnavi Adkar to finish with a double.

The results:

**Men: 200m:** 1. Animesh Kujur (Odi) 20.58s; 2. Ragul Kumar (TN) 21.06; 3. B. Nithin (TN) 21.07.

**800m:** 1. Mohammed Afsal (Ser) 1:49.13s; 2. Anu Kumar (Utk) 1:49.19; 3. Prakash Gagade (Ser) 1:49.58. **Triple jump:** 1. Praveen Chithravel (TN) 16.50m, 2. Mohammed Salahuddin (TN) 16.01, 3. Mohammed Muhsinin (Ker) 15.57. **Hammer throw:** 1. Taranev Singh (Ser) 66.64m, 2. Damneet Singh (Pun) 64.71, 3. Praveen Kumar (Raj) 64.42.

**20km race walk:** 1. Servin Sebastian (Ser) 1:21.23s MR, OR Gurmeet Singh's 1:23.26, 2011; 2. Suraj Panwar (Utk) 1:21.34 BR; 3. Amanjot Singh (Pun) 1:21.42.

**Women: 200m:** 1. Jyothi Yarjali (AP) 23.35s, 2. Unnathi Aiyappa (Kar) 23.70, 3. Nithya Ghande (Tel) 23.76. **800m:** 1. K.M. Chanda (Del) 2:00.82s MR, OR 2:01.58 2022; 2. Twinkle Chaudhary (Pun) 2:03.46, 3. Amanandeep Kaur (Pan) 2:04.76.

**10km walk:** 1. Ravina (Har) 45.52s MR, OR Baladevi's 51.56.00s 1999; 2. Shalini (Utk) 46.12:00, 3. Munita Prajapati (UP) 46.23:00. **Heptathlon:** 1. Agasara Nandini (Tel) 5601 pts, 2. Pooja (Har) 4999, 3. S. Deepika (TN) 4939.

**Tennis: Finals:** **Men:** Ishaque Eqbal (Ser) bt Dev Javia (Guj) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(5).

**Doubles:** Prajwal Dev & Niki Poonaiah (Kar) bt Ishaque Eqbal & Faisal Qamat (Ser) 6-3, 6-1.

**Women:** Vaidehi Chaudhari (Guj) bt Vaishnavi Adkar (Mah) 6-4, 6-2.

**Mixed doubles:** Lohith Aksha Bathrinath & L. Arunkumar (Sri) bt Niki Poonaiah & Soha Sadiq (Kar) 6-4, 6-1.

**Sports Bureau**  
Hockey legend M.M. Somaya stressed the importance of honouring athletes for their year-round achievements ahead of the seventh annual Sportstar Aces Awards.

"These stories are inspirational and need to be told. Winning an Olympic medal is truly outstanding," he said.

Somaya, who had won a gold medal with the Indian team at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, is part of the elite jury panel for the honours, which also features Sunil Gavaskar, Abhinav Bindra, Viswanathan Anand, Anjali Bhagwat, and Aparna Popat.

"The nature of this jury is that we are very open in our decision-making and thought process. We are also open to decisions being overruled in case they need to be," the 65-year-old said.

"Earlier we used to say international achievements are the benchmark with which we pick winners, right? Now every single person has something happening internationally... everyone's training



Gavaskar.



Somaya.

exposure to multiple disciplines in mainstream media.

"You have to credit magazines like Sportstar and newspapers like *The Hindu* who cover sports extensively. There was a time when sports pages were dominated by cricket at any level."

"Television has made a difference because now a lot of people who probably wouldn't have seen other sports can experience newer disciplines and understand the difficulties and the pleasure of participating in those sports," said the 75-year-old.

The 2025 Sportstar Aces Awards will be held in Mumbai on Friday (February 14).

## IN BRIEF



## Arnautovic's header puts Inter Milan in second place

Marko Arnautovic's first league goal of the season gave Inter Milan a 2-1 win over Fiorentina and lifted it back into second in Serie A on Monday. The win was revenge for Fiorentina's 3-0 win in last week's rescheduled league game and moved Inter to within one point of leader Napoli.

**The results:** Serie A: Inter Milan 2 (Pongracic 28-og, Arnautovic 52) bt Fiorentina 1 (Mandragora 44-pen).

**On Sunday:** Venezia 0 lost to Roma 1 (Dybala 57-pen); Lazio 5 (Marusic 31, Pedro 57, 77, Castrovilli 63, Dele-Bashiru 88) bt Monza 1 (Sensi 86); Cagliari 2 (Vogliacco 57-og, Coman 70) bt Parma 1 (Leoni 78); Lecce 0 drew with Bologna 0.

**LaLiga:** Mallorca 1 (Murillo-pen 81) drew with Osasuna 1 (Boymo 90+4)

## Inaugural Esports Olympics delayed to 2027, says IOC

The maiden Esports Olympics, slated to be hosted by Saudi Arabia in 2025, has been delayed by two years, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said on Tuesday. "The first edition of the Olympic Esports Games, a landmark event both in the world of esports and within the Olympic Movement, will be held in 2027 in Riyadh," said the IOC in a statement.



## Tiger Woods pulls out of Torrey Pines tournament

Golf superstar Tiger Woods said on Monday he was "just not ready" as he announced he will not play in this week's Genesis Invitational at Torrey Pines as planned. Woods had committed to his first professional tournament in seven months in the Genesis. His decision to play came just days after he had announced that his mother, Kultida, had passed away last week. "I planned to tee it up this week, but I'm just not ready," the American said in a statement on social media.



## Ronaldo reaches deal with Al Nassr to extend contract

Cristiano Ronaldo has reached an agreement with Al Nassr to extend his contract until June 2026, an official with the club said on Monday. The sides have agreed on the renewable extension of contract, "but it has not been signed yet".

## US Open revamps mixed doubles format

The US Open is moving its mixed doubles championship to the week before the tournament begins, hoping a revamped format and \$1 million prize will persuade top singles players to chase a Grand Slam doubles title. This year's event will feature 16 teams competing over two days in shorter matches. Tournament organisers believe that can attract the sport's biggest stars, many of whom have long passed on doubles to keep themselves fresh for singles.

## LIVE TELECAST

**Ranji Trophy:** Quarterfinals, JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.  
**Sri Lanka vs Australia:** 1st ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.30 a.m.  
**India vs England:** 3rd ODI, Star Sports 2 & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.  
**Tri-series:** 3rd ODI, Pakistan vs South Africa, FanCode, 2.30 p.m.  
**I-League:** Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.  
**ISL:** Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.  
**Champions League:** Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.15 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)  
**Premier League:** SS Select 2 & Hotstar, 1 a.m. (Thursday)

# Royston and Shardul keep defending champion Mumbai on course again

The two set up a thumping win over Haryana as the Vidarbha challenge awaits in the semifinals; Rahane completes 41st First Class hundred

## RANJI TROPHY

**Sahil Mathur**  
KOLKATA

**S**hardul Thakur has a natural outswinger for a right-handed batter, which keeps the slip cordon interested. But it is the one that nips back in or holds the line that becomes a dangerous delivery. Shardul was at his accurate best here at the Eden Gardens, and his probing spell on Tuesday helped Mumbai enter the Ranji Trophy semifinal after defeating Haryana by 152 runs.

The medium-pacer finished the quarterfinal with a match-haul of nine for 84 as Mumbai defended the 354-run target, bowling out Haryana for 201.

Shardul's 10-over opening spell was spread across the pre- and post-lunch sessions, where he trapped Ankit Kumar and Himanshu Rana in front with nip-backers and induced an edge off Rohit Sharma to the first slip.

**Support**  
He found support in left-arm quick Royston Dias, who claimed his maiden First Class five-for.

While the duo maintained the fourth-stump



Breathing fire: Royston celebrates one of his five wickets. PTI

line on a good length, a bouncer was a surprise element bowled without any protection in the deep.

The bait worked when debutant Yashvardhan Dalal tried to pull Dias and got caught at square leg before cramping Nishant Sindhu down the leg.

At 60 for five, opener Lakshya Dalal and Sumit Kumar showed resilience

and stitched a 90-run partnership.

## Collapse

However, Lakshya's needless attempt to ramp Tanush Kotian failed, triggering the final collapse in the last hour.

Dias returned to remove Sumit and wrapped up the tail.

The day belonged to the

bowlers from the start. Although Rahane reached his 41st First Class hundred, Haryana had more to celebrate.

Mumbai lost its remaining six wickets within an hour and 36 minutes into the first session, adding only 75 runs to its overnight total of 278 for four.

Anuj Thakral dismissed Rahane and Shivam Dube

in back-to-back overs. Shams Mulani, Shardul, and Kotian's cheap dismissals kept Mumbai's score to 339, enough for the defending champion to come one step closer to a successive title.

## The scores:

**Mumbai — 1st innings:** 315.

**Haryana — 1st innings:** 301.

**Mumbai — 2nd innings:** Ayush Mhatre c (sub) Vats b Sumit 10, Siddhesh Lad c Rohit b Jayant 43, Ajinkya Rahane c Rohit b Thakral 108, Suryakumar Yadav c (sub) Amit b Thakral 70, Shivan Dube c Rohit b Thakral 48, Shams Mulani b Jayant 5, Shardul Thakur c Ankit b Kamboj 6, Tanush Kotian b Sumit 6, Mohit Avasthi c Jayant b Kamboj 1, Royston Dias (not out) 5; Extras (lb-5, w-1); 6; Total (in 85.3 overs): 339.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-24, 2-41, 3-50, 4-55, 5-60, 6-150, 7-166, 8-172, 9-181.

**Mumbai bowling:** Shardul

10-3-26-3, Avasthi 9-0-53-0,

Royston 10.3-39-5, Mulani

14-3-38-0, Dube 6-1-17-0, Kotian

8-1-15-2.

## 9-333.

**Haryana bowling:** Kamboj 13.3-1-57-2, Sumit 16-3-65-2, Thakral 18-3-70-4, Sindhu 15-1-49-0, Jayant 17.5-0-69-2, Lakshya 5.1-1-24-0.

**Haryana — 2nd innings:**

Lakshya Dalal c Rahane b Kotian 64, Ankit Kumar lbw b Shardul 11, Yashvardhan Dalal c Dube b

Royston 3, Himanshu Rana lbw b Shardul 0, Nishant Sindhu c

Akash b Royston 5, Rohit Sharma c Lad b Shardul 4, Sumit Kumar c

Akash b Royston 62, Jayant Yadav c Suryakumar b Royston 27,

Anshul Kamboj c Mulani b

Royston 5, Anuj Thakral lbw b

Kotian 1, Ajit Chahal (not out) 4;

Extras (b-9, lb-4, nb-1, w-1); 15;

Total (in 57.3 overs): 201.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-24, 2-41, 3-50,

4-55, 5-60, 6-150, 7-166, 8-172,

9-181.

**Mumbai bowling:** Shardul

10-3-26-3, Avasthi 9-0-53-0,

Royston 10.3-39-5, Mulani

14-3-38-0, Dube 6-1-17-0, Kotian

8-1-15-2.

## RANJI TROPHY QUARTERFINALS - DAY 4

**At Nagpur:** Vidarbha 353 in 121.1

overs & 272 in 92.3 overs (Yash

Rathod 112, Harsh Dubey 64, R.

Sai Kishore 5/78) bt Tamil Nadu

225 in 64.3 overs & 202 in 61.1

overs (Pradosh Ranjan Paul 53,

Sonu Yadav 57).

**At Pune:** J&K 280 in 95.1 overs &

399/9 dec'd in 100.2 overs (Paras

Dogra 132, Kanhaiya Wadhawan

64, Sahil Lotra 59, M.D. Nidheesh

4/89) vs. Kerala 281 in 85 overs &

100/2 in 36 overs.

**A Kolkata:** Mumbai 315 in 88.2

overs & 339 in 85.3 overs

(Siddhesh Lad 43, Ajinkya Rahane

108, Suryakumar Yadav 70,

Shivam Dube 48, Anuj Thakral

4/70) bt Haryana 301 in 84.5

overs & 201 in 57.3 overs

(Lakshya Dalal 64, Sumit Kumar

62, Royston Dias 5/39).

**At Rajkot:** Saurashtra 216 in 72.1

overs & 197 in 62.1 overs (Harvik

Desai 54, Priyajitsinh Jadeja 4/32)

lost to Gujarat 511 in 159.1 overs.

**Vidarbha will meet Mumbai in**

**the semifinal at Nagpur from**

**February 17 to 21. Gujarat will**

**take on the winner of the**

**J&K-Kerala match.**



Top performer: Jackson bids adieu to the game after scoring 7283 runs in 106 First Class matches. FILE PHOTO: PTI

## Domestic heavyweight Jackson calls time on glittering career

**Vivek Krishnan**

RAJKOT

Beyond the immediate despondency of defeat for Saurashtra in the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal against Gujarat at the Niranjan Shah Stadium on Tuesday, there was a whirlwind of emotions for Sheldon Jackson to experience as he called time on his nearly two-decade professional career. Moments after Saurashtra bowed out of the tournament, the 38-year-old middle-order batsman had a tear or two rolling down while posing for photos on the outfield with his teammates as his mother, wife and two kids watched.

He bids adieu to the game after scoring 7283 runs in 106 First Class matches at an average of 45.80, including 21 centuries and 39 fifties. He had announced his retirement from the white-ball game in January. The domestic stalwart was an integral part of Saurashtra winning the Ranji Trophy twice, in 2019-20 and 2022-23. He also won the Vijay Hazare

## Love for the game and respect for Test cricket keep Rahane going

**Sahil Mathur**

KOLKATA

Ajinkya Rahane expressed his desire to be part of the Indian Test team and said the fire and hunger to play the sport is still there after leading Mumbai into the Ranji Trophy semifinals, beating Haryana at the Eden Gardens here on Tuesday.

Rahane scored his 41st First-Class century to give his side a 335-run lead, which eventually was good enough to keep Mumbai's pursuit of a successive red-ball title and a domestic treble intact.

"I am batting well. I did well in (Syed) Mushtaq Ali; and the previous game (vs Meghalaya). I am happy about it. My job is to keep contributing. Domestic cricket has given me everything. That's why I still have that passion; love for the game is still there, and respect for Test cricket,"

Rahane said after the match.

The 36-year-old has had a memorable domestic season thus far. After scoring the most runs during the T20 tournament, he has now amassed 437 in the red-ball format, send-

ing a reminder about his capabilities.

"I don't know what will happen in the future, but there's cricket left in me. I am giving my full effort in domestic cricket."

"Whatever is supposed to happen, will happen;



Going great guns: Rahane has had a memorable domestic season thus far. PTI

## Sonam edges National champion Ananya to top women's air rifle

## Cricket takes a leap into the unknown with half a billion pounds



**BETWEEN WICKETS**

Suresh Menon

spreading to other countries where IPL owners have their teams, like South Africa, are not so bright.

For all the criticism it has received in its 16 years, the IPL has revived cricket in many countries, either directly by buying franchises there or by inspiring similar leagues, as in Australia.

In time, there might be temptation to reduce or indeed do away with red-ball cricket because it may not be commercially worthwhile.

The recent series India played in Australia and series among the 'Big Three', England being the other team, are the biggest draws in the game regardless of the colour of the ball. The ICC is reportedly working on a two-tier format for Test cricket to ensure all matches are competitive and draw large audiences.

England's windfall will allow the game to thrive at different levels, but the running of the game, with traditional administrators on one side and the newbie franchise owners on the other, will be tricky. There's power and there's responsibility. You can't have one without the other.

The sport will find itself in an impossible situation if all the power is in the hands of the franchise owners and all the responsibility is vested with the national governing bodies or the International Cricket Council. A sensible compromise will have to be worked out.

Players too will, in effect, end up serving two masters even if they have the permission from one to serve the other! A player contracted to an IPL team with worldwide interests and earning thrice or four times what his cricket board pays, could get caught in the powerplay. Currently, the Board of Control for Cricket in India does not allow Indians to participate in other leagues, arguing it will dilute the IPL. Players have to be preserved for international cricket too, something the BCCI is aware of.

For the private owners, cricket is a business and

profit is the bottom line. Cricket boards have to look beyond that to the development of the game itself. The club versus country debate is set to intensify.

In time, there might be temptation to reduce or indeed do away with red-ball cricket because it may not be commercially worthwhile.

The recent series India played in Australia and series among the 'Big Three', England being the other team, are the biggest draws in the game regardless of the colour of the ball. The ICC is reportedly working on a two-tier format for Test cricket to ensure all matches are competitive and draw large audiences.

There is nothing inherently unsatisfactory about the shorter formats subsidizing the longest. But for that to happen, non-financial power and non-financial responsibility will have to remain with the administrators.

Businessmen will have their demands (exclusive dates in the calendar, perhaps, prioritising franchise cricket over international competition, influencing the national boards in other not-so-subtle ways); they have appeared on the English domestic scene like some heroes on their white steeds to rescue a game in distress. Yorkshire said they were just a couple of months from bankruptcy. One county secretary has spoken about the desperation in counting the toilet rolls.

India's largesse will receive gratitude, maybe even resentment from some quarters. Cricket is going through interesting times, the future arriving faster than predicted.

## Gujarat Stallions edges Delhi Dribblers

**Sports Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Gujarat Stallions pulled together as a cohesive unit in scoring a 95-90 victory over Delhi Dribblers in extra time, after the teams were locked 83-83 at the end of the fourth quarter in the INBL Pro basketball league at the Thyagaraj Indoor Stadium on Tuesday.

It was the second victory in four matches for the Gujarat team which led 41-37 at half-time.

Trendon Hankerson top scored for the winner with 26 points. Alexander Mudronja, Lachlan Barker and Pratyanshu Tomar did the bulk of scoring for the Delhi team.

**The results:**  
Gujarat Stallions 95 (Trendon Hankerson 26, Joshua Duach 19, Tushal Singh 16, Jock Perry 15, Nate Roberts 11) bt Delhi Dribblers 90 (Alexander Mudronja 24, Lachlan Barker 21, Pratyanshu Tomar 20).

## Three in joint lead at PGTI event

**Sports Bureau**  
KOLKATA

Rahil Gangjee, Yuvraj Sandhu and Arjun Sharma fired an identical seven-under 63 to share the lead after the first round of the season-opening Professional Golf Tour of India, the TATA Steel PGTI Players Championship, on the Tollygunge Club course here on Tuesday.

# SOME PLAYED. SOME PRAYED. AT ACES, BOTH WIN.

Behind every win echoes the roar of cheer that fuels it—the unwavering support that powered every stride, shot and victory. You believed in them long before the medals arrived, and now it's time to celebrate their triumphs.

Get ready for the Sportstar ACES Awards where we honour the champions for the passion that fuelled their journey. A celebration of the victories that made history and cemented India's place among the world's best.

February 14, 2025, 6 pm onwards

**Amul**  
Presents  
**'SPORTSTAR  
ACES  
2025  
INDIA TRIUMPHS'**

In association with

**IndianOil**



Scan here to subscribe to our channel to watch the live streaming.

Associate Partners						State Partner	
LIC	SBI	VELAMMAL NEXUS	JAWA YEZDI MOTORCYCLES	Indian Bank	BSA		
Knowledge Partner	Education Partner	Realty Partner	Gifting Partner	Broadcast Partner	Outdoor Media Partner		
REVA UNIVERSITY	CHRIST	CASAGRAN	NDTV 24X7	Elite	LAQSHYA		

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)							
The Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No-III, HPPWD, Shimla-3 on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HP.PWD., for the work as detailed in the table.							
Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Starting date of downloading Bid	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time Allowed	Deadline for submission of Bid.
1.	Special repair to MDR-66 under Shimla Division No-III (SH:- Repair/rehabilitation work epoxy based grouting of Combereme Bridge near Tourism Lift Shimla at Rd 03/900 complete).	Rs. 16870657.00	07-02-2025	Rs. 337420.00	Rs. 5000.00	Two Months	14-02-2025
The bidders are advised to note other details, of tenders from the department website <a href="http://www.hptenders.gov.in">www.hptenders.gov.in</a> . The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application without assigning any reason.							
Executive Engineer Shimla Division No-III, HPPWD Shimla-3							
HP / 5097/24-25 "HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK"							

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED Credit Recovery and Management Department Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail Id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746							
The following property/ies mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Re-Tender cum Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act 2002, for recovery of a sum of Rs.22,60,894/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Sixty Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Four only) as on 05-02-2025 together with further interest to be charged from 06-02-2025 onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors No.1) Mrs. Eram, W/o. Amjad Ali Siddiqui, No.-C-49, Galli No.20 Subhash Mohalla, Garhi Mendum, Delhi - 110053. Also at, Mrs. Eram, W/o. Amjad Ali Siddiqui, Plot No.B-105, Flat No.UGF-3 (Upper Ground Floor), Khasara No.1308, Hayat Enclave, Village Loni, Pargana, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201005, No.2) Mr. Amjad Ali Siddiqui, S/o. Liaqat Ali Siddiqui, No.C-49, Galli No.20, Subhash Mohalla, Garhi Mendum, Delhi - 110053. Also at, Mr. Amjad Ali Siddiqui, S/o. Liaqat Ali Siddiqui, Plot No.B-105, Flat No.UGF-3 (Upper Ground Floor), Khasara No.1308, Hayat Enclave, Village Loni, Pargana, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh -201005. Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank (Property Owned by Mrs. Eram, W/o. Amjad Ali Siddiqui)							

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002							
The following property/ies mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Re-Tender cum Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act 2002, for recovery of a sum of Rs.22,60,894/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Sixty Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Four only) as on 05-02-2025 together with further interest to be charged from 06-02-2025 onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors No.1) Mrs. Eram, W/o. Amjad Ali Siddiqui, No.-C-49, Galli No.20 Subhash Mohalla, Garhi Mendum, Delhi - 110053. Also at, Mrs. Eram, W/o. Amjad Ali Siddiqui, Plot No.B-105, Flat No.UGF-3 (Upper Ground Floor), Khasara No.1308, Hayat Enclave, Village Loni, Pargana, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201005, No.2) Mr. Amjad Ali Siddiqui, S/o. Liaqat Ali Siddiqui, No.C-49, Galli No.20, Subhash Mohalla, Garhi Mendum, Delhi - 110053. Also at, Mr. Amjad Ali Siddiqui, S/o. Liaqat Ali Siddiqui, Plot No.B-105, Flat No.UGF-3 (Upper Ground Floor), Khasara No.1308, Hayat Enclave, Village Loni, Pargana, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh -201005. Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank (Property Owned by Mrs. Eram, W/o. Amjad Ali Siddiqui)							
One Kit Residential Plot / House No.UGF-3 (Upper Ground Floor) Built on Plot No.B-105, Rekba 75.25 Square meter, Khasara No.1308, situated at Hayat Enclave, Village Loni, District Ghaziabad - U-100105. Bounded as Under: East : Others Property, West : 40 ft. Wide Road.							
<b>Reserve Price : Rs.20,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh only)</b>							
<b>RE-AUCTION DETAILS</b>							
Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue						
03-03-2025	City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi-Laxmi Nagar Branch, U-198, Sharakarpur, Vikar Marg, Near Laxmi Nagar Metro Station, New Delhi - 110092.						
	Telephone No.011-22501110, Cell No.9312620592.						
Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :							
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi Laxmi Nagar Branch, U-198, Sharakarpur, Vikar Marg, Near Laxmi Nagar Metro Station, New Delhi - 110092. (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to 'The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd., together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an amount of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars the intending purchaser may contact Telephone No.011-22501110, Cell No.9312620592. (5) The properties are sold on "As-is-where-is" basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at 01.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful bidder shall pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of 25% shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.							
Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 10-02-2025							
Authorised Officer Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001267, Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax : 0435-2431746, Website : <a href="http://www.cityunionbank.com">www.cityunionbank.com</a>							



THE HINDU GROUP

# Mukund shifts gears in the nick of time, enters round 2

The Davis Cupper gets the better of France's Wayenburg; Ramkumar goes down to Svrcina; Sweden's Ymer defeats Moller of Denmark; Vacherot downs Vesely for the loss of five games

## DELHI OPEN

**Kamesh Srinivasan**  
NEW DELHI

After a hesitant start when he had lost the first set, and had dropped serve in the first game of the second, Davis Cupper S. Mukund bounced back strongly to outwit lucky-loser Sascha Wayenburg of France 4-6, 6-2, 6-0 in the first round of the Dafanews \$100,000 Delhi Open Challenger tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex on Tuesday.

Mukund had played his part well on the centre court during the recent Davis Cup tie against Togo. Even though the balls used were different this time, the 28-year-old got into his rhythm and showed considerable quickness of feet and sharpness of execution, not to forget the intensity of focus, in turning the fortunes around against a crafty opponent who had an explosive serve.

In the pre-quarterfinals, Mukund, who was ranked a career-best 229 in 2019, will play Michael Geerts of Belgium.

Ramkumar Ramanathan gave glimpses of his craft that had seen him reach a career best rank of 111, but got trapped in the dialogue with the umpire following a series of bad calls from his perspective, and lost his way against the energetic Dalibor Svrcina.

Ramkumar played a strong all-court game to win the second set 6-2, after losing the first 2-6, but slithered to defeat thereafter as he failed to win a game in the decider.

Ramkumar will get to focus on his doubles game, in partnership with Karan Singh.

In another lively singles match, Elias Ymer of Sweden outplayed fifth seed Elmer Moller of Denmark for the loss of four games.

The towering Valentin Vacherot, who had won the Challenger last year in

Pune, warmed up for the tougher challenges ahead, by beating former World No. 35, qualifier Jiri Vesely of the Czechia for the loss of five games.

### The results (first round):

Vit Kopřiva (Cze) bt Corentin Denolly (Fra) 6-3, 6-4.  
Dalibor Svrcina (Cze) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-2, 2-6, 6-0.  
Hynek Barton (Cze) bt Rio Noguchi (Jpn) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4;  
Shintaro Mochizuki (Jpn) bt August Holmgren (Den) 6-3, 7-5.  
S. Mukund bt Sascha Wayenburg (Fra) 4-6, 6-2, 6-0; Jay Clarke (GBR) bt Masamichi Imamura (Jpn) 6-1, 6-4; Kyrian Jacquet (Fra) bt Sho Shimabukuro (Jpn) 6-1, 6-2; Andre Ilagan (USA) bt Marek Engel (Cze) 6-2, 6-2; Valentin Vacherot (Mon) bt Jiri Vesely (Cze) 6-1, 6-4.  
Tristan Schoolkate (Aus) bt Ergi Kirkin (Tur) 6-0, 7-6(10); Elias Ymer (Swe) bt Elmer Moller (Den) 6-3, 6-1.  
Egor Agafonov bt Oleksandr Ovcharenko (Ukr) 6-3, 6-0; James McCabe (Aus) bt Enrico Dalla Valle (Ita) 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.  
Billy Harris (GBR) bt Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) 6-1, 6-4.



**Winning start:** Mukund stayed focused to turn the match around in his favour. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

# THE HINDU OPPORTUNITIES

## GENERAL

### INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD. (A Government of India Enterprise - Mini Ratna Category-I)

South Central Zone

Walk-in Interview for Experienced Hotel Management / Hospitality Professionals and Qualified Chartered Accountant (CA) / Cost & Management Accountant (CMA)

Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC Ltd), South Central Zone intends to engage the services of "Hospitality Monitor" as well as "Qualified Chartered Accountant (CA) / Cost & Management Accountant (CMA)" on Contract basis. For eligibility criteria, posts, walk-in interview date/ venue and other terms & conditions of engagement visit: <https://www.irctc.com>.

### WANTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For a Rs.300 Crore engineering Company in Chennai. Company is interested to enter Sheet Metal and pressed component business for automotive & consumer industries. The need is for a visionary and dynamic Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to lead this company.

#### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Create and execute growth plans for its manufacturing facility.
  - Manage day-to-day functions for higher effectiveness and efficiency.
  - Hire and deploy high-performance management team(s).
  - Focus on continuous development and bring-in best manufacturing practices.
  - Create and maintain harmonious relationships with all stakeholders including suppliers and customers.
- Candidates with apt experience can submit their CV with CTC expectation to [rcrecruitment1@gmail.com](mailto:rcrecruitment1@gmail.com)

### PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY PARADIP-754142, ODISHA (INDIA)

(An autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India)

No. AD/RSC-22/01/2025/255 Dated, the 07<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

#### Advertisement

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for engagement of 04 (four) nos. of VTS Operator on Contractual basis in Paradip Port Authority.

For further details, visit our website: [www.paradipport.gov.in](http://www.paradipport.gov.in)

Sd/- Sr. Asst. Secretary,

PPA/PR/61/2024-25 Dt. 10.02.2025 Paradip Port Authority

### NTPC Limited (A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Advt. No.: 02/25

NTPC Limited is India's largest integrated energy company with installed capacity of 77,393 MW and has presence in the entire value chain of the power generation business. Commensurate with our country's growth challenges, NTPC has embarked upon an ambitious plan to attain a total installed capacity of 130 GW by 2032.

NTPC is looking for experienced executives in the function of Company Secretary at various levels as per details mentioned below:

Sl.No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts
01.	DGM (E7 level)	01
02.	Manager (E5 level)	02
03.	Deputy Manager (E4 level)	01
04.	Assistant Manager (E3 level)	02
05.	Executive on Fixed Term Basis	03

**How to Apply:** Interested eligible candidates should log on to our website [careers.ntpc.co.in](http://careers.ntpc.co.in) or visit careers section at [www.ntpc.co.in](http://www.ntpc.co.in) for viewing detailed eligibility criteria, qualification & experience requirement, job profile, remuneration details, other terms & conditions, full text of the advertisement and for applying. The online application portal will remain open from 15.02.2025 to 01.03.2025. Only online mode of application will be accepted. Any further addendum/corrigendum/updates will only be published on our website.

Commencement of online application : 15.02.2025

Last date for online application : 01.03.2025

**Leading the Power Sector**

### NTPC Limited (A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Registered Office Address: NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, SCOPE Complex, 7 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003  
Corporate Identification Number - L40101DL1975GOI007966

Advt. No.: 04/25

NTPC Limited is India's largest integrated energy company with installed capacity of 77,393 MW and has presence in the entire value chain of the power generation business. Commensurate with our country's growth challenges, NTPC has embarked upon an ambitious plan to attain a total installed capacity of 130 GW by 2032.

NTPC is looking for experienced professionals for its operation function on fixed term basis as per details mentioned below:

Name of the Post	Vacancies
Assistant Executive (Operation) on fixed term basis.	400

**How to Apply:** Interested eligible candidates should log on to our website [careers.ntpc.co.in](http://careers.ntpc.co.in) or visit careers section at [www.ntpc.co.in](http://www.ntpc.co.in) for viewing detailed eligibility criteria, qualification & experience requirement, job profile, remuneration details, other terms & conditions, full text of the advertisement and for applying. The online application portal will remain open from 15.02.2025 to 01.03.2025. Only online mode of application will be accepted. Any further addendum/corrigendum/updates will only be published on our website.

Commencement of online application : 15.02.2025

Last date for online application : 01.03.2025

**Leading the Power Sector**

### To Advertise in

**The Hindu Opportunities column,**

**Please contact,**

**selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in or**

**Ph: 9841650726**

**MAHINDRA PERCUSSION FESTIVAL '25**

In Association With

**RAVI CHARY CROSSING (1 MARCH)**

**ARUNA SAIRAM'S THRILLANA PROJECT (1 MARCH)**

**TRILOK GURTU PROJECT (1 MARCH)**

**RANJIT BAROT AND ROYSEN ABEL'S BEATROUTE (2 MARCH)**

**SNAX (2 MARCH)**

**BENGALURU**

**PRESTIGE CENTRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS**  
25, MUDALAPPA ST, ANJANADRI LAYOUT, KONANAKUNTE, BENGALURU

**Co - Sponsors**

**Tickets on**

**Promoted & Produced by**

**Mahindra FINANCE**

**Roulette**

**Carlsberg**

**bookmyshow**

**hyperlink**

# For a domestic cricketer, nothing can beat winning the Ranji Trophy

It tests the true character of a person and cricketer; whenever you hear the legends speak, they rate First Class cricket so highly because of that



FILE PHOTO

## INTERVIEW

### **SHELDON JACKSON**

**Vivek Krishnan**  
RAJKOT

**A**s Saurashtra bowed out of the Ranji Trophy with a quarterfinal loss to Gujarat at the Niranjan Shah Stadium on Tuesday, it was also the end of the road for Sheldon Jackson after a successful career in domestic cricket. The 38-year-old had his mother, wife and two kids watching from the stands when the fourth day's play was on, and then joining him on the outfield at the conclusion to savour the emotional occasion.

The middle-order batter has hung up his boots after scoring 7283 runs in 106 First Class matches at an average of 45.80, including 21 centuries and 39 fifties. He had announced his retirement from the white-ball game in January. He was an integral part of Saurashtra winning the Ranji Trophy twice, in 2019-20 and 2022-23. He also won the Vijay Hazare Trophy – the domestic 50-over tournament – twice, once as a rookie in 2007-08 and then as a senior pro in the 2022-23 season. In the 2019-20 Ranji triumph, he was Saurashtra's leading run-getter. When the team won the Vijay Hazare title a second time, he scored an unbeaten ton in the final.

In an interview with *The Hindu* at the team hotel after the game, he opened up about the decision, his illustrious achievements with Saurashtra, and how he dealt with the disappointment of never getting a chance for India. Excerpts:

**When did you decide about retirement? What made you take the call?**

I made up my mind about retiring before the season began. It is never an easy call to stop something that has been a major part of your life. Before the preparation camp for the season started, I went into Jaydev Shah's (Sau-

rashtra Cricket Association president) office and told him that this was going to be my last season no matter how far we progressed. I knew I had crossed my prime, in terms of both age and performance. I wasn't going to get picked in Duleep Trophy or Irani Cup squads any longer. For three years, I was not even filling the forms for the IPL player auction. So, that was also out of the picture. My motivation was to complete 100 First Class matches. I was on 98 before the season. So that's the thing that motivated me. It is always difficult to leave the sport that you have played for so long. But at the age of 38, even if I get 800 or 900 runs, it is not going to help anybody. You are stopping the progress of the team. If I have gone today, the team can find one youngster. Tomorrow if all the other seniors go together, you cannot fill 3-4 spots at the same time.

**You have won titles and scored many runs for Saurashtra. What would you consider your proudest achievement?**

Saurashtra has won four titles. From this present group, (Cheteshwar) Pujara and I have been part of all four in some capacity or the other. It is really difficult to pick one particular moment or innings.

But if I had to pick two or three, I would definitely pick the hundreds I got in the semifinals against Karnataka in Bengaluru (2018-19 and 2022-23), and the hundred in the Vijay Hazare final against Maharashtra (2022-23). I always believe it is the runs you get in those matches and situations that define you as a sportsperson. For those innings, you will always be remembered. Even today, when somebody speaks to me, it is those hundreds that they talk about a lot. You understand the importance from that.

**Is winning the Ranji Trophy the ultimate achievement for a domestic player?**

Yes, definitely. You ultimately play to win. Why do we always talk about the great Mumbai players? Because of the number of Ranji



FILE PHOTO: SUDHAKARA JAIN

titles they have won. So, for a domestic cricketer, nothing can beat winning the Ranji Trophy. Sometimes, one bad session in a five-day game and we are out. We started our camp in June-July and we are now in February. Around 7-8 months of hard work can come to nothing and we aren't progressing further in the Ranji Trophy this season because of two bad hours. So there is a lot of hard work, mentally, physically and everything. It tests the true character of a person and cricketer. Whenever you hear all the legends speak, they rate First Class cricket so highly because of that.

**You were a bit teary-eyed at the end while posing for photos with your teammates. What are you feeling right now?**

Of course, I am never going to be playing again with this bunch of boys. This bunch, around 8-9 of us, has achieved so many great things together. We have won many trophies together. I am not going to be playing competitive cricket of this quality again in my life. So, all those memories started coming back...the first time I walked onto this field. It does make you emotional.

**There seems to be a sense that Saurashtra has to undergo a transition phase after a successful period. Your thoughts...**

If I have to be honest, I am against the transition phase. You don't build a team for the future, you build a team for the present. When you sit down for team selection for the Ranji Trophy, you have to pick players who will win you those 3-4 matches, not 20 matches after that. Transition will take place only when someone from below is able enough to take your place or outscoring you in almost every game. That is how it used to be and that is how we have been brought up. Nobody gifted us a chance because someone is on the wrong side of 30s. I had to wait for six years on the bench without playing a match before I could make my First Class debut for Saurashtra.

You should have a vision of winning the title this year. That could be a 40-year-old or an 18-year-old helping you win the trophy. Do what you want to do in white-ball cricket, but red-ball cricket needs a lot of character and skill.

**You were part of India-A squads. You played in the Duleep Trophy and Irani Cup. Any regrets about not playing for India? And what advice would you give to domestic players who are not getting a chance at the highest level despite putting in performances?**

My only advice to any domestic player is to just keep doing what you are doing. We think very often that our runs are not noticed. But everything in our system is noticed. Because of social media and the internet, every score is highlighted a lot more now too. But I tell youngsters that it is not only about the runs you score. It is about the runs you score that create an impact on the situation of the match. Those runs will always be noticed. If you can do that year in, year out, there are beautiful examples of those who come from the domestic system and have made it to the Indian team. Sarfaraz Khan, Abhimanyu Easwaran are there right. Whether they get a game or don't get a game is a different thing altogether. That depends on the management and many factors. But at least, they have got picked. And they have got picked because they have scored so many runs in domestic cricket.

Even I felt at one stage that I deserved to get picked because I was scoring many runs. But if you see in the end, how will you be picked if there is no spot available? You will have to wait for your turn.

In my case, when I started doing well, I was around 29-30. I was human. I wanted to get picked for India. But if it didn't happen, it didn't happen. It took me till I was 33 or 34 to come to peace with it. Till then, I felt I could have played for India. That is when I understood that I should stop expecting or hoping. Maybe if I had done well for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and taken my chances in the IPL, things could have been different. But I couldn't capitalise on those opportunities.

**What are your future plans?**

If I can get into some T20 legends' league, I will be happy. But for the moment, I haven't met Jaydev bhai and Niranjan (Shah) sir. I will take their advice and know what they have in mind for me because they have been mentors along with a few others. I want to sit down and find out whether I can help the association in any capacity. Once I do that, only then will I be able to give a clearer picture.

## SCIENCE

# Asian elephants change scientists' minds on why they trumpet

Most of what we know about elephants' use of sounds to communicate comes from studies of African elephants. We don't know much about Asian elephants, the species native to India and other tropical and subtropical forests of Asia. African and Asian elephants are entirely different species with unique habits, habitats, and adaptations.

**Sanjukta Mondal**

**V**ocal communication plays an outsized role in how social animals survive in the wild. A loud cry from a baby attracts the attention of a parent. A scream can warn others of a predator lurking nearby.

Humans have developed thousands of languages, spoken and signed, to share information, ideas, and emotions – yet they're not alone among the earth's life forms in communicating in complicated ways and out loud.

Elephants live long lives, up to around 70 years, and in this time their herds often split and merge. To navigate these changes, these giants have developed a complex system of sounds, from low-frequency rumbles and roars to high-frequency squeaks and chirps, to stay in touch with each other.

Most of what we know about elephants' use of sounds to communicate comes from studies of African elephants (genus *Loxodonta*). We don't know much about Asian elephants (genus *Elephas*), the species native to India and other tropical and subtropical forests of Asia.

Understanding the differences in vocal communication between elephant species is nontrivial because African and Asian elephants aren't just distant cousins roaming different lands. They are entirely different species with unique habits, habitats, and adaptations.

In a study published in the journal *Mammalian Biology* on December 23, 2024, researchers compared the calls of Asian elephants based on their age, sex, and behaviour. They found the duration of trumpets remained fairly consistent across all age classes for both male and female Asian elephants, but roars and roar-rumbles got longer with age.

"Every behaviour of [Asian] elephants is fascinating to witness, and their acoustic communication makes it even more remarkable because of elephants' capabilities to switch between very high-frequency and very low-frequency sounds," Nachiketha Sharma, the study's first author and a Ph.D. student at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, said.

#### A vocal repertoire

Through thick forests and rough terrain, the researchers set out in pursuit of the secrets of the vocal communications of Asian elephants.

These animals roam freely in the outdoors and talk to each other using four main types of calls: trumpets, roars, rumbles, and chirps. They combine them



A cow, juveniles, and a calf in Yala National Park, Sri Lanka, February 2022. CHARLES J. SHARP (CC BY-SA 4.0) Join FREE WhatsApp Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>

in different ways, called combination calls, to convey different messages.

The researchers divided the vocalisations into high and low frequencies based on whether human ears could hear them.

#### Translating the trumpet

Each call carries a specific meaning and function. The most common high-frequency vocalisations, which both the Asian and the African savannah elephants can produce, are trumpets – the iconic sound uniquely associated with elephants.

According to some mathematical models, these elephants may be producing the trumpets by blowing air in sudden bursts through the trunk, a form of "second voice" that doesn't require the vocal cords to be involved.

Researchers had previously believed Asian elephants trumpeted chiefly to communicate disturbances caused by humans and other troublesome species. The new study isn't so sure. "Our study reveals that trumpets are generated in a variety of contexts, including social interactions, play, and agonistic interactions both within and between groups," Sharma said.

He also added that the study documented the first instance of combination calls in a southern Indian

**The study laid the groundwork to understand sounds Asian elephants use and to explore the acoustic behaviours of herds. Researchers are curating an 'Asian Elephant Sound Library' that will soon be accessible to the public for education and scientific research**

population of Asian elephants. The researchers found the roar-rumble in particular to possibly serve multiple functions, including maintaining contact and signalling disturbances.

#### 'As quiet as possible'

The team also tackled a fundamental question: whether Asian elephants' high-frequency vocalisations differed by age and sex.

"For a holistic understanding of any communication system, it is vital to address fundamental questions such as age and sex differences," Sharma said. "Once we know these basic differences, we can dig deeper or ask more questions related to the possible reasons behind such variations as well as the functions associated with a particular call type."

The team set up recording equipment

Join FREE Telegram Channel <https://t.me/+Bu7senHpQdhlODg1> in the protected areas of Bandipur National Park and Mudumalai National Park, which are 75 km apart. Both parks are home to large populations of Asian elephants, with an estimated 1,025 in the former and 300 in the latter.

The study focused on elephants that moved freely between these parks.

"Recording vocalisations can be quite a challenge," Sharma said. "We spent hours following elephants, trying to stay as quiet as possible to avoid any background noise that could interfere with [the] recordings," Sharma said.

The team also collected data on elephant vocalisations recorded over two years from diverse habitats, including grasslands, forests, saltlicks, and water bodies.

Putting them together, the team stumbled upon an intriguing pattern.

Younger elephants, both male and female, produced calls of a higher pitch to attract the attention of their herd mates and establish their presence. On the other hand, the older ones used lower-pitched calls for the same purpose.

According to the paper, these differences could be shaped by changes in body size and vocalisation mechanisms as the elephants aged.

The researchers also found that the role of roars issued by Asian elephant calves closely mirrored those of their African cousins. The infants used these powerful calls to get the attention of the adults in a herd and signal their emotional states.

To the researchers, this meant the roar serves a universal purpose that could be highly conserved across elephant species.

#### A sound library

This study laid the groundwork for scientists to understand the various sounds Asian elephants use and set the stage for further exploring the acoustic behaviours of free-ranging populations.

The researchers also said this work is just the beginning. "There is a lot more for us to uncover to truly appreciate the complex world of elephant acoustic communication," Sharma added.

The team also plans to launch a project to explore and understand the soundscapes of Asian elephants in both wild and captive environments.

As part of this initiative, the researchers are curating an 'Asian Elephant Sound Library' that will soon be accessible to the public for education and scientific research.

(Sanjukta Mondal is a chemist-turned-science writer with experience in writing popular science articles and scripts for STEM YouTube channels. [sanjuktamondal.sm@gmail.com](mailto:sanjuktamondal.sm@gmail.com))

## BIG SHOT



A pile of harvested cocoa pods at a farm in Assin Foso, Ghana, in November 2024. A lack of rain in most of Ivory Coast's cocoa-growing regions could delay the start of the April-to-September mid-crop, potentially leading to a shortage of beans, the main ingredient in chocolate, farmers said on Monday. REUTERS

## QUESTION CORNER

### Why is Hawaii ideal for rainbows?

Q:

Where is the 'rainbow capital' of the world?

Hawaii's regular

sunshine, short

rain showers,

and clean air come together to create some of the planet's best conditions for viewing rainbows. They're such a frequent sight that a University of Hawaii professor calls the state the "rainbow capital of the world."

Rainbows form when raindrops refract sunlight into a spectrum of colours. The brighter the sun, the clearer the rainbow. Look for them when it is both sunny and raining at the same time. They will appear opposite the sun. They will seem larger and higher in the sky in the early morning and late afternoon, when the sun is lower on the horizon.

Steven Businger, professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, says the archipelago's trade winds bring many small showers with enough blue sky between them for the sun to shine through.

Hawaii's clean air also helps. Other places tend to have more air particles from dust, pollen, and cars. Conditions improve



Joseph Heher photographs rainbows at Shipwreck's Beach, Grand Hyatt Kauai, Hawaii, July 2, 2010. AP

further during the rainy season from October to April.

When Kimberly Carlson was a professor at Manoa, she saw a rainbow outside her apartment window that made her wonder how climate change would affect them. Now a New York University environmental studies professor, she's studied the impact over the next century. Her team's analysis, published in a paper two years ago, predicts Brazil, the Mediterranean and parts of Central Africa will have fewer rainbows by 2100. They found places that currently get lots of snow but that will instead receive more rain will likely see more rainbows.

- Associated Press

For feedback and suggestions  
for 'Science', please write to  
[science@thehindu.co.in](mailto:science@thehindu.co.in)  
with the subject 'Daily page'