THURSDAY
September 3, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 210

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

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SC orders oversight of Bar Council's policy decisions

Manan Kumar Mishra is only 'pro tem' chief of the lawyers' body, says the top court; it directs the council to consult Attorney-General, Solicitor-General for all major decisions until fresh elections

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday made it clear that senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra is serving only as the "pro tem" chairperson of the Bar Council of India (BCI) until fresh elections are held and directed the apex lawyers' body to consult the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General before taking any major policy decisions in the interim.

The hearing before a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant saw petitioners, including young lawyers, raise allegations, including the formation of the BCI Pearl First Trust in 2020 in which Mr. Mishra, also a BJP Rajya Sabha member, and other BCI office-bearers are "permanent managing trustees"; a tie-up between the Trust and the Goa government to set up a university on 56 acres of land in the State; "jolting" expenditures on felicitations "running into crores"; and an extension of the tenure of BCI chairperson/vice-chairperson to five years.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, part of the Bench, said the top court did not want to encourage "shadow-boxing" around these allegations, but would certainly intervene to "maintain the institutional integrity and credibility" of the BCI till the next bar body elections.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mishra and the current office-bearers would continue pro tem to ensure the BCI's day-to-day functioning.

"You are a pro tem chairperson. Your term is co-terminus with the elections. The Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General, as permanent ex-officio members of the BCI, would be given prior notice by you and invited to participate in any decision-making process having a policy impact... After all, the Attorney-General is as much a member of the BCI as the chairperson is," Justice Bagchi observed.

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Under scrutiny

The BCI chief, Manan Kumar Mishra, recently earned public ire with an attempt to ban the enrolment of NALSAR graduates

Allegations raised by petitioners in SC:

- Extension of the tenure of the BCI chairperson and vice-chairperson to five years
- Formation of the BCI Pearl First Trust in which Mr. Mishra and other BCI office-bearers are 'permanent managing trustees'
- A tie-up between the Trust and the Goa government to set up a university on 56 acres of land in the State
- 'Jolting' expenditures on felicitations 'running into crores'

UN charts course to manage global warming-limit breach

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Warning that a possible breach of the 1.5 degrees Celsius global warming limit will bring irreversible ecological losses that no adaptation initiatives could undo, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on Wednesday, for the first time, set out a detailed "overshoot, peak, and decline" pathway.

The pathway projects a trajectory where the world overshoots the 2015 Paris Agreement's central goal of limiting the rise in average global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels – which a UNEP report said was now unavoidable. The pathway seeks to hold peak temperatures after the overshoot as low as possible and then bring it back down below the limit by 2100.

The report, *Limiting Overshoot*, said global warming would cross 1.5 degrees Celsius "in the next few years". Even a scenario in which every country delivers on its national climate plan and net-zero target puts peak warming at 1.8 degrees Celsius, it said. According to the report, current policies point to a rise of about 2.6 degrees Celsius by 2100.

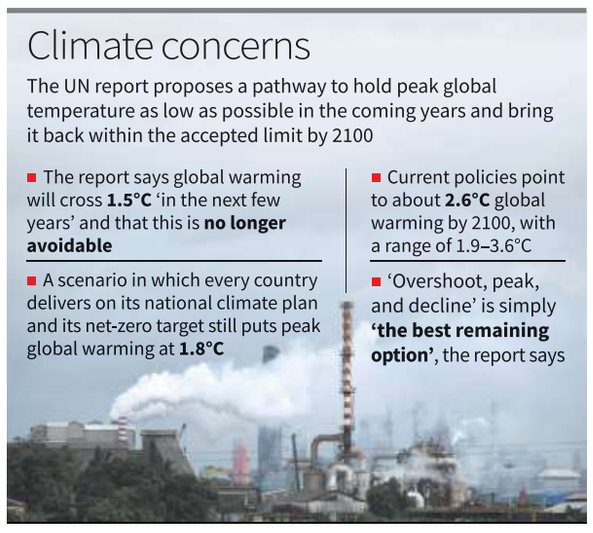
"Overshoot, peak, and decline", the report said, "is by no means an acceptable or preferred pathway; it is simply the best remaining option". "This summer's scorching heat, raging wildfires, and deadly floods are a warning of what lies ahead. We must make the overshoot as small and short as possible," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Climate concerns

The UN report proposes a pathway to hold peak global temperature as low as possible in the coming years and bring it back within the accepted limit by 2100

- The report says global warming will cross **1.5°C** 'in the next few years' and that this is **no longer avoidable**
- A scenario in which every country delivers on its national climate plan and its net-zero target still puts peak global warming at **1.8°C**
- Current policies point to about **2.6°C** global warming by 2100, with a range of 1.9–3.6°C
- 'Overshoot, peak, and decline' is simply **'the best remaining option'**, the report says



NEARBY

Siddaramaiah for campus Shudra Seva Sanghas

BENGALURU
Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is backing the formation of Shudra Seva Sanghas in universities and colleges to draw young people from OBCs into public life and help develop a new generation of political leaders. » PAGE 6

City is 17th among global nightlife destinations

BENGALURU
Bengaluru has been ranked 17th among the world's best 20 cities for nightlife in 2026, placing it ahead of cities such as Accra, Singapore and Mexico City, according to *Time Out*. Bengaluru is the only Indian city on the list. » PAGE 3

Iran targets Gulf nations after U.S. strikes

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran fired on U.S. allies in the Gulf early on Wednesday following a night of American bombardment that Iranian officials say included a deadly strike on a wedding party.

Fighting in the region has escalated since the U.S. hit Iranian assets on an island in the Strait of Hormuz over the weekend. Iran retaliated by firing missiles at American bases in Jordan that were intercepted. Kuwait and Bahrain said they had also come under attack.

Iran has said four members of its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard died in the U.S. attacks.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 14

NITI Aayog for 'second Bengaluru' to ease pressure on capital

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

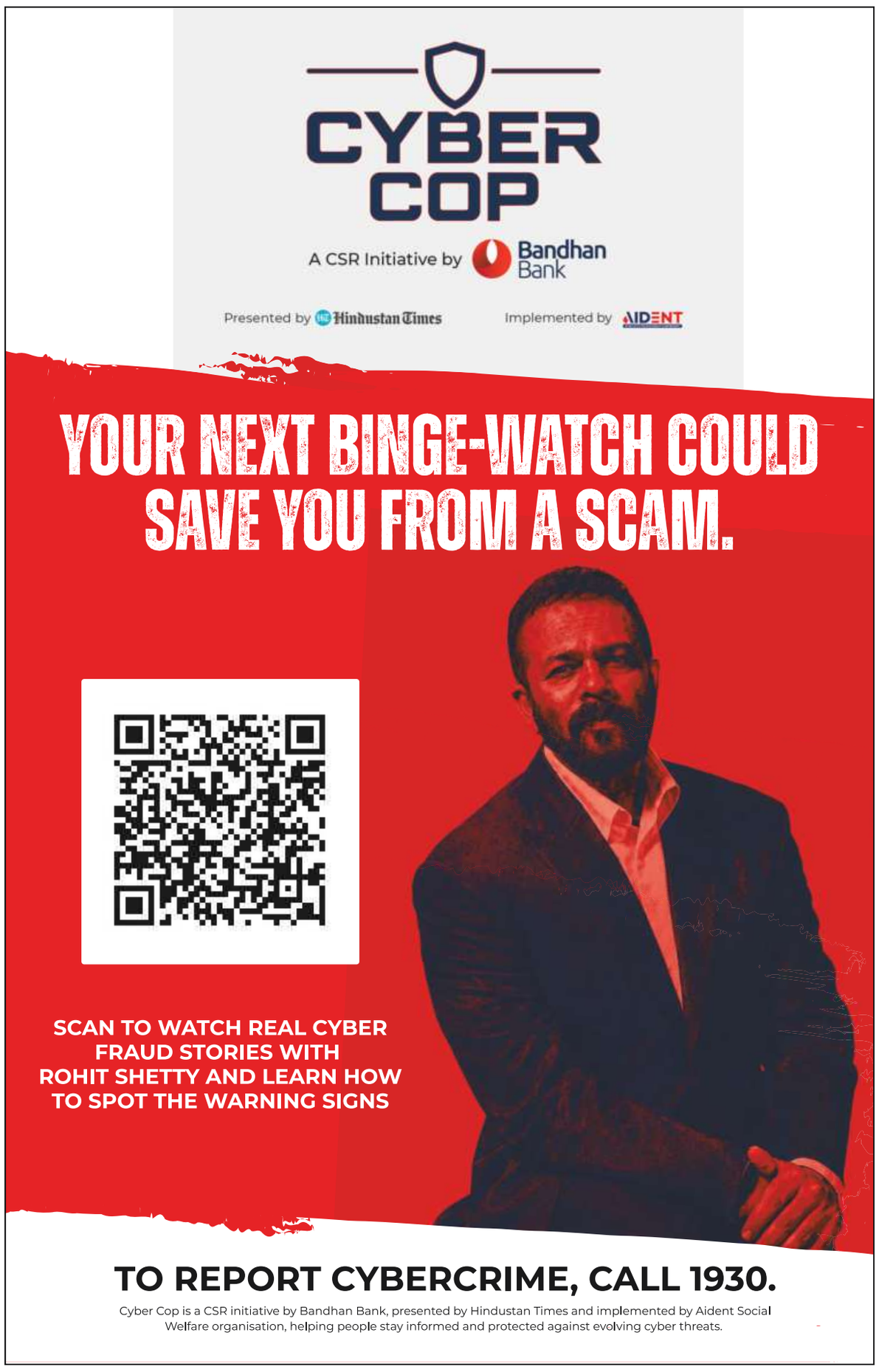
The NITI Aayog has suggested that the State government consider building a "second Bengaluru" in the State to reduce the pressure on the capital.

The suggestion came from NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri during a meeting with Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Wednesday. "I am proud of Karnataka's development. To reduce pressure on Bengaluru, there is a need to seriously consider building a second Bengaluru in Karnataka," said Mr. Lahiri.

The Chief Minister said that a proper plan would be prepared as per NITI Aayog's expectations. Steps taken by other states in this regard would also be considered, he said.

"Every year, Karnataka produces 1.6 lakh engineers and about 13,000 doctors. The population of Bengaluru is continuously increasing. The number of people settling is also rising. All these factors are increasing pressure on Bengaluru," he explained.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 2



GBA improves coordination on big projects; civic issues persist

Top-level meetings are frequent now, but problems related to blackspots, waste collection, and citizen services continue

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

If a positive outcome of the formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has to be picked, top-level coordination between various parastatals working in Bengaluru stands first, although there is significant scope for improvement in inter-departmental coordination down the chain.

According to GBA sources, top-level meetings have been frequent, which has particularly helped expedite long-delayed civic works and infrastructure projects.

However, problems faced by people on a daily basis, such as garbage blackspots, waste collection, potholes, and citizen services persist.

For instance, in the last year, work on three major underpasses – Wind Tunnel Junction, Okalipuram, and Kateerava Studio underpasses – has finally started. Of the three, the Wind Tunnel and Okalipuram underpasses were significantly delayed owing to coordination issues.

An officer overseeing its implementation told *The Hindu* that after the corporations were formed, top officials of the central city corporations and the BTP worked on a mutually acceptable working timeframe and began the work. Such meetings were previously impossible because there was no one mediating the talks. However, coordination between lower-rank officials for smaller works is still an issue.

Sore spot: Blackspot clearances, whose responsibility rests with the corporations, depend on Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. improving the waste collection system so that the cleared blackspot does not reappear. FILE PHOTO

In the city, ₹3,000 crore worth of white-topping works have been approved and are at the implementation stage, an outcome of the faster movement of files. However, implementation gaps have left citizens toiling in traffic.

A senior traffic police officer pointed out how uncoordinated civic works, along with poor planning, at the lower Agram Road white-topping site choked a key link to central Bengaluru. However, the issue was addressed after a week through on-site changes following meetings. "The problem is when a work is commissioned, there is communication between all departments, but during execution, there is a gap in terms of forming a loop with all the parastatals," he said.

What has remained unchanged despite multiple meetings is solid waste management. Blackspot clearances, whose responsibility rests with the corporations, depend on Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. (BSWML) improving the waste collection system so that the cleared blackspot does not reappear. "Despite sustained efforts to eliminate blackspots, they keep reappearing. One of the reasons for which is lack of coordination. Although such discussion unfolds at the top level, it doesn't trickle down to ground-level workers, which results in failure to coordinate," said a corporation Commissioner.

Citizens also observed ground-level execution issues. Sujith Cariappa of the Social Amenities Association, HAL II Stage, pointed out that GBA Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao held grievance meetings at corporation offices where he noted that certain issues could be solved immediately, but nothing happened on the ground.

However, corporation officials attribute this issue to a shortage of staff. "Over the last year, multiple drives began, and there was a shortage of hands to implement everything. Once the recruitment happens, the system will see substantial improvement," an engineer said.

Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), pointed out that the GBA system has made it easier to communicate between officials and address minor issues. "For example, earlier, if a work was being delayed, a DCP-rank officer had to speak to the BBMP Commissioner, who was of a higher rank, because the Commissioner held all the powers. Now, the Commissioners are also batchmates of DCPs in the city, which has made communication easy," he said. "There are definitely loopholes, but they will be solved because there is more ground-level work unfolding and that needs constant communication, which will fix the current gaps," he said.

(This is the fourth in a series of reports evaluating the restructuring of Bengaluru governance with the GBA and five corporations, a year after the reform.)

Public engagement up, revenue generation needs push: GBA chief

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Looking back at one year of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the five city corporations, Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao said decision-making has gained pace and interaction with the public has improved, but there is scope for improving revenue generation.

Mr. Rao said that with the increase in the number of decision-makers at the corporation level, more local, micro-level and long-pending issues are being resolved faster. "Especially works for which budgets can be approved and allocated at the corporation level are being executed quickly. In addition, interaction with citizens has increased, improving the execution of local works," Mr. Rao said.

However, he admitted that some infrastructure works and revenue generation have been slow, citing two specific reasons: the West Asia crisis, which led to a shortage of bitumen, and various surveys, including the SIR, socio-economic survey and census. "Although the government provided funds and sanctioned works, some could not be implemented due to these reasons," he said.

He added that revenue collection also could not be improved to the extent that the corporations had initially anticipated and provided for in the budget. "We were anticipating tax revision, premium floor area ratio (FAR) charges, and other avenues, but couldn't achieve it. In the coming days, we can do this, and more work can be taken up with those funds," he said.

M. Maheshwar Rao

Maheshwar Rao admits that some infrastructure works, revenue generation have been slow

He said that coordination and efficiency have improved. Further, the GBA has finalised a place for setting up new corporation offices, while for two corporations, the search for a place is ongoing.

Mr. Rao said that T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, former Chief Secretary, has submitted a report on cadre and recruitment rules for GBA, and it has been sent to the government for approval. One more report is yet to be submitted, after which action will be taken, he said.

Man dies after BMTC bus rams two-wheeler in Nelamangala

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 25-year-old man was killed and his wife sustained injuries after a BMTC bus rammed their two-wheeler near Urs Colony, within the Nelamangala Traffic Police limits, on Wednesday evening.

The deceased was identified as Manu, a resident of Nelamangala town and a native of Sira in Tumakuru district.

He was working as a restaurant manager and had married eight months ago.

According to the police, the accident occurred around 4.30 p.m. when Manu was riding the two-wheeler with his wife on the pillion on Urs Colony Road.

The BMTC bus allegedly hit the two-wheeler from behind, throwing the couple onto the road.

According to the police, Manu fell to the left side of the road and came under the wheels of the bus. He sustained severe injuries and died on the spot. His wife escaped with minor injuries.

The police shifted the body for post-mortem examination.

CCTV footage

Investigators are examining CCTV footage from the area to ascertain the exact circumstances leading to the accident.

A case has been registered and further investigation is under way.

From Page One

NITI Aayog for 'second Bengaluru' to ease pressure on city

He said several ambitious projects were at the implementation stage to improve Bengaluru's infrastructure.

Mr. Shivakumar appealed to the NITI Aayog to have special consideration for Karnataka. "The nation has huge expectations from Karnataka. It is in a leading position in the country in GDP, per capita income, human development index, technology and innovation, foreign direct investment, exports, start=ups, and IT services. Karnataka has the best quality human resources in the country."

Pointing out that after a long time, Karnataka had got an opportunity to hold a separate meeting with NITI Aayog, the Chief Minister sought its full support to the State.

The Chief Minister requested NITI Aayog to ensure that Karnataka gets its due share of Central funds, including the pending grants that were announced earlier in the Central Budget. In a federal system, States and the Central government must work with mutual cooperation, he noted.

"Recently, while speaking with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, I said that Southern States have properly implemented population control measures, but they should not be punished by reducing fund allocation based on population," he recalled.

Shivakumar hails women as original creators in society

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hailing women as the original creators, for whom building and growing anything new is "only natural", Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday drew an analogy from the Ramayana to drive home his point.

Speaking at a session on 'Empowering Women to Build a More Secure Tomorrow' organised in partnership with Ubuntu Consortium and Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), he said, "Sita's role in the epic is more powerful than that of Ram. The sacrifices of Sita were great, the struggles she faced were incomparable."

Women, he said, should not be confined to domestic responsibilities when they possess the ability and talent to lead institutions, governments and businesses, and more importantly create jobs. Addressing women entrepreneurs, industrialists, representatives of financial institutions and industry associations from across India and abroad, the Chief Minister said women could be creators of employment and drivers of social change.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with women entrepreneurs, industrialists, representatives of financial institutions and industry associations in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

> Sita's role in the epic is more powerful than that of Ram. Her sacrifices were great, the struggles she faced were incomparable
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR**
> Chief Minister

He said the Karnataka government's schemes such as Shakti, under which women can travel free on State-run buses, and the Gruha Lakshmi, through which woman heads of households receive ₹2,000 a month, help circulate money within the economy by increasing women's purchasing power. Mr. Shivakumar also referred to concessional credit for women entrepreneurs, saying that the government was providing loans at an interest rate of 4%.

In elected bodies

Mr. Shivakumar said greater participation of women in elected bodies was also essential to strengthening democracy.

With political parties having broadly accepted reservation for women, he added, the focus should now be on ensuring that educated and capable women were prepared to take up leadership positions in panchayats, legislatures, and Parliament.

Turning to Bengaluru, he said women professionals were already playing a significant role in the city's economy. He noted that more than 40% of doctors produced in Bengaluru were women, while the city had emerged as one of the world's major technology centres.

Pensionbazaar, Ubuntu Consortium sign MoU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pensionbazaar, a platform focused on retirement and pension planning, and Ubuntu Consortium have signed an MoU to expand access to the National Pension System (NPS) among women workers.

Karnataka will be a significant beneficiary as the State has a large population of working/entrepreneur women.

The MoU was signed in Bengaluru in the presence of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, alongside Ratna Prabha, formerly Chief Secretary and currently founder-president, Ubuntu Consortium, and Sarbvir Singh, Joint Group CEO, PB Fintech.

Financial resilience

The partnership aims to empower women entrepreneurs to introduce NPS and encourage disciplined, long-term savings among women employed in their enterprises.

The initiative seeks to build greater financial resilience among women employed in small and medium enterprises, and strengthen their participation in India's formal retirement ecosystem, according to Pensionbazaar.

Scientists defy limit on turning heat into electricity

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Scientists from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in a collaborative research have reversed a limit which was accepted for over a century on turning heat into electricity.

Scientists from the JNCASR, along with the University of Sydney, Australia, and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), stumbled upon a crystalline semiconductor that converts a temperature difference into an electrical voltage nearly a thousand times larger than what textbook physics allows.

"The thermoelectric voltage generated is so large that it rivals values normally seen only in liquid electrolytes and ionic gels, not in solid, particularly single-crystalline materials," the Department of Science and Technology said.

Current affair: Scientists have stumbled upon a crystalline semiconductor that converts a temperature difference into electrical voltage nearly thousand times larger than textbook physics allows.

It added that the discovery overturns a decades-old assumption about the ceiling on this effect in solids, and opens a path to a new generation of ultra-sensitive temperature sensors, heat detectors, and quantum sensing devices.

Seebeck effect

"When one end of a junction between two dissimilar materials is heated while the other is kept cold, mobile charge carriers drift from the hot side to the cold side, building up a voltage across the junction. This phenomenon, known as the Seebeck effect, was discovered two centuries ago and underlies technologies ranging from temperature sensors to thermoelectric generators that convert waste heat into electricity," it said.

It added that for decades, the magnitude of this voltage, quantified as the Seebeck coefficient, has placed an upper bound of only a few millivolts per Kelvin on this effect in a crystalline solid. Most metals generate just tens of microvolts per Kelvin, and even good semiconductors rarely exceed a few hundred microvolts per Kelvin. "Only liquid systems, such as ionic gels and electrolytes, in which charged ions rather than electrons carry the heat, have been known to cross into the millivolts-per-Kelvin range," it added.

The scientists have shown that this textbook limit can be shattered in a solid, epitaxial crystal.

The team led by Bivas Saha, along with Renuka Karanje and Dheemahi Rao and colleagues Diksha Dadhich and Sourav Rudra from JNCASR, Ashalatha Indiradevi Kamalasanan Pillai and Magnus Garbrecht from the University of Sydney and Subroto Mukerjee from IISc, grew thin films of scandium nitride (ScN), a refractory transition-metal nitride, on magnesium oxide substrates using ultrahigh-vacuum magnetron sputtering.

They deliberately doped them with magnesium to compensate for the material's naturally occurring free electrons from oxygen dopants.

This produced what is known as a heavily doped, highly compensated (HDHC) semiconductor, a material in which positively and negatively charged dopant atoms are scattered randomly throughout the crystal in nearly equal numbers. "X-ray diffraction and atomic-resolution electron microscopy confirmed that the films remained single-crystalline and epitaxial, with dopant atoms distributed uniformly and no secondary phases or precipitates," it said.

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, BANGALORE
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No. EO/TN/16/2026-27 DATED: 28.08.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KW1 from the registered KPWD/PWD Contractors & Reputed firm for the works Sl. No.1 to 3. The details of the notification, tender document, specifications are available in the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The cost of tender document is as per e-procurement portal. The EMD has to be paid in the e-procurement portal using e-Procurement payment modes.

The above work is under Two Cover system. The details for two cover system is to be uploaded as per Standard Tender Document.

The Blank Tender Documents can be down loaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date and time for uploading is **07-09-2026 upto 4.00 P.M.** The Technical Bid will be opened on **09-09-2026 at 10.30 A.M.** The Financial Bid will be opened on **12-09-2026 at 10.30 A.M.** For more details please contact e-portal help desk at **support@eprochelpdesk.com** or 8046010000/ 8068948777 on working days and this office during working hour, Phone No.080-23332765.

Sd/-
Estate Officer

DIPR/CP/2553/NR/2026-27

Chicken shops to shut over waste disposal fee

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. set to charge ₹5-per-kg service fee for collecting poultry waste generated by meat shops; on an average, each chicken shop generates 35 kg of waste

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Feathers ruffled: The Karnataka Poultry Traders' Association has argued that private companies should purchase waste from them at a minimum support price. FILE PHOTO

Chicken shops across Bengaluru, associated with the Karnataka Poultry Traders' Association (KPTA), will shut down for two days starting today, to protest against the ₹5-per-kg service fee that Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. (BSWML) is set to charge for collecting poultry waste generated by meat shops.

The association has demanded that a minimum support price be fixed for poultry waste, arguing that the waste has 'commercial value' and is used by private companies to manufacture byproducts and animal feed, which are then sold for profit.

"Waste such as intestines, feathers, skin, and bones is taken by private companies, which process it into powder and use it to make products such as dog and cat food. They earn from these products. At present, middlemen collect the waste from us and earn from it, while the companies also make a profit from the final product using our raw material," the association said.

The association argued that instead of charging shops ₹5 per kg for the waste, private companies should purchase it from them at a minimum support price.

On an average, each chicken shop generates around 32 kg to 35 kg of such waste, the association said.

It also pointed to a tender notification issued by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), which states that an authorised service provider has been appointed by BSWML for the scientific collection, transportation and processing of poultry, fish, pig, and other animal waste, including animal bones, generated within the GBA limits.

The notification states that all meat, poultry, fish, pork shops, and other establishments generating animal waste will have to mandatorily pay a service fee of ₹5 per kg for animal waste and ₹3 per kg for animal bone waste to the authorised service providers. It also requires establishments to hand over the waste only to service providers officially appointed by BSWML.

The association, however, said the fee would add to the costs of chicken shops. It said that if the government does not consider its demand for a minimum support price, shopkeepers would be forced to increase the price of chicken to recover the additional cost.

Bengaluru ranks 17th among world's top destinations for nightlife

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Costly nights: Affordability emerged as a weaker area, with Bengaluru recording a cumulative 54% score for how affordable it is to go out at night. K. MURALI KUMAR

Bengaluru has been ranked 17th among the world's best 20 cities for nightlife in 2026, placing it ahead of cities such as Accra, Singapore and Mexico City, according to a survey by *Time Out*. Bengaluru is the only Indian city on the list.

The ranking, published recently, was based on responses from more than 24,000 locals worldwide, who were asked about the quality, affordability, diversity, safety and community feel of nightlife in their cities.

A panel of *Time Out* city editors, culture experts and nightlife specialists also voted on the final rankings.

Bengaluru scored particularly well, with 82% of local respondents saying it is easy to connect with people in the city. The city also received a 71% rating for the quality of its nightlife.

However, affordability emerged as a weaker area, with Bengaluru recording a cumulative 54% score for how affordable it is to go out at night.

According to *Time Out*, Bengaluru's nightlife is expanding beyond its traditional hotspots such as Indiranagar, M.G. Road and Koramangala. Neighbourhoods, including Ulsoor, Rajajinagar and Whitefield, are increasingly becoming part of the city's after-dark circuit, with newer establishments offering cocktails, jazz and intimate, music-focused experiences.

As per *Time Out*, Bengaluru's nightlife is expanding beyond hotspots such as Indiranagar, M.G. Road and Koramangala

The city continues to retain its longstanding nightlife favourites, with venues such as Pecos, Toit and Biere Club contributing to its established pub and craft-beer culture.

At the same time, newer venues such as Bar Double, Dali & Gala, Bar Cameo and Middle Room are adding variety to the scene.

Time Out also highlighted the growth of queer nightlife, pointing to spaces and events such as Dude Party, Kitty Ko and regular drag shows as contributing to a more diverse and inclusive after-dark culture.

Among Bengaluru's nightlife offerings, street life received the highest local backing at 55%, followed by casual bars at 50%. Bangkok topped the global ranking, followed by Berlin, New York City, Melbourne and São Paulo. Seoul was ranked 16th, immediately ahead of Bengaluru.

Pub city

Welcoming the recognition, Chethan Hegde, owner of 1522, said that Bengaluru's nightlife has evolved significantly, with several neighbourhoods now offering a range of options.

"I think the ranking is very apt, especially because Bengaluru is widely known as a pub city. The pub culture here is very strong, and almost every locality has become self-sufficient when it comes to nightlife. Bengaluru offers a diverse after-dark experience, with venues catering to different tastes and preferences," he said.

"We also have establishments that meet global standards, which is certainly something the city can be proud of. It is a feel-good recognition for Bengaluru, even though it may not have an immediate impact on business. I hope the government takes note of this and frames policies that support and encourage the city's vibrant nightlife culture," he added.

PM-KUSUM C: Where the sun keeps agricultural pumpsets running

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bright prospects: The PM-KUSUM C project at Chickballapur district. It is an initiative that solarises existing grid-connected agricultural waterpumps to provide farmers with reliable daytime electricity and zero power disruptions. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Narayan Swamy, a farmer from Nallimaradahalli, in Chickballapur district, has given his 40-acre farm land on lease to a private firm for establishing solar panels under PM-KUSUM C project.

This project provides power to agricultural pumpsets instead of relying on Bescom for power supply that gets disrupted owing to overload and other infrastructural issues.

The PM-KUSUM C project is a 'Government of India' initiative that solarises existing grid-connected agricultural pumpsets to provide farmers with reliable daytime electricity and zero power disruptions.

Once a mango orchard

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Narayan Swamy said: "Earlier, I cultivated mangoes along with other fruits on the farm. When the yield started reducing, I felt leasing it was the next best step instead of selling it to a real estate firm. While I get lease amount of ₹60,000 per acre for the next 25 years, thousands of farmers are benefitted from the power generated." As per Bescom officials, the Nallimaradahalli sub-station provides power to 3,000 farmers' pumpsets in surrounding 27 villages.

The Hindu visited some of the major project sites of PM-KUSUM C in Bengaluru Rural and Chickballapur region. While Nallimaradahalli 66 kV sub-station in Chickballapur has a capacity of generating 13 MW power, another project, Kundana, generates 3 MW covering 37 villages and powers pumpsets of 797 farmers. Similarly, the Devanahalli project generates 13 MW that covers 68 villages powering 2,811 pumpsets.

N. Shivashankar, MD, Bescom, said PM-KUSUM C allows farmers to use electricity drawn from solar power during the day without power interuption or voltage issues to supply borewell water to their fields. Drawing power from distant hydro or thermal power projects leads to overloading of transmission lines, resulting in frequent power cuts. Mr. Shivashankar said it required three-and-a-half acres of land to install solar panels to generate one MW.

"The minimum price fixed for one acre is ₹25,000, but if it is a private land, then farmers can negotiate as per the land rates of the particular region, proximity to the sub-stations and other factors," he said.

Providing the overall data, he said: "The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has sanctioned 2.62 lakh agricultural pumpsets for solarisation in Bescom, followed by an additional sanction for 60,000 agricultural pumpsets. Of these, Bescom has already executed Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) for projects with a total capacity of 1,159.1 MW, covering 2,79,043 agricultural pumpsets."

He said the project has been carried out in many government-owned lands, while urging gram panchayats to come forward in identifying such government lands within villages for the project. Similarly, the Kundan and Devanahalli projects are built on Hooganawadi lake, which falls under the Minor Irrigation Department. The private player, Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd. (MIEL), pays prescribed lease amount to the Irrigation Department.

Mr. Shivashankar explained that solar panels are installed at higher levels so that when it rains and the lake overflows, the water does not damage the panels.

Deemed forest land

In order to implement more PM-KUSUM C projects, Mr. Shivashankar also highlighted that Bescom is likely to use portions of deemed forest land in Chickballapur district for the benefit of farmers.

In figures

No. of projects	Capacity in MW	Agri pumpsets	IP sets
23	154.33	99	32,499
4	31.59	20	7,138
6	48.56	27	7,996
5	48.92	29	13,098
1	1.96	1	494
4	38.01	18	7,830
43	323.37	194	69,055

Total projects that will be completed before March 2027 in Bescom jurisdiction under PM-KUSUM C

Newcomers at IIMB look to move beyond comfort zones

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Class act: (From left) Ritika Kapoor, Kunal Jain, Reema Kumari, Abhimanyu Timbadia, and Ramanuja Desikan C.R.

The Masters of Business Management batch at Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore (IIMB) for the 2026-28 academic year has students from diverse backgrounds, who have challenged themselves in various ways to pursue a dream.

Overcoming challenges

Born in a small village in Bihar, Reema Kumari, 22, is visually challenged. She lost her vision in 2015 when she was 12. "We moved to Noida in Uttar Pradesh in search of better opportunities for studies and medical care. When I lost my vision completely, my family was clueless about the next step. Saksham, an NGO, helped me learn Braille and introduced me to screen reader software, using computer and phone independently. Later, I prepared for IPMAT and CAT," she said.

After clearing IPMAT, Ms. Kumari joined IIM-Rohtak for her BBA, an experience that shaped her early understanding of management. "In my third year, I appeared for CAT and secured admissions to IIMB," she said.

She hopes to gain a meaningful experience in the corporate sector, while also working towards creating opportunities and support systems for children facing similar challenges.

Asserting identity

Kunal Jain, who grew up in Bhagalpur, Bihar, is an openly queer person. He moved to pursue Bachelors in Statistics at Hindu College in Delhi. He observed that studying at Hindu College changed things for him.

> When I lost my vision completely, my family was clueless about the next step. Saksham, an NGO, helped me learn Braille
>
> **REEMA KUMARI**
> Student with visual impairment

"Firstly, I looked for people people like me who were doing well in the corporate world. But didn't find any. Secondly, I started expressing my identity louder. I felt lighter than I had in my life," he said.

After graduation, Kunal moved to Bengaluru to work in corporate companies. "I wanted a career in strategy and finance, in the rooms where decisions are made for a greater good and this is what brought me to study at IIMB," he said.

Reel inspiration

For Ritika Kapoor, the journey to IIMB began, not in a classroom, but on the film production sets. "My entrepreneurial challenge and journey began with independently producing an award-winning short film. Demanding timelines taught me to view every project as a business."

However, she was left with questions such as why talented teams performed differently under different leadership, and how organisations navigated uncertainty, and more. "This led me to join MBA and find answers to my questions through classroom debates, diverse perspectives from peers across industries and geographies. The programme is helping me move beyond experience-based intuition towards a more structured understanding of organisations and strategy," she said.

Major transition

Ramanuja Desikan C.R., also part of the new batch, left the comfort of a Central government job to pursue his passion. He was an Inspector of Customs at Chennai Customs till May, 2026, and resigned to pursue MBA at IIMB.

"The diversity of people and situations at Customs helped me appreciate the importance of empathy and authority. I learnt that effective administration is not merely about applying rules, but about understanding their impact on different stakeholders, while maintaining integrity and accountability," he said.

Significant shift

For Abhimanyu Timbadia too, the shift was significant, having studied BA Hons in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics and a postgraduate diploma in Computer Science. He graduated from Ashoka University as a gold medallist. "At Ashoka, I worked on post-quantum cryptography research with the DRDO. This combination of humanistic reasoning plus technical fluency shaped my career choices," he told *The Hindu*.

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COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
A Government of India Category-I, Miniratna Company, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

No. CSL/P&A/RECTT/CANSRU CONT/NOTIFICATION 11/SPO&PO/2026/2 Date: 14.08.2026

CSL AN SHIP REPAIR UNIT(CANSRU), SRI VIJAYA PURAM
REQUIRES SENIOR PROJECT OFFICER/ PROJECT OFFICER ON CONTRACT BASIS

Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), a listed premier Mini Ratna Schedule 'A' Company of Govt of India, invites **Online application** for Senior Project Officer/ Project Officer on Contract Basis for CSL AN Ship Repair Unit (CANSRU), Sri Vijaya Puram.

Sl. No.	Name of Posts	No. of Vacancies
1	Senior Project Officer (Safety)	1 Post (UR)
2	Project Officer (Safety)	1 Post (UR)

For more details on **Age, Reservation, Educational Qualification, Experience, Remuneration** etc., please read the vacancy notification on CSL website **www.cochinshipyard.in (Career page→CANSRU (ANDAMAN)). Last date of receipt of online application is 14.09.2026.**

"Hindi version of detailed advertisement is published on the website (www.cochinshipyard.in) of CSL."

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER (HR&LD)

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Drugs: Police step up drive near colleges, schools

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The East Division police, as part of the 'Beda Bro' and 'RISE' campaigns, conducted a special drive around educational institutions to prevent drug abuse among students and curb the sale of narcotic and prohibited substances.

Police teams checked 575 shops and commercial establishments located near educational institutions. During the drive, the police booked four drug cases, 232 petty cases and 282 cases under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003. As many as 305 suspicious persons were questioned, and 27 suspicious vehicles were seized. Four cases were registered under Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, SEP. 03		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:29
RISE	23:04	SET 11:26
FRIDAY, SEP. 04		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:28
RISE	00:00	SET 12:28
SATURDAY, SEP. 05		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:28
RISE	00:03	SET 13:32

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Mostly dry weather to occur. Mostly dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Six amendments allowed specific park land diversions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) Act, 1975, has previously been amended six times to permit the use or alienation of specific portions of government parks for identified public projects.

However, the new draft Bill introduced during the Monsoon Session seeks to allow a general diversion of park land.

The 1975 Act was originally enacted to protect government parks and gardens from being diverted for other uses, but Section 5 was included to provide for specific exemptions.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday said he would examine and discuss why the proposal to allow diversion of 5% of park land was introduced, and also review what the BJP and previous governments had done, and which lands had been allotted to whom in the past.

As per the documents, the earlier approach under Section 5 of the Parks Act was essentially exception-based: a specific parcel was identified, the extent was specified, and the purpose for which it could be used was mentioned in the law. The 2026 amendment adopts a different approach. It retains the existing Section 5 as sub-section (1), but proposes to insert a new sub-section allowing the State government, on the recommendation of a High-Level Committee, to alienate or permit the use of land or buildings in a park for specified public purposes up to 5% of the park's total area.

Previous permissions

Among the earlier permissions was the alienation of 1,223 sq. m. (0.30 acres) of the Indira Gandhi Musical Fountain Park near Raj Bhavan Road.

Alienation

The alienation was meant to facilitate road widening by the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. Another provision allowed 1,135.18 sq. metres (0.280 acres) of Lalbagh along its western boundary to the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. for the construction of an elevated metro station. Both amendments were enacted in 2008.

Section 5 also provided for the use of two specified portions of Cubbon Park, measuring 2,126.71 sq. metres (0.52 acres) and 11,160 sq. m. (2.75 acres), with their boundaries specifically identified in the legislation.

Another provision permitted 18,028.35 sq. m. (4.45 acres) between the High Court building and the old KGID building to be used for parking vehicles of High Court advocates and visitors. The provision further covered 49 acres and 34 guntas, approximately, comprising Vidhana Soudha, Vikasa Soudha, and other structures, allowing the land to be used for repairs and other works.

Among the earlier permissions was the alienation of 1,223 sq. m. (0.30 acres) of the Indira Gandhi Musical Fountain Park near Raj Bhavan Road. FILE PHOTO

BJP to launch 'save parks' campaign this weekend

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP has decided to launch "Save parks, Save Bengaluru" campaign under which protests would be held in all the major parks of Bengaluru on Saturday and Sunday against the Bill that seeks to allow alienation of 5% of spaces in parks.

Announcing this at a press conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok said the proposed protest would also comprise a signature campaign for the petition that would be submitted to the Governor seeking withdrawal of the Bill.

Referring to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's statement that the government would allow discussion on the issue, he said: "We do not need discussion; the Bill must be withdrawn."

He said the then Congress dispensation had brought a law allowing parks and playgrounds to be used for other purposes about 40 years ago.

"Following resistance from people, it was withdrawn. Now, the Congress is trying to impose a similar legislation," he alleged.

The 1975 Act was originally enacted to protect government parks and gardens from being diverted for other uses

Proposed BMR economic master plan targets 75% public transport share

The plan, a draft of which was presented to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, proposes expanding metro, suburban rail, and regional rapid transit system corridors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While the Karnataka government is moving ahead with big-ticket infrastructure projects for private transport for Bengaluru, a proposed economic master plan for the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region (BMR) has set an ambitious target of increasing the share of public transport from 35% to 75%.

The plan, a draft of which was presented to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday, proposes expanding metro, suburban rail, and regional rapid transit system (RRTS) corridors, besides building a second airport, strengthening ring, radial and chord roads, and developing multi-modal hubs.

2.5 million jobs

The transport proposal is part of a larger plan to take the BMR's economy from the current $149 billion to $400 billion by 2037, while creating up to 2.5 million jobs. Prepared by the Karnataka government with the ISEG Foundation, the plan identifies five areas that it expects to drive the region's growth – technology, high-tech manufacturing, healthcare and education, infrastructure and sustainability, and planned urbanisation and housing.

The BMR covers three districts and has around 16 million people.

It accounts for about 40% of Karnataka's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) despite having around a quarter of the State's population, while its per capita income is nearly twice the State average.

The plan proposes making BMR a major technology hub by developing dedicated IT and global capability centre (GCC) hubs, deep-tech sandboxes, and a dedicated AI mission.

It also proposes a high-tech manufacturing hub, with aerospace and Defence, among the priority sectors for the region. Healthcare, higher education, and high-end tourism have also been identified as areas for growth.

For urban development, it proposes planned cities, services-led business districts, integrated private townships, and transit-oriented development.

It also calls for affordable and shared rental housing for industrial, gig and service workers, besides a slum rehabilitation programme aimed at making the BMR slum-free.

The plan also proposes attracting private investment at scale and using increases in land value to help fund the region's development.

The recommendations will be discussed with the relevant departments before the plan is finalised.

The government is moving ahead with big-ticket infrastructure projects for private transport for Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

MSRIT welcomes freshers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Technology (MSRIT) welcomed a new batch of engineering students on Wednesday.

Scientist and Padma Shri awardee, Dr. Shubha V Iyengar said: "Everyone should realise that even the impossible can be achieved through hard work and dedication in life." She noted that students must take inspiration from campaigns like 'Make in India'. M.R. Seetharam, chairman, Gokula Education Foundation, also spoke.

कारा एवं सुधार सेवाएँ निरीक्षणालय
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–: आवश्यक सूचना :–
बिहार सरकार

राज्य की काराओं में संविदा के आधार पर चिकित्सकों (विशेषज्ञ एवं सामान्य) के नियोजन हेतु विज्ञापन प्रकाशित करते हुए अभ्यर्थियों से दिनांक–06.08.2026 से 20.08.2026 के मध्य आवेदन प्राप्त किया गया है।

2. उक्त विज्ञापन में अभ्यर्थियों के वॉक–इन–इन्टरव्यू की तिथि निम्नवत् निर्धारित की गयी है:–

क्र0	अभ्यर्थियों के नाम के प्रथम अक्षर के अनुसार समूह (Name Start With)	तिथि	अभ्युक्ति
1	2	3	4
1	A से F तक	08.09.2026	नाम के पहले सम्मान और आदर (Respect) प्रकट करने के लिए लगाये जाने वाले सामान्य, शैक्षणिक, धार्मिक और आध्यात्मिक उपाधियों (Title) यथा–Dr., Mr., Md. etc. के बाद आने वाला नाम का पहला अक्षर के अनुसार।
2	G से P तक	09.09.2026	
3	Q से Z तक	10.09.2026	

3. अपरिहार्य कारणवश अभ्यर्थियों के वॉक–इन–इन्टरव्यू की तिथि निम्नवत् संशोधित की जाती है:–

क्र0	अभ्यर्थियों के नाम के प्रथम अक्षर के अनुसार समूह (Name Start With)	तिथि	अभ्युक्ति
1	2	3	4
1	A से D तक	08.09.2026	नाम के पहले सम्मान और आदर (Respect) प्रकट करने के लिए लगाये जाने वाले सामान्य, शैक्षणिक, धार्मिक और आध्यात्मिक उपाधियों (Title) यथा–Dr., Mr., Md., Mohammad etc. के बाद आने वाला नाम का पहला अक्षर के अनुसार।
2	E से N तक	09.09.2026	
3	O से R तक	10.09.2026	
4	S से Z तक	11.09.2026	

4. उक्त विज्ञापन में वर्णित शेष तथ्य यथावत् रहेंगे।
उक्त सूचना **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
(Survey & Construction)
TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. NWR-SC-PGMS-HQ-2026-27, **Dated:** 31/08/2026, **Name of the Work:** "Providing Project General Management Services for various construction sites/sections for New Line, Doubling, Bypass Line, ROB/RUBs Projects being executed by Construction Organization in the jurisdiction of North Western Railway.". **Mode of Tender:** Open (Two Packet System), **Estimated Project Cost:** ₹ 5117971516.64 (Five Hundred Eleven Crore Seventy-Nine Lakh Seventy-One Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen Rupees and Sixty-Four Paise Only.), **Bid Security:** ₹ 102359500.00 (Ten Crore Twenty-Three Lakh Fifty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Rupees and Zero paisa only.), **Completion Period:** 60 (Sixty) Months, **Tender Closing Date and Time:** 07.10.2026 at 15.00 Hrs. **Website particulars where complete details of E-tender can be seen:** www.ireps.gov.in, **Note:** No manual tender/s will be accepted.

1271-PH/26

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the general public that our client, **Mr. GOVINDARAJAN J,** S/o Mr. A. Jothikumar, residing at Horamavu Agara, Bengaluru – 560043 is intending to purchase the immovable property described in the Schedule below from **Mr. P. D. PAUL,** S/o Mr. P. P. Devassey, residing at, Horamavu Agara, Bengaluru – 560043. Any person, bank, financial institution, authority, or legal heir having any right, title, interest, claim, objection, mortgage, lien, agreement, charge, or demand of any nature whatsoever in, over, or in respect of the Schedule Property, is hereby required to notify the undersigned in writing along with original documentary evidence in support of such claim/objection within **7 (seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing **Site No. 57 and Southern Portion of Site No. 56,** carved out of Converted Sy. No. 19/18, formed in the layout known as **"Balaji Layout"** (the land converted from Agricultural to Residential purposes by the Special District Commissioner vide Official Memorandum / Order No. ALN/E/SR/(KH)/110/2010-11 dated 23.11.2010), having **'B' Katha Sl. Nos. 1758 and 1601,** situated at **Nagareshwar Nagenahalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore** (now coming under the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike - BBMP), measuring East to West: **40 feet** & North to South: **39 feet** Total Area: **1560 sq. ft** and bounded on:
East by: Road, West by: Site Nos. 52 and 53, North by: Remaining portion of Site No. 56, South by: Site No. 58.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774
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-:: INVITING QUOTATIONS FOR SUPPLY OF LAPTOPS::-

The Project Director, District Urban Development Cell Koppal District is invites Quotations from reputed Dealers/ Distributors/ Suppliers for purchase and supplying of Laptops to beneficiaries under Chief Minister Amruth Nagarothana (Municipality) Scheme (Phase-4) in Urban Local Bodies of Koppal District (as per below Specifications). The filled quotation should reach this office by (07) days from the date of Publish to below mentioned address.

SI No	Description	Laptop specifications	Rate per one Laptop (Including all taxes and Name of Brand)
1.	Processor	X86 based processor Intel Core i5 12th Gen or AMD Ryzen 5 5000 Series or latest generation available with the OEM's, with min base clock frequency of 1.2 GHz, Hexa Core, 11 MB cache or higher.	
2.	Chipset	Compatible Chipset	
3.	Motherboard	OEM Motherboard with TPM 2.0 or higher	
4.	Display	14.0" HD, Anti-glare, LED backlight display or higher, non-touch	
5.	RAM	8 GB DDR4 or Higher expandable up to 16 GB	
6.	Hard Drive	512GB SSD or Higher (with Virtual partition of 1X256GB and 1X256GB)	
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8.	Laptop Casing	Strong hinges with PC/ABS Casing for longer durability and stability for good quality support structure	
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10.	Network Interface	Integrated Gigabit Ethernet (10/100/1000 Mbps)	
11.	Graphics controller	Integrated HD Graphics	
12.	Keyboard & Touch Pad	Keyboard with Touch Pad	
13.	Battery	Integrated Battery with Minimum 6 Hours Backup or Higher.	
14.	Webcam & Fingerprint	Integrated HD Webcam, Integrated Fingerprint Reader (Optional).	
15.	Security Features	Power-on password, Hard Disk password, Supervisor password, Lock Slot	
16.	Operating System and MS Office	Preloaded Microsoft Windows 11 pro 64 bit.	
17.	MS Office	MS office standard 2021 volume licence	
	Weight	Less than 2.0 Kg including battery	
18.	Certifications	For Laptop-Windows 11 FCC, Energy Star, BIS	
19.		For OEM: ISO 9001, ISO 14001 or latest	
20.	Accessories	With required accessories, connecting cables and AC Adaptor should be supplied.	
	Antivirus	Pre-Loaded with Latest version of Antivirus Symantec/MacAfee/eTrust/ Kaspersky/eScan/Trend Micro Microsoft Defender with 3 Years License	
	warrantee	3 Years onsite comprehensive warranty	

Address: Project Director District Urban Development Cell Deputy Commissioner Office Koppal District – 583 231

Sd/-Project Director,
District Urban Development Cell Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/322/KSMCA-2026-27

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, M NALINA, W/o ARUN PHILLIPS, Residing at #33/1, 3rd Main Road, S K Garden, Pulikeshinagar, Bangalore–560046, also known as NALINI PHILLIPS and REETA NALINI, declare that all the mentioned names refer to one and the same person and shall be known as M NALINA for all official, legal and other purposes.

I, NANDA Kishore Akshintala residing at D–201, Sumadhura Eden Garden, Doddabanahalli, Bengaluru–560067, have changed my minor daughter's name from Akshintala Medha Anantha to Medha Anantha Akshintala vide affidavit dated 31–Aug–2026 at Bengaluru.

I, NANDA Kishore Akshintala s/o late A. Nagabhushanam residing at D–201, Sumadhura Eden Garden, Next to Atal Bihari Botanical Gardens, Doddabanahalli, Kannamangala, Bengaluru–560067, have clarified my name structure as Nanda Kishore Akshintala for all purposes vide affidavit dated 31–Aug–2026 at Bengaluru.

I, MADHUSMITA Behera, D/o Jogender Behera, R/a #39, F Main, 6th Cross, BTM Layout, Bengaluru-560029 have changed my name to Ayesha vide affidavit dt: 02.09.2026 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan B'lore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE HONOURABLE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT HOSUR
O. S. No. 287/2024
In
I. A. No. 05/ 2026

Bushan Kumar, S/o. Late. Munisamy Chetty @ Periya Munisamy Chetty, Immidinayakanapalli Village and Post, Shoolagiri Taluk, Krishnagiri District. ...Plaintiff

/Versus/

15. Vijaya, W/o. Prabhakar, D/o. Late. Munisamy Chetty @ Periya Munisamy Chetty, aged about 70 years, residing at D. No. 49/56, 7th main, 20th Cross, N. S. Palaya, Bangalore South, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 076.
16. Mahesh, S/o. Prabhakar, aged about 50 years, residing at D. No. 21, Acharya Jewelery, Someshwara Layout, Someshwara Temple, Bilekahalli, Bangalore South, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560 076. ...15th & 16th Defendants

NOTICE

The above named Plaintiff has filed the Original Suit against you. The case is posted on 07.09.2026 for your appearance. You are here by directed to appearin person or through pleader on 07.09.2026 at 10-30 a.m. before the above Court failing which the above Suit will be allowed in your absence.

BY COURT ORDER
N. Sureka., M.L.,
Advocate for Plaintiff

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE II Additional District & sessions COURT, WEST GODAVARI DISTRICT, ELURU.
E.P.NO. 471/2025 IN O.S.No. 865/2015
(On the file of Hon'ble IX Additional Chief Judge, City civil Court, Hyderabad)

Between:
Parimi Subrhamanyam
..... DHR/Plaintiff.

And
Yelamanchili Venkateswara Rao
..... JDR / Defendant..

To
Judgment debtor.
Yelamanchili Venkateswara Rao
S/o. Y Narayana Rao,Plot No 1104, A- Block, NCC Meadows, Yalahanka New Town, Bengaluru - 560064

Take notice that the above numbered E. P. is filed against you for recovery of an amount of Rs. 41,03,161/- and costs, under Order 21 Rule 2 of C.P.C and to attach the E.P. Schedule properties under Order 21 Rule 62 to 66 of CPC and auction the schedule properties for relaization of the decretal amount. As you have evading to receive the notice, the Honourable Court has passed order to issued notice through Paper publication. The E.P. stands posted to 11-09-2026 for your notice. You have to attend before the Honourable Court in-person or through Advocate on 11-09-2026 at 10-30 A.M. before the Hon'ble Second Additional District and Sessions Court, Eluru. Else, the Honourable Court will pass orders in your absence.

(By the Order of The Honourable Court.) Eluru.
S. SARVESWARA RAO Advocate, Eluru.

SIR: Notices cite errors despite correct info; hearings from Sept. 5

Hearings to continue until Oct. 22, leaving Electoral Registration Officers less than 60 days to conclude cases of 43.81L voters

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

While the disposal of notices in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was supposed to begin on August 24 across Karnataka as per the EC's guidelines, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) in Bengaluru said they generated the notices only on August 28.

Once the process of generating a notice is initiated, it takes a week before a hearing can be held, with the first hearing possible only on the seventh day. In Bengaluru, therefore, hearings can begin only on September 5 – meaning 10 days have already been lost in a process that is already working against a tight deadline.

The hearings will continue until October 22, leaving EROs with less than 60 days to conclude cases involving 43.81 lakh voters across Karnataka. Over 24 lakh of these cases are concentrated in Bengaluru alone.

The tight timeline is also expected to create difficulties for voters in receiving the notices and preparing documents for the hearings. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) said they received the notices only on Tuesday, while distribution began on Wednesday. Given the volume of notices, they said distribution, in many cases, could continue until Friday – just a day before the hearings begin. "Some people may get enough time, like at least two days, but some may not even get a day. While September 5 was decided as it is a Saturday to cause less inconvenience to the public, this cannot be done each time," a BLO said.

The confusion seen during the enumeration phase, when several voters received calls asking them to collect enumeration forms and were unsure whether documents had to be submitted, appears to have persisted into the notice process. FILE PHOTO

Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbu Kumar, referring to the total number of notices, had said they would be served to voters with logical discrepancies or those whose details, or those of their family members, could not be mapped to the 2002 rolls. However, in several cases, voters who said they had provided the required details in their enumeration forms have also received notices, with the reasons cited not matching the details they had submitted.

For instance, in a notice accessed by *The Hindu*, a 71-year-old man from the Raichur constituency was issued a notice citing two reasons – that "the age gap between you and another progeny linked with the same parent is less than nine months" and that "the age difference between you and your parent, whose details are used to link you with the rolls prepared during the last SIR, is less than 15 years, that seems to be due to incorrect matching". However, the elector's first son is 40 years old – born on June 1, 1984, while another son was born on August 26, 1985 – a gap of more than 13 months. Moreover, if the elector's son is the person whose age creates that discrepancy, then the son should logically be the elector flagged for that particular discrepancy, not the father.

The confusion seen during the enumeration phase, when several voters received calls asking them to collect enumeration forms and were unsure whether documents had to be submitted, also appears to have persisted into the notice process. Several voters said that BLOs had collected documents from them, saying this would "fasten the process" or "reduce discrepancies". Some said they had received calls on Wednesday asking them to come to the polling station to collect their notices if they wanted them "on time".

In many other cases, voters said BLOs had already collected documents. The voters, however, said they were unclear about why the documents were being collected or whether they were even required to submit them at this stage.

As per the guidelines, BLOs cannot collect any documents. Documents can be sought during the hearing process.

After missing deadline, part of Pink Line likely to open this month

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After missing several deadlines, the 7.5-km Kalena Agrahara-Tavarekere stretch of Pink Line is ready for inauguration, with Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda expressing hope that the Centre will approve an inauguration date within September.

Speaking about the new addition to the city's metro network, Mr. Gowda said the stretch is ready to be opened for public use and will be inaugurated once the Government of India provides a date. "We are ready. As soon as the date is given by the Government of India, this stretch will be inaugurated and opened to people for commuting," he said on Wednesday.

Mr. Gowda had earlier stated that the inauguration would happen in August 2026. This was announced after his first high-level review meeting with senior officials of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), after he took over charge of the portfolio.

The Minister had noted that the elevated section of the Pink Line from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere was expected to become operational by August 15, 2026, and that the underground stretch from Tavarekere to Nagawara was slated for completion by March 2027. The Pink Line, a 21.3-km corridor connecting Kalena Agrahara in the south to Nagawara in the north, is a crucial component of the metro expansion. Of the total length, 13.8 km runs underground, linking key central areas such as Dairy Circle, M.G. Road, Shivajinagar and Tannery Road, while 7.5 km is elevated. The project has faced repeated delays, missing several deadlines and drawing criticism from commuters. Once operational, the corridor is expected to significantly improve north-south metro connectivity.

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya, along with Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and BMRCL officials, during a trial run of the Namma Metro Pink Line on Wednesday.

"A sufficient number of trains are presently available for commissioning the elevated stretch. The trains are currently undergoing the prescribed trials and testing and are required to complete the mandatory 750-km running before deployment for passenger services. Train operators are identified and their mandatory training is expected to be completed this week," Mr. Gowda said.

BMRCL is expecting approval from the Railway Board for the new rolling stock shortly. This will be followed by inspection and authorisation by the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety for opening the elevated section of the Pink Line for public service.

Juvenile held for posing as IAS officer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A juvenile has been apprehended for allegedly cheating gullible people by creating fake Facebook accounts in the names of senior IAS and IPS officers and seeking money from victims on various pretexts.

The case came to light after a person from another State was allegedly cheated through a fake Facebook account created using the name and photograph of Electronics City sub-division DCP Narayan. The accused reportedly sent friend requests to acquaintances and members of the public before approaching them for money.

Following a complaint at Hebbagodi police station, the police launched an investigation and traced the fraud network to Kotakurd village in Rajasthan. A juvenile allegedly involved in the racket was taken into custody after his parents were served notice on August 24.

During questioning, the juvenile reportedly told the police that he and his associates had created several fake Facebook accounts in the names of IAS and IPS officers. They allegedly used these accounts to gain the trust of victims and then demand money, citing various reasons. In some instances, the accused allegedly offered household and other items at low prices and collected money from victims. The police recovered ₹2 lakh in cash from the juvenile, suspected to be part of the proceeds of the fraud routed through mule bank accounts.

The juvenile was produced before the Juvenile Justice Board on August 25 and, subsequently, sent to an observation home.

Investment proposals worth ₹29,679 cr. cleared

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State High-Level Clearance Committee (SHLCC), chaired by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, on Wednesday approved nine new projects and eight proposals for additional investments, involving a total investment of ₹29,679 crore in the State's industrial sector. These investment proposals are expected to create an additional 66,360 jobs.

The proposals include investment of ₹2,194.94 crore by Vibrancy Renewable Energies, ₹2,300 crore by Mahindra Aerostructures, ₹1,104 crore by Aequs Consumer Products, ₹9,760 crore by Hero Future Energies, ₹1,500 crore by Epsilon, and ₹1,200 crore by Toyota Kirloskar.

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O & M Zone, Vidyuth Bhavana, BH Road, Shimoga - 577203
Ph: 08182-220445 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: SEE-SZ/SEE(O)/AEE(O)/JE(T)/2026-27/2849 Date: 01.09.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

MESCOM invites tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only from registered suppliers for **Printing and Supply of Stationaries & Registers required at various offices coming under the jurisdiction of O&M Shivamogga Zone.**
For detailed information and to participate in the tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal please access the tendering website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **05.09.2026**. Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Ele), O&M Zone, Shimoga
DIPR/DK/KSMCA/752/26-27
dt: 02.09.2026

For Power Related Complaints contact:
MESCOM Helpline: 1912
9483041912 mescom_official mescom_official

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-3:Tender-21:2026-27 Dated:- 02.09.2026
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following works through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.
Name of work :- Head of Account 4059-80-051-0-60-422 SCP:-
(1) Construction of C C road in the colonies of scheduled caste, nomadic, semi-nomadic koracha communites of arehalli village mattodu hobli in hosadurga taluk. (PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT41050) **Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:- 100.00**
Tender dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 09-09-2026 Time: 17.30
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 10-09-2026 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 11-09-2026 Time: 16.15
Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 15-09-2026 Time: 11.00
Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 91 9240214000 and 91 9240214001.
The tender details published in the KPP portal are Final.
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/306/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Chitradurga.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಸ್ತುಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ದೊಡ್ಡಕೆರೆ ಮೈದಾನ, ಇಂದಿರಾನಗರ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570010.
ದೂ: 0821–2523626, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: exhibitionauthority@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕವಪ್ರಾ/ಮುಕಾನಿ/ಗ್ಲೋ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.09.2026
ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ವಿಶ್ವ ವಿಖ್ಯಾತ ಮೈಸೂರು ದಸರಾ–2026ರ ವಸ್ತುಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಆಯೋಜನೆ ಮಾಡುವ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಬಾಬ್ತುಗಳು ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆಯಾಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ **12,53,00,000/–(18% ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ)** ಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.09.2026ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 04:00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಮೊಬೈಲ್: 8861437181 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **exibitionauthority@gmail.com.**
Ref. No.: KEA/2026-27/SE0052
ಸಹಿ/–
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಹಾಗೂ
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಸಿವಿಲ್)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಸ್ತುಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/MYS/644/SA/2026-27

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT PUDUCHERRY
T.O.P. No. 19 /2026
Union of India, Rep. by Chief Secretary
Government of Puducherry and Another ..... Petitioners
Vs
1. Mr. Ganesan S/o. Subramanian
2. Puducherry Municipal Services Private Limited Represented by its Managing Director
3. Reha Environ Private Limited (Formerly Kivar Environ Private Limited), Represented by its Managing Director. ..... Respondents

Notice to Respondents No. 2 & 3
Sir, please take notice that the Transfer of Original Petition in T.O.P. No. 19/ 2026 and the stay application in I.A. No. 3/2026 filed by the petitioners above named, on the file of the aforesaid Hon'ble Court stand posted on 10.09.2026 at 10.00 A.M for your appearance either in person or through your counsel and for objections, if any. Your failure to appear on the scheduled date and time would result in deciding the matter in your absence and on the merits of the case.
Sd/-
S. Sridhar B.A., LL.B.
Advocate/Government Pleader
No. 188, Sinna Subraya Pillai Street, Puducherry-1.
No.187/DIP/AD(PRESS)/ADVT/2026-27

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT PUDUCHERRY
T.O.P. No. 16 /2026
Union of India, Rep. by Chief Secretary
Government of Puducherry and Another ..... Petitioners
Vs
1. M/s. SKD Crane Service Earth Movers, Rep. by its proprietor Mr. Santhosh Kumar
2. Puducherry Municipal Services Private Limited Represented by its Managing Director
3. Reha Environ Private Limited (Formerly Kivar Environ Private Limited), Represented by its Managing Director. ..... Respondents

Notice to Respondents No. 2 & 3
Sir, please take notice that the Transfer of Original Petition in T.O.P. No. 16/2026 and the stay application in I.A. No. 2/2026 filed by the petitioners above named, on the file of the aforesaid Hon'ble Court stand posted on 10.09.2026 at 10.00 A.M for your appearance either in person or through your counsel and for objections, if any. Your failure to appear on the scheduled date and time would result in deciding the matter in your absence and on the merits of the case.
Sd/-
S. Sridhar B.A., LL.B.
Advocate/Government Pleader
No. 188, Sinna Subraya Pillai Street, Puducherry-1.
No.187/DIP/AD(PRESS)/ADVT/2026-27

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 14th August 2026
S.O. 4547 (E) – In exercise of the powers conferred under clause 37(A) of Section 2 of the Railways Act, 1989 (Act no. 24 of 1989), the Ministry of Railways, (South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment) Government of India, hereby notifies that the projects mentioned in the table below are "Special Railway Project" in the State of Andhra Pradesh for providing National Infrastructure for a Public Purpose with effect from the date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Village	Taluk	District
1.	Provision of additional loop line between Rd-03 and existing Pilgrim Siding, and Provision of 02 stabling lines on Pilgrim Siding side (03 stabling lines) at Sri Satya Sai Prasanthi Nilayam (SSPN) yard -under the Umbrella Work (PH-16).	Puttaparthi	Puttaparthi	Sri Satya Sai Prasanthi Nilayam

No. W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27/Land SRP/1727
For details log on: https://egazette.gov.in
Sd/-
Pardeep Puri,
Chief Engineer, Construction - III, Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/423/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT PUDUCHERRY
T.O.P. No. 20 /2026
Union of India, Rep. by Chief Secretary
Government of Puducherry and Another ..... Petitioners
Vs
1. Mr. Ashok Kumar S/o. Ramalingam
2. Puducherry Municipal Services Private Limited Represented by its Managing Director
3. Reha Environ Private Limited (Formerly Kivar Environ Private Limited), Represented by its Managing Director. ..... Respondents

Notice to Respondents No. 2 & 3
Sir, please take notice that the Transfer of Original Petition in T.O.P. No. 20/2026 and the stay application in I.A. No. 3/2026 filed by the petitioners above named, on the file of the aforesaid Hon'ble Court stand posted on 10.09.2026 at 10.00 A.M for your appearance either in person or through your counsel and for objections, if any. Your failure to appear on the scheduled date and time would result in deciding the matter in your absence and on the merits of the case.
Sd/-
S. Sridhar B.A., LL.B.
Advocate/Government Pleader
No. 188, Sinna Subraya Pillai Street, Puducherry-1.
No.187/DIP/AD(PRESS)/ADVT/2026-27

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT PUDUCHERRY
T.O.P. No. 18 /2026
Union of India, Rep. by Chief Secretary
Government of Puducherry and Another ..... Petitioners
Vs
1. M/s. DRA Earth Movers, Rep. by its proprietor Mr. Ashok Kumar
2. Puducherry Municipal Services Private Limited Represented by its Managing Director
3. Reha Environ Private Limited (Formerly Kivar Environ Private Limited), Represented by its Managing Director. ..... Respondents

Notice to Respondents No. 2 & 3
Sir, please take notice that the Transfer of Original Petition in T.O.P. No. 18/2026 and the stay application in I.A. No. 3/2026 filed by the petitioners above named, on the file of the aforesaid Hon'ble Court stand posted on 10.09.2026 at 10.00 A.M for your appearance either in person or through your counsel and for objections, if any. Your failure to appear on the scheduled date and time would result in deciding the matter in your absence and on the merits of the case.
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IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT PUDUCHERRY
T.O.P. No. 17 /2026
Union of India, Rep. by Chief Secretary
Government of Puducherry and Another ..... Petitioners
Vs
1. Tennies Prabhu S/o. Mr. Chandrasekaran
2. Puducherry Municipal Services Private Limited Represented by its Managing Director
3. Reha Environ Private Limited (Formerly Kivar Environ Private Limited), Represented by its Managing Director. ..... Respondents

Notice to Respondents No. 2 & 3
Sir, please take notice that the Transfer of Original Petition in T.O.P. No. 17/2026 and the stay application in I.A. No. 3/2026 filed by the petitioners above named, on the file of the aforesaid Hon'ble Court stand posted on 10.09.2026 at 10.00 A.M for your appearance either in person or through your counsel and for objections, if any. Your failure to appear on the scheduled date and time would result in deciding the matter in your absence and on the merits of the case.
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Advocate/Government Pleader
No. 188, Sinna Subraya Pillai Street, Puducherry-1.
No.187/DIP/AD(PRESS)/ADVT/2026-27

SC/ST quota medical seats in State see a sharp decline

This is a result of the Karnataka government reverting to the earlier reservation quantum for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, with cases against the increased reservation in recruitment being heard in the High Court

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

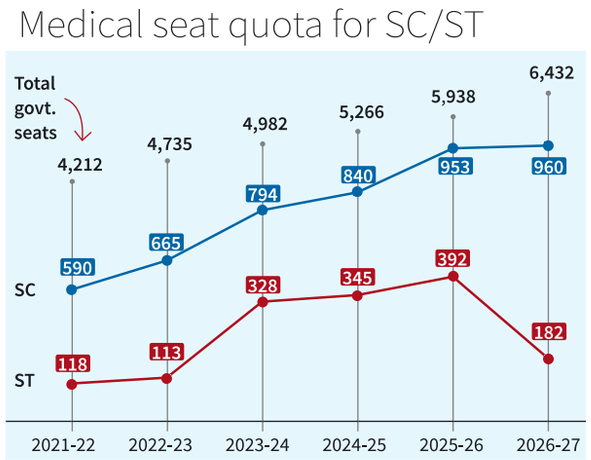
As Karnataka has reverted to the earlier reservation quantum for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, with cases against the increased reservation in recruitment being heard in the High Court of Karnataka, the number of medical seats for these communities has seen a decline.

As against 953 reserved seats for SCs and 392 for STs of the total 5,609 government seats in 2025-2026, the SC and ST reserved seats has come down to 906 and 182, respectively, of the total 6,045 in 2026-2027.

After the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 2022, came into effect, SC and ST students had 17% and 7% reservation, respectively, since the 2023-2024 academic year. However, with the High Court hearing the case pertaining to recruitment, the government reverted to the earlier 15% and 3% for SC and ST communities, respectively, from the 2026-2027 academic year.

The community estimates that with the reduction, STs are set to lose about 2,800 posts while SCs will lose about 1,400 in the ongoing recruitment, though the government has said that this number of posts will be kept in abeyance till the court ruling.

Medical seat quota for SC/ST



This follows a recent government decision to reduce the reservation after it started one of the largest recruitment drives with about 72,000 vacancies to be filled. In 2022, the then BJP government – based on recommendations from the H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission – had increased the SC reservation to 17% and the ST reservation to 7% based on their population. This led to an increase in the overall reservation to 56%, breaching the 50% cap set by the Supreme Court.

Acknowledging the decline, Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare T. Raghumurthy said that some people have miscalculated the total number of seats as against the available government seats. He said that of the total 15,495 seats across 75 medical colleges for the 2026-2027 academic year, 11,775 are allotted through counselling by the Karnataka Examinations Authority.

Devaraj T. Katur, president of Karnataka Rajya Nayakara Yuva Sene which is fighting against the reduction in quota, said that the reduced number of seats was an injustice to children from the community seeking higher education opportunities. "The State government, instead of blaming the BJP, should fight to retain the increased reservation. The 50% cap has been breached in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. Karnataka should also implement reservation for SC/ST according to their population," he said.

Govt. will wait for HC ruling, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare T. Raghumurthy said that the government will wait for the Karnataka High Court ruling on the matter. "We are hopeful of a judgment in favour of increased reservation and it is expected to come soon. Several other States have given reservation based on population of SCs and STs. It is a fundamental right," the Minister told *The Hindu*.

Former Chairperson of Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes Ravi Varma Kumar has been leading the legal efforts, he said, adding that there have been efforts from community leaders too in the legal battle.

Mr. Raghumurthy said that the Congress government has written to the Centre to include the enhanced reservation in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution, which would provide constitutional protection.

Asked what was causing the delay, he said, "We feel that the BJP is delaying the process."

Siddaramaiah backs campus Shudra Seva Sanghas to nurture new OBC leadership

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

With nearly 65% of the population below the age of 35 and the demographic dividend increasingly figuring in political discourse, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is backing the formation of Shudra Seva Sanghas in universities and colleges across Karnataka to draw young people from Other Backward Classes (OBCs) into public life and help develop a new generation of political leaders.

The initiative assumes significance against the backdrop of the growing visibility of Gen Z-led protests in the country and concerns within political parties over the declining participation of young people, in conventional politics.

Mr. Siddaramaiah recently inaugurated a Shudra Seva Sangha in Bengaluru, and attended the sangha meetings with the objective of involving students belonging to OBCs in social and political activities and nurturing leadership qualities among them.

According to the organisers, young graduates have been appointed as office-bearers at district and taluk levels to facilitate the formation of sanghas in colleges and universities across the State. B.R. Rame Gowda, chairman of *Shudra Shakti*, a newspaper, and Congress leader Muralidhar Halappa have been appointed president and convener, respectively, of the State-level Shudra Seva Sangha.

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurating Shudra Seva Sangha in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Halappa said Mr. Siddaramaiah had promised the organisation of his support for setting up sanghas and conducting activities across the State with the aim of creating leadership opportunities for youth from backward classes.

The organisation also seeks to challenge the dominance of established political families and money power in politics by creating an alternative leadership pool among young people from backward communities, he said.

Initially, the sanghas plan to take up issues directly affecting students, including hygiene and basic facilities in hostels, toilets, transport, sports infrastructure, issuance of caste and income certificates, admissions, and access to coaching for the IAS and KAS examinations.

The organisers also plan to hold awareness programmes, camps and discussions to encourage greater political and civic participation among students.

They believe young people are often discouraged from entering politics by parents and teachers, who tend to view political involvement as a distraction from education and a less stable career option.

At meetings with the organisers, Mr. Siddaramaiah is learnt to have emphasised that the youth should be treated as a demographic asset and not merely as an electoral constituency. The initiative could potentially help the Congress build a new generation of leaders while strengthening its social base ahead of the 2028 Assembly election.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No.: BDA/E.E.(E)/530/2026-27 Date: 02.09.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTICE

Short-Term Tender for electricity related works is invited by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT278. Tender Schedule is as below.

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **03.09.2026 (2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **09.09.2026, 17.00 Hrs. (3)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **10.09.2026 at 17.10 Hrs. (4)** Date of opening Financial Bid of Tender: **Refer e-proc.** Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Electrical Division of BDA during office hours.

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised/modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Electrical), Electrical Division, BDA, Bengaluru.

BJP seeks sacking of two Ministers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A recent letter to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar by Congress MLA Ashok Kumar Rai, accusing two engineers of Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited of collecting extra charges from contractors stating that it has to be given to the Dakshina Kannada district in-charge Minister and the department Minister, has now taken a serious turn with the BJP urging the Chief Minister to sack them.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok also urged the government to hand over the investigation to CBI.

In the letter, Mr. Rai has stated that an extra 7% of money is being collected from contractors in KRIDL, allegedly to be given to these Ministers and that contractors who questioned it are being threatened.

Mr. Ashok alleged that after the Congress came to power, officials were acting in an unruly manner.

"If ₹100 is released, only ₹30 worth of work is done. The remaining 70% goes as commission. When we made the allegation, they asked for documents. Now a Congress MLA himself has spoken about the commission," he said.

Congress slams FIR against Rahul, says BJP trying to stifle Opposition voices

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that the BJP was attempting to stifle Opposition voices, the Congress held a protest in Bengaluru on Wednesday against the FIR filed against Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in Uttarakhand.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said at the protest, "It is our duty to create awareness among the people the path in which the country is moving. We are living in a democracy, but pellets were fired during the youth protest and the Centre was unable to respond to questions. The Supreme Court had to intervene."

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad, and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during a protest in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah termed the FIR as a "grave injustice" and an insult to the Constitution. "Mr. Gandhi had questioned purification ritual held at the stage from which Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had addressed at Haldwani in Uttarakhand. There is no place for untouchability in the Constitution. What wrong has he done?" he asked.

Terming the FIR as a black spot in democracy, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president B.K. Hariprasad urged the Youth Congress and NSUI workers to stage protests in front of BJP offices and stage black flag protest to BJP leaders. "Constitution has to be protected. When we failed, the Gen Z stopped Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. If you don't do it, the country's future will not be secure," he said.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE III ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE (III ASCJ), BENGALURU RURAL, AT BENGALURU
OS No. 1805/2024

BETWEEN:
SMT. DEEPTI SINGH, D/O SRI. DEEWAN SINGH, AGED ABOUT 45 YEARS, R/O: RH-06, RAJNI ASISH APARTMENT, NO. 58/1, THUBARAHALLI, VARTHUR, BENGALURU- 560066 ....PLAINTIFF

AND:
SRI. BHUPENDRA SINGH CHAHAR, S/O SRI. LAXMAN SINGH CHAHAR, AGED ABOUT 43 YEARS, R/O: 37A/306C, DURGANAGAR, DAYAL BAGH, AGRA- 282005 ...DEFENDANT

NOTICE

Whereas the above-named Plaintiff has instituted the suit bearing O.S. No. 1805/2026 against you, Mr. Bhupendra Singh Chahar, S/o Sri. Laxman Singh Chahar, aged about 43 years, R/o: 37A/306C, Durganagar, Dayal Bagh, Agra- 282005 seeking declaration in respect of the schedule property.

And whereas summons issued to you through ordinary process and by Registered Post Acknowledgment Due have returned unserved, and this Hon'ble Court has, by order dated **19.08.2026,** been pleased to permit service of summons on you by way of paper publication under **Order V Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908;**

You are hereby required to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or through a duly instructed advocate on **12.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M.**, and to file your written statement, failing which the suit shall be heard and determined **ex parte** in your absence, and you shall have no further notice of these proceedings.

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residentially converted land bearing BBMP No. 684 (carved out of the clubbed property of vendor Nos. 1 and 2 both in survey No. 57), Ward No. 85, situated at Tuberahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring 1 Acre and 21 Guntas, and bounded by:

East by : Survey No. 56
West by : Survey No. 65/3 belonging to Vendor No. 1
North by : Survey No. 36
South by : Survey No. 58

The Schedule A property comprises of following two items:

Item No. 1:
All that piece and parcel of residentially converted land bearing portion of BBMP khata No. 694 (carved out of Survey No. 57), Ward No. 85, situated at Tuberahalli village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring 20 Guntas, and bounded by:

East by : Item No. 2
West by : Survey No. 65/3 belonging to Vendor No. 1
North by : Survey No. 37
South by : Survey No. 53

Item No. 2:
All that piece and parcel of residentially converted land bearing portion of BBMP khata No. 711 (carved out of Survey No. 57), Ward No. 85, situated at Tuberahalli village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring 1 Acre 1 Gunta, and bounded by:

East by : Land bearing Survey No. 56
West by : Item No. 1
North by : Survey No. 37
South by : Survey No. 53

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY
(property conveyed under this deed)
An undivided 1.48% share (equivalent to 968 square feet) in the land comprised in the Schedule A Property.

SCHEDULE C PROPERTY
(description of the row house constructed by the purchasers through the Developer under separate Construction Agreement)
A residential Row House bearing No. RH-06 in "Rajni Ashish Rose", constructed on the Schedule A property with a super built up area of 16225 square feet along with all the common proportionate rights in the common amenities and facilities in proportion to the undivided share conveyed hereunder.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court.

BY THE ORDER OF COURT
Deputy Registrar,
III Additional Senior Civil Judge,
Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru

Advocate: M/S Saaksha Legal,
M 04-05, Shree Complex, No. 73,
St. Johns Road, Bengaluru - 560 042

HC to examine Governor's appeal on power to suspend KPSC chief

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday issued notice to suspended KPSC chairperson Shivashankarappa S. Sahukar on an appeal by the Special Secretary to the Governor challenging a single judge's recent ruling that the Governor could not suspend the chairperson, even in urgent circumstances, without the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, and that post facto approval by the Council was invalid.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice K.S. Hemalekah adjourned further hearing till December 2.

The single judge erred by invalidating the July 10 suspension for lack of prior "aid and advice" from the Council of Ministers, it was contended in the appeal, while pointing out that the urgent action was justified as the chairperson's alleged failure to disclose his daughters' participation in KPSC recruitment had triggered public outrage, threatening the commission's credibility.

Relying on the doctrine of ratification, it has been pointed out in the appeal that the Council of Ministers formally approved the Governor's action of suspension on July 19. Citing a Supreme Court ruling, the appellant maintained that subsequent ratification validates the original action and dates back to its issuance, effectively curing any procedural infirmity as there was no conflict between the decision of the Governor and the Council of Ministers.

It has been pointed out in the appeal that allowing continuation of the single judge's interpretation would have dire consequences as it would "seriously impair the functioning" of constitutional bodies and "substantially dilute" the Governor's power under Article 317(2) of the Constitution to act decisively against the chairperson or members of State public service commissions when an institution's integrity is at stake.

The single judge on August 18 set aside the Governor's July 10 order of suspending Mr. Sahukar while giving liberty to the Governor to take a decision with the aid and advice of the Council of Minister.

Fresh order

Though the Governor had passed a fresh order suspending Mr. Sahukar after the single judge's order, the present appeal has been filed challenging the interpretation of law by the single judge in holding that the Governor cannot act independently under Article 317(2).

TAMIL NADU LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
IV Floor, Integrated Office Complex for Animal Husbandry & Fisheries Department,
571, Anna Salai, Saidapet Veterinary Polyclinic Campus, Nandanam P.O., Chennai - 35.**e-mail:** tnlda2016@gmail.com

e-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible tenderers online through https://tntenders.gov.in for the following item under "Two part System"

e-tender Ref. No	Name of the Item	Quantity (Nos.)
80/2026	Power-Driven Chaff cutters	3000
81/2026	Genset for Walk-in-Coolers	60
82/2026	Livestock Insurance Services for animals under Free Milch Cow Distribution Scheme and Vetri Magalir Goat Rearing Scheme.	1,60,000 Animals

Individual tender documents with full details can be downloaded at free of cost from **https://tntenders.gov.in** upto **05.10.2026, 11.00 am**
Last date for submission of tenders: **05.10.2026, 11.00 am**
Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on the above website.

DIPR/2751/TENDER/2026 **Chief Executive Officer**

Government of Odisha
Office of Special Relief Commissioner
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
No. 4797 / R&DM(DM), Dt. 02.09.2026

The Office of the Special Relief Commissioner, Government of Odisha, invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed, technically competent and experienced Agencies/ Firms/ System Integrators having proven experience in Early Warning Dissemination Systems, Public Warning Systems, Emergency Communication Systems, Mass Notification Systems and Disaster Management Communication Technologies for Selection Agency for Establishment, Upgradation, Integration, Operation and Maintenance of Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS) in the State.

- Detailed document with terms & conditions of EOI can be downloaded from **https://srcodisha.nic.in**
- **Last date for submission of EOI : 25th September, 2026 by 15:00 Hrs**
- **Mode of Submission of EoI :** Online via email : **srcodishagov@gmail.com/** Sealed hardcopy to the following address in Registered Post.

Address :
Office of the Special Relief Commissioner, Rajiv Bhawan, Unit-5, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pin-751001.

Sd/-
Special Relief Commissioner

24001/436/2627 OIPR-24001/24003/1/26-27/0003

The partnership will facilitate evidence-based psychological support, including psychometric assessments, psychotherapy, counselling and rehabilitative counselling for prisoners. THE HINDU

NIMHANS, prisons dept. sign MoU to strengthen inmates' mental healthcare

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Prisons and Correctional Services, Karnataka, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, to strengthen mental health support and research among incarcerated individuals.

Under the collaboration, a multidisciplinary team of mental health professionals from NIMHANS will conceptualise and implement programmes aimed at addressing psychological and mental health concerns among inmates. The initiatives are also expected to strengthen the research wing of the Central Prison in Bengaluru.

The partnership will facilitate evidence-based psychological support, including psychometric assessments, psychotherapy, counselling and rehabilitative counselling for prisoners. Specialised workshops will also be conducted to promote psychological well-being in correctional facilities.

The MoU seeks to raise awareness and conduct sensitisation programmes on mental health, along with periodic batch-wise psychosocial training focusing on suicide prevention and the perils of substance use.

The collaboration will also seek to strengthen existing Tele-MANAS services and facilitate communication and visits between inmates and their families to improve social support and family connectedness.

Another key component is facilitating authorised research by PhD scholars of NIMHANS, subject to institutional, ethical, legal and administrative requirements.

Agniveer involvement ruled out in military weapon theft

Military Intelligence has joined the investigation into the missing service weapons from 20 Madras Regiment premises in Secunderabad; probe being conducted from an undisclosed location

Naveen Kumar
HYDERABAD

The Malkajgiri Police have reportedly ruled out the involvement of Agniveers in the theft of service weapons and ammunition from the 20 Madras Regiment premises in Bollarum, Secunderabad Cantonment, even as the investigation continues under heightened secrecy inside the defence area.

Military Intelligence has also joined the investigation into the theft, with the probe being conducted from within the defence area at an undisclosed location to maintain confidentiality. Sources said even staff at the Bollarum Police Station were not aware of the status of the investigation or the details of the probe.

Missing gear: The stolen service weapons include four AK-203 assault rifles and six 9mm pistols. IMAGE FOR REPRESENTATION

The restrictions on sharing information come amid heightened security following the theft of four AK-203 assault rifles, an INSAS 1B1 rifle, six 9 mm Auto 1A pistols and a civilian 6.35-bore pistol from the Army premises. A passive night-vision binocular and more than 1,800 rounds of ammunition were also reported missing.

The discrepancy was detected around 7.50 a.m. on Monday when the Kote and Battalion Magazine was opened and the locks were found broken. The weapons and ammunition were last physically accounted for around 6 p.m. on August 30.

The Army subsequently reverified its weapon and ammunition holdings and accounting records, searched authorised storage areas and adjoining premises and checked issue and receipt registers.

ICF-Chennai gets order for 51 rakes for Bengaluru suburban rail project from K-RIDE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, for the manufacture and supply of 51 rakes comprising three-car trainsets.

The MoU was signed at ICF in Chennai on Tuesday in the presence of K-RIDE/Bi-RIDE Managing Director Lakshman Singh, and ICF General Manager Manish Agarwal.

The work order covers the design, manufacture, inspection, testing, and commissioning of the coaches.

The work order covers the design, manufacture, inspection, testing, and commissioning of the coaches.

It also includes obtaining statutory approvals from the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), system integration, and compliance with Reliability, Availability, Maintainability, and Safety (RAMS) requirements.

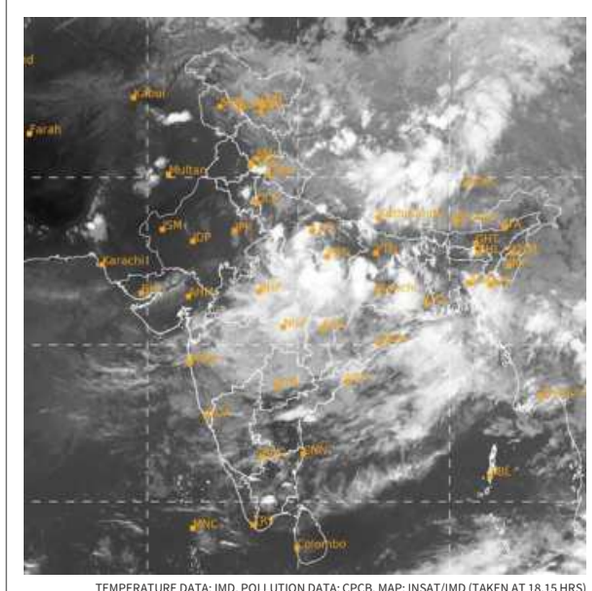
According to officials, the procurement of rolling stock is an important component of the project, which aims to establish an efficient suburban rail network connecting Bengaluru with surrounding areas.

Milestone

Mr. Singh said, "The MoU marked a significant milestone in the implementation of the project. The procurement of modern rolling stock would help strengthen efforts to establish a safe, reliable and sustainable suburban rail network."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



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

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Sub Himalayan West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.5	25.5
Ahmedabad	0.4	34.4	26.4
Aizawl	24.5	29.2	22.6
Bengaluru	—	30.4	20.7
Bhopal	—	27.6	23.2
Bhubaneswar	—	34.2	26.1
Chandigarh	—	34.7	25.9
Chennai	—	37.2	28.6
Coimbatore	—	34.0	22.6
Dehradun	7.6	29.9	22.8
Gangtok	19	20.3	18.3
Goa	10	31.4	24.3
Guwahati	6.6	32.5	25.3
Hubballi	—	28.0	21.0
Hyderabad	6	32.2	23.0
Imphal	3.8	26.9	21.4
Jaipur	—	34.8	26.8
Kochi	—	30.6	26.0
Kohima	3.8	26.0	18.6
Kolkata	27	32.0	26.5
Kozhikode	—	33.4	25.5
Kurnool	—	36.3	26.3
Lucknow	35	30.5	25.2
Madurai	—	39.5	27.1
Mangaluru	3	30.9	24.0
Mumbai	4.5	31.5	25.4
Mysuru	—	32.0	18.8
New Delhi	—	31.3	28.0
Patna	34.4	29.9	26.4
Port Blair	7.4	31.2	25.0
Prayagraj	47.1	29.0	26.4
Puducherry	—	36.4	27.8
Pune	—	30.0	22.8
Raipur	1.4	29.0	23.9
Ranchi	40	26.7	22.0
Shillong	9.2	22.0	18.0
Shimla	42.8	21.8	15.6
Srinagar	0.3	29.6	19.0
Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.0	24.5
Tiruchirappalli	—	40.1	27.6
Vijayawada	—	33.2	27.0
Visakhapatnam	—	33.8	28.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	23	36	20	81	101	
Bengaluru	23	17	58	115	132	
Chennai	6	14	52	46	61	
Delhi	25	43	49	67	146	
Hyderabad	11	17	26	79	77	
Kolkata	6	29	40	227	192	
Lucknow	7	17	50	32	30	
Mumbai	4	10	15	26	84	
Pune	10	18	75	28	54	
Visakhapatnam	—	—	—	—	—	—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Pali, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 157 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

KARNATAKA STATE BEVERAGES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
4th Floor, TTMC Building "A" Block, K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560027. Ph: 22483636/38/39
Fax: 22483645/22113106

No:HR-14013/2/2021 Date:02.09.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Limited has invited e-tender under Two Cover System for providing Security Guard services for a period of 1 year. Companies/agencies providing human resources services with an audited account for at least 03 financial years are eligible to participate in the e-tender through the Karnataka Government's e-procurement platform. The Interested companies/Agencies may participate by due registration in Karnataka Procurement Portal (KPPP) of the Government of Karnataka.
The Calendar of events is as follows:

Particulars	Date & Time
Issue of Tender Notification	Tender No: KSBCL/2026-27/SE0044 Dated: 28.08.2026
Pre-Bid Meeting	07.09.2026 at 11:30 am
Venue of Pre-Bid Meeting	KSBCL, Board Room, 4th Floor, TTMC "A" Block, BMTC Building, Shanthi Nagar, Bengaluru - 560027
Last date and time for submission of Bid	28.09.2026 at 5:30 pm
Opening of Technical Bid	30.09.2026 at 10:30 am
Opening of Financial Bid	03.10.2026 at 10:30 am onwards

For more details, visit the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
For Executive Director (Admin & Infra)
DIPR/CP/2562/CCL/2026-27

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount
	Office of the Chief Engineer (Design, QA & IT), 9th floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K G Road, Bangalore -09	
	IFT No. BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE(D)/TA/1305/2026-27	**Date: 01.09.2026**
1.	Work of Construction of Service Station Building at Nellurahalli Lake & Hoodi GLR coming under EE(E-1) Division, Bengaluru.	**Rs.1,82,11,995.31** / **Rs.2,73,200/-**
2.	Work of Construction of Sub Division office at Bellandur for AEE(E-1-3), Bengaluru.	**Rs.1,90,14,285/-** / **Rs.2,85,300/-**
3.	Work of Construction of Division office at R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru.	**Rs.1,62,79,622/-** / **Rs.2,44,194/-**

For all the above works last date & time for receipt of tenders: **16.09.2026 upto 16.00 hrs.**
Technical bids will be opened on **17.09.2026 at 16.00 hrs.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Design, QA & IT)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours
DIPR/CP/2570/MAA/2026-27

DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE
No.16C, Miller Tank Bed Area, Vasantha Nagara, Bengaluru - 560 052.
Telephone: 080-22535901/918/Helpline: 8277799990

Notification

No: MWD/D/HOSTEL AD/CR-05/2026-27 **Date: 31.08.2026**

Online applications are invited for the Post-metric hostels (Professional and Post Graduation courses only) of Minority Welfare Department.

Online Applications are invited for admission into Minority post-metric boys/girls hostels(Professional and Post graduation course students only) in the Minority Welfare Department for the year of 2026-27th from the students of minority community(Muslim, christian, jain, sikh, buddha and parsi students and belonging to other castes(Sc, St & other backward caste) of the Karnataka.

- Students are advised to apply online for this link **https://shp.karnataka.gov.in**
- **Online applications Start date is 03.09.2026 & Last date to apply online for Minority Post-metric hostels(Professional and Post graduation course students only) is 30.09.2026.**
- Student's family annual income should not exceed **Rs.2.50 Lakhs.**
- Districtwise and Taluk-wise Minority hostels details and eligibility for admission & documents to be submitted details Visit : **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**
- In case of technical difficulties while applying online application you can contact through **Email:directorgokdom@gmail.com OR visit Website: https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/2568/MAA/2026-27

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal)

Providing Electrical infrastructure to the regularized IP sets by extending 11 KV lines, Erection of 25 KVA Star 1 (4 Star) rated Distribution Transformers and Extension of LT line on Partial Turnkey basis (25 KVA Distribution Transformers will be supplied by BESCOM) under item wise fixed price contract on PERCENTAGE QUOTING BASIS.
Tenders No's for Others : **BESCOM/2025-2026/EL/WORK_INDENT 1022, 1032, 1033, & 1036/Call-3**
Time Schedule:(1) Availability of Bid documents :**03-09-2026 @ 17:00** Hrs onwards. (2) Last date for submission of Queries: **08-09-2026** before **17:00** Hrs. (3) Pre-Bid meeting: **10-09-2026 @ 11:00 Hrs.** (4) Pre-Bid meeting Venue: Office of Chief Engineer(Ele), O&M Zone, BESCOM, Turuvanur Road, Opp RTO Office, Chitradurga. (5) Last date for bid submission: **19-09-2026 @ 17:00** Hrs. (6) Opening of Technical Bids: **21-09-2026 @ 11:00 Hrs.**
The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the KPP portal from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ E-procurement Help Desk: Phone No: 9240214000 & 9240214001 E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com
Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on KPP portal. Bidders can take the assistance from the e-procurement during working hours.

For electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Ele)., O&M Zone, BESCOM, Chitradurga

District Urban Development Cell, Deputy Commissioner Office, Hassan District.
Telephone No: 08172-234839 Email:pdhassandudc@gmail.com
No:Mun(3)CR/78/(Part-1 to 4)/2026-27 Date: 02-09-2026

: TENDER NOTIFICATION :

The tender is invited in two cover system by using KW-3 & KC-4 standard document from eligible contractors and registered firms for different works to be carried out and service to be provided during Hassanamba Temple Jatra Mahothsava-2026. The detail of works and service to be carried is as below:- Sl.No.Indent No in KPPP portal 1.DMA/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT 62054 Description of Work PROVIDING LIGHTING ARRANGEMENT ALL AROUND HASSAN CITY INCLUDING TEMPLE AND MAGER CIRCLES OF HASSAN TOWN FOR HASANAMBA JATRA MAHOSTAVA 2026 Amount put to Tender (Excluding GST) (Rs.in Lakhs)83.05 2.DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT62055 Description of Work PRINTING AND SUPPLYAING DIFFERENT ITEMS AND OTHER WORKS FOR HASANAMBA JATRA MAHOSTAVA FOR THE YEAR 2026 Amount put to Tender (Excluding GST) (Rs.in Lakhs)71.92 3.DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT62056 Description of Work SUPPLAYING, INSTALLING AND MAINTENING OF MOBILE TOILETS FOR HASANAMBA JATRA MAHOSTAVA 2026 Amount put to Tender (Excluding GST) (Rs.in Lakhs)67.53 4.DMA/2026-27/SE8414 Description of Work APPOINTMENT OF CLEANING EMPLOYES FOR HASANAMBA JATRA MAHOSTAVA 2026 Amount put to Tender (Excluding GST) (Rs.in Lakhs)7.82 Interested contractors and Firms shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Contractors and Firms can download the tender documents from the E-Procurement platform (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Tenders shall be submitted electronically at www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in EMD and Tenders Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. The calendar of events & other information is as following:- Calendar of Events and other information Indent No in KPPP portal DMA/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT62054 Earnest Money Deposit Rs. 1.66 Lakhs Last Date for submitting of completed tender documents in KPPP-portal 19-09-2026 Opening date of Technical bid 21-09-2026 DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT62055 Earnest Money Deposit Rs. 1.43 Lakhs Last Date for submitting of completed tender documents in KPPP-portal 19-09-2026 Opening date of Technical bid 21-09-2026 DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT62056 Earnest Money Deposit Rs. 1.35 Lakhs Last Date for submitting of completed tender documents in KPPP-portal 19-09-2026 Opening date of Technical bid 21-09-2026 DMA/2026-27/SE8414 Earnest Money Deposit Rs.0.20 Lakhs Last Date for submitting of completed tender documents in KPPP-portal 19-09-2026 Opening date of Technical bid 21-09-2026 Any changes in the tender conditions and postponement of calendar of events (if any) is notified only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in any newspapers.

Sd/- Project Director,
District Urban Development Cell, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/458/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti - 584 115, Raichur Dist., Karnataka State. Ph: (08537)276339/275463
e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.19/26-27DT: 03.09.2026
(Through KPP Portal only)

Tender is invited by **"The I/c. Dy. General Manager (Materials)"** for the following Tenders as detailed below

Sl.No.	Description	EMD in Rs.
1	Procurement of Pneumatic operated Hopper loader. **HGML/2026-27/IND0548**	1,00,000/-
2	Procurement of Refilling Oxygen DA Medical Jumbo Medical Oxygen small Cylinders for Industrial Medical dept use. **HGML/2026-27/IND0481/CALL-2**	38,000/-
3	Procurement of Sports items for HGML Institute. **HGML/2026-27/IND0482/CALL-3**	25,000/-
4	Supply of guy wire. **HGML/2026-27/IND0543**	35,000/-
5	Supply of Conveyor Belt Rollers and Frames for UG crusher. **HGML/2026-27/IND0545**	70,000/-
6	Repair of Bituminous Road in HGML Hospital. **HGML/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT136/CALL-3**	25,500/-
7	Electrical Poles painting, tree branches clearance and concreting work in HGML Colony. **HGML/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT145/CALL-2**	13,000/-
8	Providing Manpower (10 persons) Unloading & Loading Works at Main Stores, Hutti Gold Mines. **HGML/2026-27/SE0095/CALL-2**	48,000/-
9	AMC for Computers and Printers. **HGML/2026-27/SE0102**	47,000/-
10	Procurement of MS Steel Items for General use. **HGML/2026-27/IND0540**	2,14,500/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Pre-Bid Meetings (Zoom): **09.09.2026 for Sl.No.10 at 11.00 A.M.** **(2)** Last date for receipt of tender: **19.09.2026 at 4.00 P.M. (3)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **21.09.2026 at 10.00 A.M.**
For further details interested bidders are advised to log on to website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in KPP portal.
Sd/- The I/c Deputy General Manager (Materials)

LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA

Orthodoxy redux

Religion is oft used as a tool to suppress women in the public sphere

Veteran Islamic cleric Kanthapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musliar's directive to restrict Muslim women's participation in public celebrations has unsettled Keralam because it strikes at a fundamental question: women's right to participate in public life. This is not merely a quarrel over how Muslims should mark Prophet Muhammad's 1,501st birth anniversary. It is a test of how far religious authority can intrude into the lives of women in a State that takes pride in its progressive social history. Kanthapuram says he is merely reminding followers of established religious norms. His supporters argue Milad celebrations have moved beyond mosques and madrasas into large public events, and that scholars have a duty to caution against such departures. That argument holds no weight. Communities have the right to preserve traditions and regulate religious practices, but they have to conform to the values enshrined in the Constitution. When women are told to remain at home because their presence could cause "chaos", the issue is no longer about religious observance; it is at variance with constitutional equality and Keralam's long struggle to expand the space in public life for women disadvantaged by social customs and religious traditions.

The Muslim community is not a monolith. It contains both orthodox and progressive currents. More Muslim women are breaking barriers in education, employment, politics and public life, but that progress is encountering a countercurrent of renewed orthodoxy and social control. The CPI(M), Keralam's main Opposition party and a decades-old ally of the Kanthapuram-led faction of Samastha Kerala Jamiyyathul Ulama, a body of Sunni scholars, has responded sharply. The Congress, which leads the ruling coalition, was largely guarded until Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan rubbished the decree as antediluvian. The Indian Union Muslim League's silence is harder to defend. A party with an active women's forum and a woman legislator for the first time in the State Assembly cannot equivocate when women's right to public participation is open to challenge. Its caution may reflect political pressure over Waqf, *Vande Mataram* and PM-SHRI, or an attempt to improve ties with the Kanthapuram faction amid strained relations with the rival Samastha faction. Whatever the political calculation, silence carries a cost. Religious freedom does not confer on religious authorities the right to regulate women's freedom of movement, association and degree of participation in society. During Onam, social media were awash with videos of young Muslim girls celebrating the harvest festival. Kanthapuram's remarks drew criticism from a section of Muslim women on social media. Keralam cannot claim to be progressive while making exceptions for orthodoxy.

Many layers

Farmers need more storage facilities and better distribution networks

Since the 1960s, India has developed a balancing-act habit: between keeping food prices affordably low for consumers and assuring farmers of remunerative prices, with the state's interventions focused on managing this volatility in the short term. This is also why the government banned onion exports from December 2023 to May 2024, then imposed a $550/tonne minimum export price and a 40% export duty, reduced the duty to 20% in September 2024, and finally abolished it in April 2025. But erratic weather together with the lack of long-term relief has rendered the act increasingly awkward. From farmers' point of view, the government often changes its mind after they have made important production-related decisions based on the expected price. On the other hand, during the bounteous *rabi* harvest, onion farmers in Maharashtra, the country's principal supplier, had argued that the Centre's procurement price of ₹12.35/kg would not cover the costs of cultivation. The Centre subsequently raised the price to up to ₹26.45/kg, but many farmers – including some who had had to sell at ₹1/kg earlier because of low quality and lack of storage, among other factors – were unable to capture the higher value, exposing the limits of intervening after prices have already collapsed and not reaching all farmers or grades of produce.

While the government has alluded to some price manipulation, the dominant issue remains that it keeps reacting instead of taking proactive measures, including improving storage options, maintaining a less erratic trade policy, moving stock more efficiently between regions, and protecting farmers against price shocks. The abnormal rainfall at the time of harvest and a 5%-7% drop in the *kharif* crop in Maharashtra, together with the well-known challenges associated with storing onions and maintaining large buffers, are simply among the pressures that highlighted the flaw this year. Further, Tamil Nadu's targeted subsidy, to buy 1,000 tonnes of onions to distribute 1 kg per ration card at ₹35, will impose pressures on the Centre to maintain a steady supply. The move is commendably designed to discourage hoarding while allowing private retail prices to cool down. However, the State must also guard against the pitfalls of distributing onions through a dry-grain PDS network – its economic case could collapse if post-harvest losses, to which onion is more susceptible than, say, wheat or rice, exceed 10%-15% – and if the need arises to persist with the subsidy. Finally, if other States also adopt similar measures, the Central buffer could be quickly exhausted, more so given this year's high storage losses of around 30%.

'Early Harvest' — larger but not necessarily safer

Ashok K. Kantha

Former Ambassador of India to China; Subhas Chandra Bose Chair Professor of International Relations at Chanakya University, Bengaluru, and the lead Indian negotiator for the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Boundary Settlement (2005)

On August 25, 2026, in Beijing, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi held the 25th round of talks between the Special Representatives (SRs) on the India-China boundary question. That evening's readouts from both sides were anodyne and notably avoided a phrase that has dominated this discussion for a year: early harvest. A day later, the two sides released an "Eight Points of Outcomes and Consensus". Point 3 restored and enhanced the phrase: the Expert Group on Boundary Delimitation and the Working Group on Border Management, set up under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) a year ago, would "respectively advance discussions on an Early and Substantial Harvest of boundary delimitation and Border Management". Their first task, it adds, is to agree on their own terms of reference, one year after they were constituted, suggesting that whatever is being contemplated remains at an early stage

An uncertain Early Harvest

The phrase "Early and Substantial Harvest" is significant because it is India's own coinage. When Beijing first proposed settling the Sikkim Sector alone, India's considered response, around 2019, was a counter-proposal on an "Early and Substantial Harvest" covering the Sikkim Sector together with the entire Middle Sector, with the boundary delineated along the watershed. China rejected the proposal. In subsequent discussions on an "Early Harvest," China reportedly agreed only to include the Sikkim Sector and some undisputed areas of the Middle Sector – a proposal that was unacceptable to India.

The exact Indian formulation has now resurfaced in a joint document. This could mean that Beijing has accepted India's terms – which this writer doubts – as that would involve China giving up its claim to approximately 2,450 square kilometres of territory in the Middle Sector, all south of the watershed boundary (Barahoti, Giu-Kaurik, Nilang-Jadhang, Sangcha Malla, and Lapthal). It could equally mean something the Indian side had rejected earlier: an "agreement with holes", a settlement nominally covering both sectors but confined to stretches where the claims already coincide, leaving the trijunctions and contested pockets of the Middle Sector undefined.

If that is the case, we will have the same asymmetric outcome as with a Sikkim-only settlement – India conceding ground where its position is strong, without any progress in the Eastern and Western Sectors, where China maintains its hardline position, "dong tiao xi rang", meaning "meaningful adjustments by India in the East and corresponding concessions by China in the West". It would also jettison a key provision (Article III) of the 2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary, which calls for a "package settlement ...covering all sectors of the India-China boundary", opting instead to bank the easy gains immediately while leaving the hard issues open on China's terms. The package clause exists precisely because the boundary's four sectors are strategically interlinked, requiring cross-sector give and take.

India-China boundary talks suggest movement, but hard questions remain over strategic costs and concessions

No open-and-shut case

The Sikkim Sector is also not the open-and-shut case that some suggest. The two sides agree that the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1890 is the "basis of the alignment" of the boundary in this sector. However, Article I of the Convention contains two stipulations that are mutually contradictory. Its first sentence makes the watershed crest the boundary, while its second names Mount Gipmochi as the starting point on the Bhutan frontier. Yet, British Indian maps of 1907 and 1913 placed the trijunction not at Gipmochi but roughly 6.5 kilometres to its north, on the true watershed crest. India and Bhutan read the watershed principle as controlling and place the trijunction at Batang La; China seizes on the literal reference to Gipmochi to push the trijunction southwards, onto the Jampheri Ridge. A Sikkim delimitation built on the 1890 text, unless it repudiates Gipmochi, would be read by Beijing as conceding the southern trijunction.

Even a trijunction-reserved settlement would strip India of the standing to counsel Bhutan against a bilateral deal, having itself settled out of turn nearby. China's "package proposal" to Bhutan – relinquishing roughly 495 sq km of claims in the north in exchange for Bhutan ceding about 269 sq km in the northwest, including the Doklam Plateau – would gain fresh momentum, deepening China's presence in the Chumbi Valley and opening a path to the Jampheri Ridge, from which the entire Siliguri Corridor, India's sole overland link to its northeastern States, would come under direct observation. This is not hypothetical: since the 2017 Doklam standoff, China has spent years building roads, villages, and military facilities across western Bhutan, gaining de facto control over Doklam.

A genuine "Early and Substantial Harvest" requires three things. First, delineation must proceed on the highest-watershed principle across the entire stretch in both sectors, rather than selectively along segments where the two positions already converge, which would serve no purpose for India. Second, trijunction points, at Batang La and any comparable third-country-adjacent points in the Middle Sector, must be explicitly excluded from the Expert Group's mandate and settled only in consultation with the country concerned, as stipulated in the 2012 Common Understanding between the two SRs. However, unless the highest-watershed principle is accepted, silence on the trijunction will, on the ground, be filled in Beijing's favour in Bhutan. Third, the terms of reference for the Expert Group must extend India's 2019 proposal in good faith, rather than dilute it beyond recognition.

Several questions about these negotiations remain unanswered. The Chinese readout of August 25 reiterates a commitment to a "package" settlement, but how will that commitment be reconciled with a piecemeal approach to settlement? How is the setting up of an Expert Group on Delimitation consistent with the instructions given to the SRs in Article X of the 2005 Agreement, which require them to "continue consultations in an earnest manner with the objective of arriving at an agreed framework for a boundary settlement, which will provide the basis for the delineation and demarcation of the India-China boundary to be subsequently undertaken by civil and military officials and surveyors of the two sides"? There is no agreed framework yet, but it is proposed to commence the process of "delimitation", a term that the Chinese use interchangeably with "demarcation". Indeed, the 2005 Agreement does not use the term "delimitation" at all. Will the SRs earnestly pursue negotiations on the "agreed framework", or will they, in effect, leave it in abeyance while officials grapple with a partial delimitation exercise without such a framework? The other elements of the Eight Points – additional meeting points and hotlines for the General Level Mechanisms in the Eastern and Middle Sectors, continued pilgrimage and border trade, and a September meeting on trans-border rivers – are useful, incremental confidence-building measures. But they belong to a different track from boundary settlement and should not be conflated in public discussion.

The Eight Points are silent on the Medog County project on the Yarlung Tsangpo River, while referring to both sides agreeing to "maintain communication on (trans-border river) issues, including hydrological data sharing and renewal of the relevant MoUs", without reporting any progress. The September meeting should convey India's concerns about the project – the world's largest hydropower plant – being built close to the border in the Eastern Sector, in a highly earthquake-prone zone, a risk underscored by the flash floods in Nepal on August 26.

Avoid optics

Two points bear reiteration. First, the 2005 agreement – the only substantive outcome of 23 years of SR talks – must not be diluted; China has sought to reinterpret and undermine it since its conclusion. Second, Indian negotiators must guard against the temptation to project contrived progress. Diplomacy that trades long-term strategic interests for short-term optics is self-defeating.

Reducing India's exposure to U.S. tariff risks

Himanshu Jaiswal

Consultant at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi

The U.S. Senate recently passed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, imposing sanctions and authorising additional tariffs and other restrictions related to Russia. Most concerning is a provision authorising tariffs of up to 100% on countries among the five largest importers of Russian crude oil or natural gas if they knowingly make new purchases after enactment. Though it still awaits House approval, enactment could have serious implications for India's economic interests.

The Russian oil dilemma

India has diversified its energy supplies in recent years to reduce its crude import bill and gain strategic advantage amid global uncertainty, driving a sharp rise in Russian crude imports. Before the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Russian crude accounted for just 2% of India's imports; it is now roughly half.

In 2026 alone, imports nearly doubled from 4.54 MMT in January to 8.96 MMT in May. While the strategy has helped secure supplies, it carries diplomatic costs, particularly in managing ties with the United States, which seeks to strongly discourage these imports. The U.S. Russia Sanctions Act reflects this pressure.

The Lindsey O. Graham Act puts India under pressure, but export diversification and domestic reforms can cushion shocks

On July 24, before the bill's introduction, the U.S. imposed forced-labour tariffs on 60 countries, including India, under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, imposing an additional 10% tariff, a replacement of the expired 10% duty under Section 122, on India. If the Russia Sanctions Act becomes law, India's cumulative tariff could reach 110%, making it one of the most heavily tariffed countries. Such high tariffs could affect India's price competitiveness in the U.S., a major export market, leading to economic losses. China's cumulative tariff could reach 112.5%, as both countries are major importers of Russian crude.

Trade simulations and results

To analyse the trade dynamics and possible way forward for India, two global trade simulations were conducted using the GTAP dataset and model, a global general equilibrium model that captures global linkages and country-level shocks. The first (sanction scenario) models a 110% U.S. tariff on India, with other countries facing forced-labour tariffs and China facing 112.5%. The second (diversification scenario) applies the same tariffs while India pursues export diversification, proxied by a full India-European Union free trade agreement (FTA).

The simulation results suggest that the proposed U.S. sanctions could have adverse consequences for the Indian economy. Under the sanction scenario, India's welfare declines by nearly $47 billion, while GDP, output, domestic demand, exports, and imports all contract. Aggregate exports fall by 5.1% and imports by 5.2%, reflecting disrupted trade flows and weaker economic activity. The results indicate that a prolonged tariff-based confrontation with the U.S. could impose substantial costs on India's growth and trade performance.

The picture changes considerably when India responds through export diversification. With a functional India-EU FTA, the economy turns around despite the same tariff environment. Welfare improves by $26.3 billion, GDP turns positive, and sectoral output and domestic demand recover by around 1%. Aggregate exports increase by 3.1%, while imports rise by a moderate 2.6%, indicating stronger production and trade integration with alternative markets.

The findings suggest that even if India continues procuring crude from Russia to strengthen its energy security, the adverse economic effects of U.S. tariffs can be mitigated to a large extent through export diversification. The India-EU FTA, used here as a proxy for diversification, demonstrates that India must increasingly look beyond the U.S. and expand its presence in alternative markets, even as the U.S. remains one of its largest export destinations.

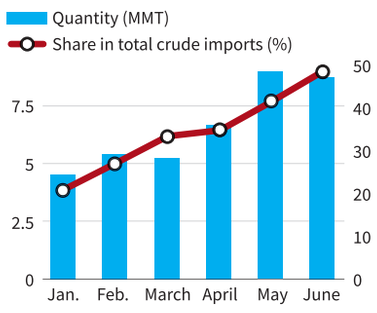
The strategy to pursue

However, diversification is not a panacea. It depends on the ability of other markets to absorb additional Indian exports. Without adequate external demand, diversification may remain limited.

Therefore, export diversification must be complemented by sustained domestic reforms, including trade facilitation, removal of non-tariff barriers, improved logistics and standards, and movement up the goods quality ladder. Such a strategy would not only enhance India's resilience to future geopolitical shocks but also strengthen its long-term export competitiveness.

The views expressed are personal

India's crude import from Russia



Source: Department of Commerce, Govt. of India

Impact of tariffs and export diversification

	Sanction scenario	Diversification scenario
Welfare ($ billion)	-46.6	26.3
Change in GDP (%)	-0.02	0.01
Sectoral output (%)	-1.9	1.2
Domestic demand (%)	-1.8	1
Aggregate export (%)	-5.1	3.1
Aggregate import (%)	-5.2	2.6

Source: Writer's analysis using GTAP

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The north-south lens

The main article (Editorial page, September 2) risks turning a complex federal question into a simplistic north-versus-south narrative. India's political influence has never been determined by geography alone; it reflects population, electoral mandates, governance, economic contribution and the ability of States to build national coalitions. The southern States continue to exercise considerable political, economic and institutional influence, while several leaders from the region have shaped national policy. Portraying elected southern governments as "supplicant" or "submissive" is subjective and needlessly polarising. Delimitation deserves rigorous constitutional debate, but framing it primarily as northern domination may deepen regional divisions rather than strengthen India's federal compact.

Venkat Parthasarathy,
Hyderabad

Austerity call

The call to citizens of the country to avoid unnecessary foreign travel and destination weddings abroad to conserve foreign exchange would carry greater weight if accompanied by restraint from those at the top. Overseas travel by national leaders may often be necessary in the public interest, but when citizens are asked to limit their foreign expenditure, similar prudence from those in positions of authority would strengthen the message. Leadership is not only about asking citizens to sacrifice, but also about setting an example.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

Football's great artist

Legend Lionel Messi's retirement from international football marks the end of one of modern sport's most extraordinary chapters. For two decades, he transformed football into an art form, carrying Argentina's expectations through years of heartbreak and criticism. He leaves the international stage not only as a statistical giant, but also as a symbol of humility, grace and vision.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

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

River-linking is not the solution

T. Ramakrishnan

The Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah's speech at the Southern Zonal Council's meeting last month in Mamallapuram has provided a few takeaways on the contentious issue of water sharing. His emphasis on the need for an early resolution of water-related issues in the southern region appears well meaning but it is easier said than done. He had also talked about linking major rivers from the Brahmaputra to the Godavari and the Cauvery, an option that, according to Mr. Shah, can ensure that India faces no water shortage for 100 years.

However, water issues are not that easy to solve. This is evident from the Centre's response to Tamil Nadu's demand for the constitution of a tribunal to adjudicate the Pennaiyar river water dispute. Aggrieved over the "violation" of the 1892 inter-State agreement by Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, in November 2019, requested the Centre to establish a tribunal. It had also moved the Supreme Court with the same demand. Since then, two negotiation committees have been formed and 11 meetings held. Eventually, the top court, this February, directed the Centre to form the tribunal within a month and, later, extended the deadline by six months.

Still, the adjudicatory body is yet to be put in place. Meanwhile, the Centre asked the court whether the Pennaiyar dispute could be referred to the Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal instead of constituting a new tribunal. This suggestion defies logic as there is nothing in common between the two disputes. Moreover, the Interstate River Water Disputes Act, 1956 does not permit it. This suggestion in the Pennaiyar case gives the impression that the Centre is not keen on expeditiously implementing a judicial verdict in an inter-State river dispute. To cite one more example, the Central government has not yet replied to Tamil Nadu's demand, in March this year, to constitute a tribunal on the Mekedatu dam project proposed by Karnataka.

A complex problem

Given this background, one need not delve much into the complications that would entail by the inter-linking of rivers. Proponents of river linking, including Tamil Nadu, have been saying that the idea is not to disturb the natural flow of any river but to divert a portion of the surplus water. Many experts are not convinced about this argument as they are worried that once the linking is allowed, regions that benefit may become vociferous in demanding water even in times of distress, eventually depriving original beneficiaries of their quota. This is apart from the concerns over the possible adverse consequences on ecology. In fact, Keralam has been stoutly opposing the Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link proposal, which, if implemented, the State says, will affect the Vembanad wetland system, where the Pamba and Achankovil rivers drain. However, the National Water Development Agency says that it has accounted for improving the flow of rivers in lean periods.

In the last 130-odd years, the country has seen only a handful of inter-basin transfer projects, most of which are in south India. The Mullaperiyar dam, the Parambikulam-Aliyar project, the Krishna Water Supply Project, and the Indira Gandhi Canal Project are regarded as successful examples of inter-basin transfer of river waters.

After the Bharatiya Janata Party's return to power in 2014, the Union government formed a Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers, which has held over two dozen meetings since then. Needless to say, there has not been much headway.

However, in 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the ₹44,000 crore Ken-Betwa Link Project. This has now led to agitations by the tribal populations in Chhatarpur.

What the governments, both at the Centre and in States, and civil society should focus on is demand side management, instead of perpetually looking for supply side interventions. With land becoming scarcely available and resistance growing among people when it comes to land acquisition, the days of implementing mega irrigation projects are almost over. The priority has to be towards conserving what is available and using it judiciously. A massive programme of sensitising and incentivising farmers on the optimal use of water has to be launched. Indiscriminate extraction of groundwater, facilitated by schemes of free electricity for agriculture in many States, is paving the way for ecological disaster and has to be curbed immediately. Unless water conservation becomes the mantra of all the stakeholders and is practised genuinely, disputes will be the norm.

In the last 130-odd years, the country has seen only a handful of inter-basin transfer projects, most of which are in south India

ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in

Mental health must anchor public health

Indu Bhushan

Founding CEO of India's National Health Authority and Ayushman Bharat

Anisha Padukone

CEO of The Live Love Laugh Foundation

India stands at a defining moment in its journey towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Under the Healthcare for All pillar, the government has rightly prioritised strengthening Ayushman Bharat, expanding primary healthcare, reducing out-of-pocket expenditure, and promoting preventive care. Yet there is one element that cuts across all these ambitions and determines their success: mental health.

Mental health is not a niche concern. It influences educational attainment, workforce participation, social cohesion, and physical health outcomes. A healthier and more productive India cannot be built without placing mental well-being at the centre of public health.

Major implications

The scale of the challenge is substantial. Mental illness affects one in seven Indians, with nearly 200 million people living with a diagnosable mental health condition. The contribution of mental disorders to India's total disease burden has doubled over the past three decades. Yet the national treatment gap remains 84.5%, meaning that more than four out of five people who need care do not receive it. The reasons are well known. India has only 0.3 psychiatrists per 1,00,000 population, alongside significant shortages in clinical psychologists, psychiatric social workers, and psychiatric nurses. These shortages are the result of decades during which mental health received insufficient attention, both in India and globally.

Mental disorders significantly increase the risk of chronic diseases, while chronic diseases in turn increase the risk of mental illness. More than 60% of people attending primary care facilities have a diagnosable mental disorder. Rates of anxiety and depression are substantially higher among people living with diabetes, hypertension, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. Ignoring mental health, therefore, undermines efforts to control non-communicable diseases and reduce healthcare expenditure.

The economic implications are equally compelling. A 2025 modelling study by researchers from PGIMER and NIMHANS estimated that integrating universal depression screening into India's primary healthcare system could generate net savings of ₹291 billion to ₹482 billion annually, equivalent to as much as 0.32% of GDP. Mental health is not a social welfare issue alone – it is also a human capital investment and an economic growth strategy.

The encouraging news is that India has already built many of the foundations required for transformation. More than 1.73 lakh sub-centres and primary health centres have been converted into Ayushman Bharat Arogya Mandirs, with mental healthcare included among the essential service packages. The District Mental Health Programme now covers more than 90% of districts. Tele-MANAS, launched in 2022, has expanded across all States and Union Territories.

Three main priorities

The task now is not to start from scratch. It is to build on this foundation at scale.

First, one must empower frontline health workers to become the backbone of community mental healthcare. India's one million ASHA workers represent the world's largest community health workforce. Evidence from Madhya Pradesh and other States demonstrates that, with appropriate training and supervision, ASHAs can successfully identify, support, and refer individuals with common mental disorders. Expanding this model through validated screening tools, digital learning platforms, and performance-linked incentives could expand access to care.

Second, India must invest more systematically in community-based care. Models such as Zimbabwe's Friendship Bench, Atmiyata in India, and programmes implemented by The Live Love Laugh Foundation demonstrate that trained community workers can bridge the gap between awareness and treatment, particularly in rural and underserved populations. These approaches improve access and reduce costs, and deserve wider adoption and funding. Third, the country must fully realise the promise of financial protection. Extending outpatient mental health benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and strengthening the implementation of insurance parity as per the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, would make mental healthcare affordable for millions who currently go without care.

If India is to become a truly developed nation by 2047, mental health must move from the margins of public policy to its centre.

If India is to become a truly developed nation by 2047, mental health must move from the margins of public policy to its centre

Decoding Russia's reliance on Indian petroleum products

Ukraine's recent relentless attacks on Russia's oil refineries has led the country to rely on India for petroleum imports

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis

Recent Ukrainian attacks on Russia's oil refineries has resulted in the latter importing refined petroleum products from India in significant quantities for the first time, at least since the Russia-Ukraine war started in February 2022.

As per multiple media reports, including one by the *Press Trust of India*, Indian refiners sent about one million barrels over the last two months, alongside Turkey and Morocco. Russia's import of petroleum products from India has remained negligible in the past, accounting for less than one per cent of India's petroleum exports. The bulk of exports went to countries like the Netherlands, Australia and the UAE **(Chart 1)**.

Though the Indian government's export and import-related data for the last two months is yet to be released, reports have confirmed that the country's export of refined petroleum products to Russia has sharply increased in the last two months. This has tilted the huge imbalance that existed between the two countries in oil trade, albeit marginally. India continues to remain hugely dependent on Russia for crude.

One-fourth of India's petroleum imports since January 2022 were from Russia and this number remained high before U.S. President Donald Trump imposed additional tariffs on India in October 2025 for buying crude from Russia.

Though this resulted in India sharply cutting down its crude import from Russia, the imports resumed in full swing soon after. In fact, after the U.S. and Israel launched a war with Iran in February this year, the former did a U-turn in its stance and tacitly encouraged Russian crude supplies into the market to negate the impact of Iran's blockade in the Strait of Hormuz.

Chart 2 shows how Russia accounted for nearly one-third (31.6%) of India's crude imports as of June 2026. India imported $531 million worth of crude from Russia in June 2026, which is roughly double that of its import from the country in January 2022, a month before Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Amid Ukraine's continued targeting of Russia's oil refining infrastructure, the Russian Federation's Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said in July that the country would begin importing oil products to help stabilise the domestic market.

Consistent attacks

According to the International Strategic Action Network for Security, there were at least 17 attacks on 16 different oil refineries in Russia. Eight attacks were targeted at oil depots and oil pumping stations in July **(Chart 3)**. Though reliable data on similar attacks in August are not available yet, they seem to have continued at the same rate, resulting in petrol and diesel shortages.

Data from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) show that Russia's refinery crude throughput went from about 5.18 million barrels per day in Q12026 (January to March) in the beginning of the year, to about 3.88 million barrels per day in Q32026. The attacks also seem to have contributed to a surge in crude exports from Russia, as unplanned refinery outages diverted higher volumes of crude to the export market. India, which ranks fourth in oil-refining capacity in the world, has utilised Russia's sudden demand to export refined petroleum products, mainly from private refineries **(Chart 4)**. Considering the time it would take for Russia to bring its refining capacity back to its earlier capacity, the surge in exports could continue, which will help India in easing its pressure on foreign exchange in the coming months.

A refining relationship

The data were sourced from India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the International Strategic Action Network for Security, the Statistical Review of World Energy BP, and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.
With inputs from Gandla Sneha, who is interning with The Hindu'Data Team

CHART 1: Russia's share in India's petroleum exports has traditionally been less than 1% (not visible in the chart)

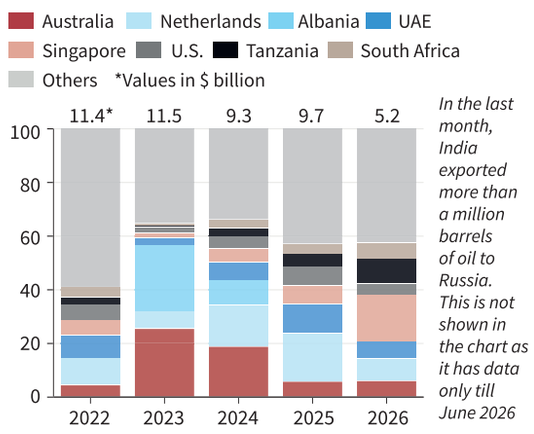


CHART 3: A total of 17 attacks were recorded against 16 different oil refineries in Russia in July

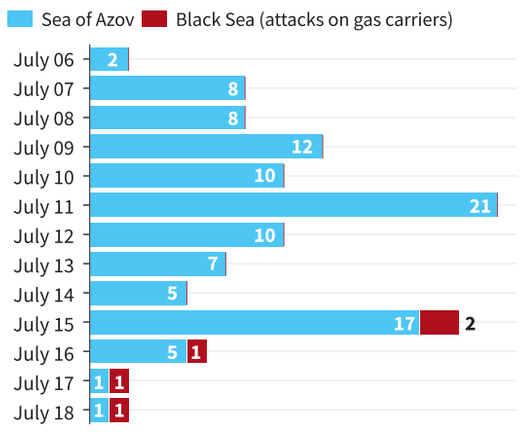


CHART 2: Russia accounted for more than one-fourth of India's total crude imports since January 2022

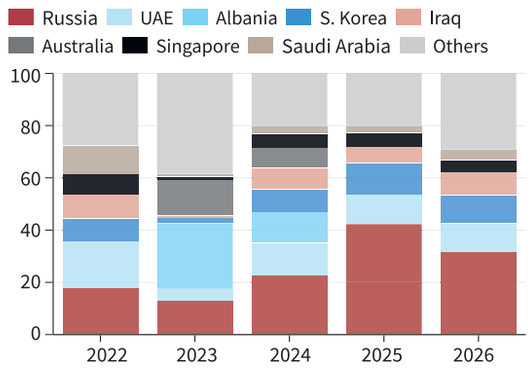
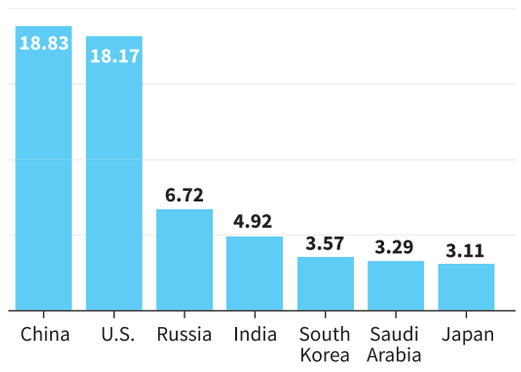


CHART 4: The seven countries with the highest oil refining capacity in the world. Values in million barrels per day



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 3, 1976

Tip-off leads to underground vault

Madras, September 2: Sixteen exquisite bronze idols and 17 puja utensils all valued at Rs. one crore have been recovered from an underground vault in the ancient Kalyanasundarar Temple in Nallur, Papanasam taluk in Thanjavur district. The temple is under the control of the Tiruvaduthurai Adheenam.

Officials of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and State Directorate of Archaeology, led by Dr. R. Nagaswami, Director of Archaeology, acting on a hint thrown by the temple executive searched and found the vault. A representative of the Tiruvaduthurai Adheenam was present during the search. The Math's records indicate that these valuable images and jewels had been deposited in the safe vault in 1942.

These rare pieces of art were retrieved earlier this week after securing an order from the State Government to rummage the underground cell in the temple precincts.

Apart from the discovery of the valuable pieces from the subterranean chamber, this probe has given a clue to the traditional method of safeguarding precious idols and ornaments of a temple and the care bestowed on preservation of art forms.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 3, 1926

Slavery in Burma frontier

Rangoon, September 2: *The Rangoon Gazette* says that the successful emancipation of slaves in Hukawng valley last season will, it is said, be followed this cold season by an expedition to that part of unadministered territory between Malikha and Nmaikha rivers, north of their junction to the Irrawaddy river and locally known as the triangle where the same system of slavery as existed in Hukawng valley still prevails. The triangles though not as extensive a territory as Hukawng valley, is more densely populated and the number of slaves to be liberated will be more numerous. It is expected that Mr. J.T.O. Barnard, Deputy Commissioner, Burma, Frontier Service, who was principally responsible for the arrangements for the emancipation of the slaves in the Hukawng valley will be placed on this duty and in charge of the expedition. *The Gazette*'s statement is yet unconfirmed.

From Page One

SC orders oversight of Bar Council's decisions

Mr. Mishra, as the head of the BCI, had recently earned public ire with an aborted attempt to ban the professional enrolment of the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research's (NALSAR) batch of 2026. The students had objected to having Chief Justice Kant over for their convocation. They had dissented against the CJI's oral remarks, terming youths as "cockroaches" and "parasites". Students of other premier National Law Universities, like Delhi and Bengaluru, too had expressed solidarity with their NALSAR counterparts.

Significantly, questions had cropped up about whether Mr. Mishra had acted on his own. Even Chief Justice Kant had backed the students' right to protest. He had to issue an apology, finally.

"Resolutions are passed without any consultation, and the whole country is put to notice... It is a reassurance to know that the highest law officers have oversight over the BCI now," senior advocate C.U. Singh, for the petitioners, said.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan questioned the constitution of the Pearl First Trust and the self-assignment of BCI members as trustees "in perpetuation". He said the financial assets and incomes of the earlier BCI Trust were transferred to the new Trust. "Even after the expiry of their tenures, these people would continue to be permanent managing trustees," he said.

"Can elected members become permanent trustees beyond their capacity?" Justice Bagchi questioned.

Senior advocate Madhavi Divan said the financial expenditures pulled out from BCI records were "jolting". Senior advocate Shobha Gupta, also for petitioners, said what has been seen over the years was the "concentration of powers".

UN charts course on warming-limit breach

The diplomatic grounds for that framing were laid at the 30th UN Climate Change Conference, COP30, held in 2025 in Brazil's Belém, where the consensus "Global *Mutirão* (collective effort)" decision became the first COP text to concede that a temporary overshoot of the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit was likely. Countries also committed, for the first time, to limiting the size and duration of the overshoot and to closing adaptation gaps, which would require deep, rapid and sustained emission cuts.

Given that cuts alone will no longer suffice, a steep scaling up of nature-based removals such as large reforestation programmes was needed, COP30 CEO Ana Toni said in a statement.

Compounding costs

The UNEP report, released in Nairobi, said that time spent above 1.5 degrees Celsius carries compounding costs such as faster sea-level rise, coral reef collapse, glacier loss exceeding a quarter of global mass by 2100, declines of up to 14% in global food production by 2050 without effective adaptation, and rising odds of irreversible tipping points in the West Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets, the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation and the Amazon.

The report arrives at a moment of uncertainty over whether countries will cut emissions at all. The United States, the world's largest historical emitter, formally exited the Paris Agreement earlier this year and has also announced its withdrawal from the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Green Climate Fund.

'Bihar's concerns on Ganga treaty will be considered'

External Affairs Minister writes to JD(U) MP Sanjay Jha after he complained that treaty between India and Bangladesh had 'negatively impacted' Bihar; Jha has said pact should not be renewed

Nistula Hebbar
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The treaty has contributed to silt accumulation upstream of the Ganga, the JD(U) leader has said. ANI

India will decide on the renewal of the 1996 Ganga Water Treaty while keeping Bihar's interests in consideration, stated External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in a recent letter to Janata Dal (United) MP Sanjay Jha who had called upon the government not to renew the treaty, asserting that it had "negatively impacted" the State.

The India-Bangladesh Ganga Water Treaty will expire on December 31, 2026. Renewal of the treaty is one of the major items on this year's diplomatic calendar of the two countries.

Responding to Mr. Jaishankar's letter dated August 28, Mr. Jha expressed the hope that the Government of India will factor in Bihar's interests "fully and fairly" while going ahead with the treaty. "Bihar is not seeking a favour. We are asking only for what our own scientific assessment establishes, so that 13 crore people are not left short of water for drinking, irrigation and industrial supply for another 30 years," Mr. Jha said.

Consultations held

In the letter to Mr. Jha, Mr. Jaishankar said: "We fully understand your concerns regarding the Ganga Water Treaty. I would like to bring to your attention that under the leadership of the Jal Shakti Ministry, inter-ministerial consultations involving relevant stakeholders have taken place to ensure broad-based consultation on the future of the treaty." He added that an authorised representative of the Government of Bihar participated in the inter-ministerial consultations held on August 22, 2023, October 30, 2023, March 15, 2024, and on May 31, 2024.

"The government will take the appropriate decision while keeping these factors in focus," said Mr. Jaishankar regarding the renewal of the treaty.

Earlier Mr. Jha, who was the Bihar Water Resources Minister from 2021 to 2024, had strongly opposed the renewal of the treaty, arguing that it had hurt Bihar's interests. In his remarks to *The Hindu*, he had described the treaty, which was signed during the first prime ministerial tenure of Sheikh Hasina in 1996, as a remnant of the 'Gujral Doctrine' era that projected a generous image of India but did not serve Bihar's interests.

Mr. Jha had said that "if you look at the data in the last 30 years of the treaty being in place, you can clearly see that the interests of Bihar have been negatively impacted", and argued that India should allow the treaty to expire.

Apart from objection from Mr. Jha, the treaty is also in focus because of the lack of top-level political meetings between India and Bangladesh. India and Bangladesh were in talks for a New Delhi visit by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, but the talks broke down over a virtual press conference by deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Foreign Correspondents Club in New Delhi on August 5.

Two Kuki-Zo MLAs return to Assembly after three-year gap

Manipur CM says their presence in the House was a positive step toward fostering unity and peace

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Two Kuki-Zo MLAs on Wednesday attended a session of the 60-member Manipur Assembly in person, a first for any legislator from the community since the ethnic conflict in the State that erupted on May 3, 2023.

While MLAs Haokholet Kipgen and Kimneo Haokip Hangshing attended the first sitting of the eighth session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly physically, Deputy Chief Minister Nemcha Kipgen attended virtually.

"I am happy to attend a session of the Assembly after a long time," Mr. Haokholet Kipgen said after entering the House.

Welcoming the duo, Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh said their presence in the Assembly was a positive step toward fostering unity and peace in the State collectively. "This is a good sign from people's representatives, and a welcome step," he said.

The Chief Minister attributed this development to the State government's persistent efforts to address and reduce the trust deficit among various communities. He reiterated his government's commitment to inclusive dialogue and reconciliation.

Some Kuki-Zo MLAs had participated in the previous Assembly session virtually after Mr. Singh became the Chief Minister in February.

Ten Kuki-Zo MLAs were elected to the Manipur Assembly in 2022. One of them, Vungzagin Valte, died a few months ago after prolonged illness from injuries sustained during a mob attack in Imphal when the ethnic violence between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities broke out in 2023.

More than 260 people were killed, and an estimated 62,000 others were displaced during the violence.

Another conflict between the Kukis and Nagas since February has also claimed several lives.

Rajasthan school building razed days after CJP campaign

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

The dilapidated building of a government primary school at Rampura-Kanwarpura village near Rajasthan's capital Jaipur, where the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) activists were allegedly thrashed and chased out last month, was razed on Wednesday to make way for a new structure. The school was declared unsafe after a technical survey in September 2025.

The students, who were earlier studying in a cattle enclosure close to the school building in unhygienic conditions, were shifted to a vacant house amid the CJP's '*School Thik Karo*' campaign. The CJP volunteers have assessed the condition of buildings, availability of teachers, academic arrangements and other facilities at a number of schools across Rajasthan.

The old building of the Rampura-Kanwarpura school, constructed in 1985, was bulldozed in the presence of district administration and Education Department officials. The State government has sanctioned ₹18 lakh, including ₹6 lakh from the MLA local area development fund, for the construction of new building.

CJP leader Ashutosh Ranka said the State's decision to construct a new building is a major victory for the students.

Allahabad HC quashes student's NSA detention, calls case 'concocted story'

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Akriti Chaudhary

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday quashed the detention of Delhi University law student Akriti Chaudhary under the National Security Act (NSA). The 25-year-old has spent nearly five months in custody over the workers' protest in Noida in April this year.

A Bench of Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Achal Sachdev allowed Ms. Chaudhary's *habeas corpus* plea and ordered her immediate release, unless she was required in another case. The court flagged discrepancies in the arrest notice and called the State's version a "concocted story".

Speaking to *The Hindu*, advocate Charlie Prakash, who represented Ms. Chaudhary along with senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, confirmed that the court has quashed the detention. "The court found major inconsistencies in the State's account of her arrest and detention. The court has also asked the DM Noida to pay her compensation of ₹5 lakh," he added.

Ms. Chaudhary was among several activists arrested in cases related to the protest held between April 10 and 18, during which industrial and contractual workers demanded salary hikes and parity with wages paid in neighbouring Haryana. On April 13, the protest had turned violent and roads were blocked.

The Uttar Pradesh Police invoked the NSA against Ms. Chaudhary a month later and alleged that she had instigated protesters to engage in stone-pelting and arson. During a press conference, the police claimed to have "strong electronic and videographic evidence" against her.

Ms. Chaudhary argued that she was already in custody before the violence began on April 13. She said that there was no factual basis for her detention, and the process leading to her preventive detention was procedurally flawed.

The State had submitted in the court that Ms. Chaudhary was arrested at 10.56 a.m. on April 12 and was issued a warning notice under Section 130 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. Justice Sreedharan questioned why no showcause notice was issued before the warning.

The court then called for the police's general diary, which showed that Ms. Chaudhary was arrested before the notice was prepared. The State also failed to submit the video footage showing Ms. Chaudhary provoked protesters.

Bombay HC orders CBI investigation into death of celebrity manager Disha

Satish Salian had sought an FIR, alleging his daughter was gang-raped and murdered

Chinmay Gaikwad
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday ordered a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the death of former celebrity manager Disha Salian, who died in June 2020 allegedly after falling from a high-rise building in Malad.

A Division Bench of Justices Sarang Kotwal and Ranjitsinha Bhonsale issued the directive while hearing a petition filed by her father, Satish Salian.

The court ordered the CBI to appoint an officer to investigate the case, file the chargesheet at the earliest if a cognisable offence is found or close the proceedings, if not, with liberty to file a protest petition against any closure report. The court further directed that no individual should be treated as an accused unless the investigating officer finds sufficient material against them.

Satish Salian had petitioned the High Court last year seeking registration of an FIR over his daughter's death. He claimed she had been gang-raped and murdered. The police have maintained that Disha died after falling from the high-rise.

Advocate Nilesh Ojha, appearing for Mr. Salian, argued that the Mumbai Police did not even share Disha's post-mortem report with her father, and it was provided only after he approached the High Court nearly five years after her death. He also questioned why the police had not filed an FIR against Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aditya Thackeray and others, whose names had been mentioned by Mr. Salian.

The Maharashtra government maintained that there was no evidence to prosecute anyone in connection with Disha's death. Chief Public Prosecutor Shishir Hiray argued that the evidence indicated that Disha had either died by suicide or accidentally fallen from the building. He asked why Mr. Salian had not raised suspicion against anyone earlier. Mr. Salian's counsel argued that the police were bound by the Supreme Court's *Lalita Kumari* judgment to register an FIR, given the suspicious circumstances.

Senior advocate Sudeep Pasbola, appearing for Mr. Thackeray, opposed the plea, arguing that the proceedings were politically motivated.

Legislative majority a key factor, Shinde faction argues in SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's faction in the Supreme Court on Wednesday argued that the 'legislative majority test' cannot be ruled out as a determining factor to conclude which rival faction in a political party holds the larger numbers.

Appearing before a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant, senior advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul, for the Shinde faction, said the Supreme Court had not ruled out the veracity of the test in a 2023 Constitution Bench judgment in the *Subhash Desai* case.

Mr. Kaul contended that the Shinde faction had split over Uddhav Thackeray's decision to join the Maha Vikas Aghadi, with parties opposed to Shiva Sena principles.

Mr. Kaul was responding to a legal argument made by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Mr. Thackeray, that a split in a legislature party can never, by itself, amount to a split in the political party and the Election Commission's decision to recognise Mr. Shinde's unit as "real Shiv Sena" and grant it the bow-and-arrow symbol was unlawful.

The court was hearing 2024 petitions by the Uddhav faction against the EC's order allotting the 'bow and arrow' symbol to the Shinde-led unit. The party had split into two rival camps after Mr. Shinde, backed by 40 of 55 party MLAs, toppling of the Thackeray government. Mr. Shinde teamed up with the BJP and formed the government. The EC later on concluded that Mr. Shinde was the "real" Shiv Sena and gave his party the party symbol.

Maternity leave can't lead to loss of role or career prospects, says Delhi HC

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

The court said that a woman should not be at a professional disadvantage upon her return.

The Delhi High Court has ruled that a woman returning from maternity leave at a private company is ordinarily entitled to resume her previous position and cannot be placed at a professional disadvantage by reducing her responsibilities, managerial authority or prospects of career advancement.

Justice Sachin Datta, in the August 31 judgment, held that the protection under Section 12 of the Maternity Benefit Act is not limited to safeguarding continuity of employment or wages.

The Court held that if a woman's previous post is no longer available for bona fide and demonstrable organisational reasons, she must be placed in a position as nearly equivalent as possible in terms of pay, grade, status, responsibilities, managerial authority and prospects of advancement.

The court was dealing with a petition by chartered accountant Rakhi Bisht, who alleged that she was sidelined by a private company after returning from maternity leave. Ms. Bisht went on maternity leave in December 2023 while working as Manager, Accounting, and supervising a team.

Advocate Parul Singh, representing her, alleged that on her return, she was told that her earlier position was no longer available and was assigned to the Treasury department. She said that the new role was substantially inferior.

"In the present case, the petitioner [woman] does not seek to enforce any term of her employment contract; rather, she seeks to enforce Section 12 of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, which imposes an obligation upon every employer to whom the Act applies and which remains unaffected by the terms of the employment contract between the parties," the Court said. Justice Datta further held that a woman seeking an adjustment in her duties, working hours, workplace or role because of post-maternity circumstances should not be treated as having waived her statutory protection.

CBI should probe 'cash for transfer scam' in Punjab: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Gaurav Bhatia

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday demanded the resignation of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the "cash for transfer" charges in the State.

There were serious allegations of institutional corruption in Punjab, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said. Citing the purported findings of a probe by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), he alleged that money was being taken for the transfers and postings of senior bureaucrats and police officers.

Confidential government documents had reached middlemen, but despite seven letters from the ED, no FIR had been registered, the BJP leader said. He demanded the immediate resignation of Mr. Mann and a fair investigation by the CBI.

Claiming that Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal and Mr. Mann "have today become symbols of corruption", Mr. Bhatia alleged that senior Punjab officials were involved in the "scam". "Their transfers and postings are carried out according to a rate card... This rate card fixes the price for who will get which charge and in which department they will be posted," he said.

The facts presented by the ED before the Punjab and Haryana High Court in its affidavit revealed that confidential documents, draft lists of postings and transfers, and draft lists of government policies to be implemented in the future were found on WhatsApp on the mobile phones of alleged middlemen and touts, Mr. Bhatia said.

"The concerning aspect is that... the ED told the Punjab Police that this was a cognisable offence and that an FIR should be registered. However, despite seven letters being written to the Punjab Police, no FIR was registered," he said.

Air Force veteran appointed first Ram Temple Trust CEO

Air Vice-Marshal Jitendra Mishra (retd) served in IAF for 31 years; Mahesh Bhagchandka, Madan Mohan Pandey, Nirmala Yadav named trustees; move comes amid allegation of donation theft

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on Wednesday appointed Air Vice-Marshal Jitendra Mishra (retd) as its first chief executive officer.

The appointment came at a time when the the Trust is strengthening its administrative structure amid allegations of theft of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

The appointment was announced after a meeting of the Trust at the Maniram Das Chawani in Ayodhya, where the trustees also filled three vacant positions on the Board.

The vacancies arose following the resignations of senior Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader and general secretary Champat Rai, and trustee Anil Mishra. They quit in July after the embezzlement allegations surfaced.

The third vacancy arose after the death of trustee Vimlendra Pratap Mishra, a member of Ayodhya's erstwhile royal family.

Air Vice-Marshal Jitendra Mishra (retd) was awarded the Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal and was also a part of Operation Sindoor. PTI

According to a communique issued by the Trust, Air Vice-Marshal Mishra was appointed following the recommendations of a committee constituted to select the CEO.

The process involved scrutinising about 5,585 applications, and interviewing hundreds of candidates over a period of nearly two months.

Air Vice-Marshal Mishra served in the Indian Air Force for 31 years, holding positions across different departments and gaining extensive leadership experience, the Trust said.

It added that the new CEO was also awarded the Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal, one of the highest military decorations for distinguished service in wartime. He was also part of Operation Sindoor.

'Unaware of selection'

He had not been aware of his selection prior to the announcement made to the media on Wednesday, Air Vice-Marshal Mishra told *The Hindu*.

"I also got to know about my selection through television. I am elated," he said.

The trustees also appointed three new members – Mahesh Bhagchandka, Madan Mohan Pandey, and Nirmala Yadav – to fill the vacant positions. Mr. Bhagchandka is associated with Ashok Singhla Foundation, while Mr. Pandey is an advocate.

Ms. Yadav will be the first woman to hold a trusteeship in the Trust.

Swami Govind Dev Giri will continue as the Trust's general secretary, while Mr. Bhagchandka will take charge as treasurer. The Trust's annual accounts for 2025-26 have also been approved.

Financial details

The Trust recorded a total income of about ₹237 crore, and expenditure of about ₹99 crore during the financial year. It also incurred about ₹425 crore in capital expenditure on construction and related works. As of March 31, the Trust had total funds of about ₹1,882 crore.

The VHP hailed the appointment of the CEO. VHP president Alok Kumar described Air Vice-Marshal Mishra as a senior and respected personality, adding that his extensive experience would help the Trust function more effectively and transparently.

Cong. cites Garg's analysis to question GDP growth figures

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday stepped up its attack on the Union government over the latest GDP figures, citing reported remarks by former Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg to argue that the Centre was using statistical revisions to present an inflated picture of economic growth.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh shared a video clip of Mr. Garg, who said that revisions to the previous year's GDP had affected comparisons with the current year's figures.

According to Mr. Garg, without the revision, growth at current prices in the April-June quarter would have been around 2.6%, instead of the higher figure being projected.

Mr. Ramesh said the government's claims of robust economic growth, amplified through what he described as statistical "jugglery", were at odds with conditions on the ground.

'Burst the bubble'

"Former Finance Secretary Subhash Garg has now burst the bubble on this claim. His assessment is that the real GDP growth is around 2.6%, not 7.8%," Mr. Ramesh said in a post on social media platform X. "The Modi government must understand: PR can polish the picture of GDP, but not the economy itself," he said.

The Congress leader said the government needed to acknowledge the actual state of the economy and undertake reforms to generate employment, strengthen MSMEs and private investment, raise demand and incomes, reduce inequality and ensure fair competition instead of promoting "crony capitalists".

> These claims cannot simply be dismissed. They come from someone who served as Finance and Economic Affairs Secretary of the Government under Modi between 2017 and 2019
> **PAWAN KHERA**
> Congress leader

Mr. Ramesh said it was significant that questions were being raised over the GDP figures by a former Finance Secretary who had served in the Modi government.

Congress media and publicity department chairman Pawan Khera said Mr. Garg's assessment appeared closer to the "lived reality" of ordinary Indians, marked by rising prices, weakening purchasing power, shrinking disposable incomes and savings, stagnant employment opportunities and increasing household debt.

Seeks explanation

"These claims cannot simply be dismissed. They come from someone who served as Finance and Economic Affairs Secretary of the Government of India under Modi between 2017 and 2019," Mr. Khera said, demanding an explanation for the revision of the previous year's GDP figures.

Provide security to rural communities before a crisis strikes, says Cong. chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said rural communities should not be remembered only during droughts, floods, crop failures or elections, and called for a development model that provides them security before a crisis strikes.

He was speaking at an event organised by the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy Foundation and the Dr. KVP Foundation, where the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) was conferred the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy Award, 2026.

Mr. Kharge said governments must ensure that farmers have fair markets, rural families have decent livelihoods, and women have economic independence, while tribal communities and villages need access to technology, opportunities and basic infrastructure. "The government has an important role in creating this security, so that the communities become partners in India's development," he said.

Big honour: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

The Congress president also took a swipe at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Without naming anyone, he said he had heard an RSS leader claim that India had witnessed many reforms. Mr. Kharge said it was the Congress that had carried out the reforms being referred to.

Linking the award to the legacies of Rajasekhara Reddy and agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan, Mr. Kharge said both believed that development must ultimately serve the dignity of ordinary people.

Rajasekhara Reddy, he said, had worked for the poor and marginalised, while Swaminathan had sought to combine scientific advancement with social equity and environmental sustainability.

Paying tribute to Swaminathan, Mr. Kharge recalled his contribution to the Green Revolution and recalled how the late scientists had described Indira Gandhi as the "most successful warrior against hunger".

In a video message, Soumya Swaminathan, chair of the MSSRF and daughter of M.S. Swaminathan thanked the organisers for conferring the award on the foundation.

Rahul takes stock of Maharashtra issues

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday sought a detailed assessment of key political issues in Maharashtra, including the deletion of names from the electoral rolls, Maratha and OBC reservation issues and tribal protests.

He is in Nashik for the party's *Sanghatan Srujan Abhiyan*.

Later, Mr. Gandhi interacted with the families of the district Congress committee presidents before addressing the concluding session of the training camp. He urged the district presidents to expand the organisation and take the Congress's ideology to people across the State.

Kapil Sibal seeks SC intervention over 'bulk SIR deletions'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha member Kapil Sibal on Wednesday urged the Supreme Court to stop the "bulk deletions" taking place under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Mr. Sibal alleged that the ongoing SIR was aimed at helping the BJP win elections. In a post on X, he termed it "politics of exclusion", and alleged that "BJP agents" were looking to "target Muslims, seek bulk deletions". He added, "Supreme Court needs to stop this!"

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Sibal cited a report from Jharkhand, alleging that the form to request the deletion of names from the voters' list was being filed in bulk by BJP workers.

"You can file bulk forms – you can take 45 of them, or 100 of them, or even 400 of them. You can file the forms, and you can say that this name should be deleted. You don't have to give any reason for it, and if it is found to be false, it doesn't matter," he said.

Earlier, *The Hindu* had reported that cases of Form 7 being submitted in bulk had surfaced in States like Rajasthan, Gujarat and Assam.

'Serious issue'

Mr. Sibal alleged that many people whose names were sought to be deleted were Muslims and had been living in their area for years.

"Therefore, this is a very serious issue, and if courts don't take care of this issue, if courts just believe that the SIR exercise is by a neutral EC, then I think we are in deep trouble; this democracy will be in deep trouble," the Rajya Sabha member said.

Former AIMIM leader joins Congress ahead of 2027 U.P. election

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Syed Asim Waqar, former spokesperson of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), joined the Congress on Wednesday, alleging that the Asaduddin Owaisi-led party paid lip service to the objective of defeating the Bharatiya Janata Party while fighting the Opposition parties on the ground.

Mr. Waqar joined the Congress at the party headquarters here in the presence of All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge for Uttar Pradesh Rajendra Pal Gautam, State Congress president Ajay Rai and AICC Minority Department chairman Imran Pratapgarhi.

Explaining his decision, Mr. Waqar said his years in the AIMIM had convinced him that a party seeking to remove the BJP from power could not simultaneously weaken those fighting the ruling party. "If we keep fighting the Opposition and do not allow it to grow, then we are helping the BJP," Mr. Waqar said.

Syed Asim Waqar

Mr. Rai said Mr. Waqar's induction would strengthen the party in Uttar Pradesh ahead of the 2027 Assembly election. A key AIMIM voice in Uttar Pradesh and considered close to Mr. Owaisi, Mr. Waqar's exit comes as the AIMIM seeks to expand its political footprint in the State.

Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board,Pune (MSAMB)
E-Tender Notice
MSAMB invites e-Tender for Construction of a Modern Primary Processing Center for Orange at Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Katol (Sub Market Khangoan), Taluka - Katol, Dist.Nagpur. Estimated cost of said work is Rs.625.23 Lakhs (GST extra). For details, please visit www.msamb.com and https://mahatenders.gov.in.
Managing Director

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)
SRM e-Tender No. T-2662/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001567) (2nd Call)
MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.
"Establishment of 220/33kV Murmi (Dahegaon Bangla) S/S along with construction of LILO on existing 220kV Waluj Chitegaon SC line (RL-12.99km) at 220kV Murmi Substation, Tal. Gangapur, Dist. Ch. Sambhajinagar under Ch. Sambhajinagar Zone, MSETCL, Maharashtra."
Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**
The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from **31.08.2026.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)
SRM e-Tender No. T-2671/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001585) (2nd Call)
MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.
"Establishment of 110/22kV Gaikwadpada GIS substation, Dist. Thane with associated lines using 220kV equipments and UG cable on turnkey basis under Vashi Zone, MSETCL, Maharashtra."
Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**
The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from **27.08.2026.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Division, Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bangalore
Tender NO. EE/SJN/E-PROC/27/2026-27 Date: 02.09.2026
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
The Executive Engineer (Shivaji Nagar Division), BCCC, Bangalore invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in CPWD / KPWD / Railways /MES/ National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of work detailed in the table below.
Standard Tender Document KW4.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Heritage restoration, Reconstruction & development of Russel Market in Shivajinagara in Bengaluru City **Amount Put to Tender : Rs.7,000.00 Lakhs.** **EMD : Rs. 70,00,000.00.**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **16.00 hours on 03.10.2026** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. **(2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **24.09.2026 at 15.00** in the office of the Chief Engineer Zone-2, Bengaluru City Central Palike, Annexure-3, 4th Floor, GBA office compound, N R Square, Bengaluru **(3)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **03.10.2026 upto 16.00pm. (4)** Date of Technical bid opening of Tenders is on **05.10.2026 by 11.00 am (5)** Date of Financial bid Opening of Tenders is on after Technical bid approved.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Division, BCCC

कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड घाटोल
जिला बांसवाड़ा (राज.)
क्रमांक :- 515 दिनांक :- 18/08/2026
निविदा संशोधन
निविदा सूचना संख्या 07/2026-27
NIB CODE:- PWD262742362
इस खण्ड कार्यालय के पत्रांक 499 दिनांक 14.08.2026 द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना संख्या 07/2026-27 में वर्णित कार्य संख्या 1 एवं 4 में सिविल कार्य हेतु अनुमानित लागत राशि एवं धरोहर राशि में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है :-

कार्य क्रम संख्या	पूर्व निर्धारित अनुमानित लागत (लाखों में)	पूर्व निर्धारित धरोहर राशि (रुपये)		संशोधित अनुमानित लागत (लाखों मे)	संशोधित धरोहर राशि (रुपये)	
		2.00%	0.50%		2.00%	0.50%
1	42.50	85000	21250	42.52	85040	21260
2	32.66	65320	16330	38.54	77080	19270

नोट- निविदा की शेष शर्तें मूल निविदा सूचना अनुसार रहेगी।
(योगेश दिवाकर)
अधिशाषी अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. खंड घाटोल
DIPR/C/15544/2026

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)
SRM e-Tender No. T-2681/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001579) (2nd Call)
MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.
"Work of (A) Establishment of 400/220kV Kalwa GIS Substation along with reorientation of 400kV and 220kV lines & (B) Establishment of 400/220kV Padghe Split GIS Substation along with reorientation of 400kV and 220kV lines under Vashi Zone, MSETCL, Maharashtra."
Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**
The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from **27.08.2026.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

INBRIEF

Jalna Collector urges activist to withdraw hunger strike

Following a drop in his blood sugar level, Jalna Collector Ashima Mittal appealed to Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil to end his indefinite hunger strike, which entered the fifth day on Wednesday. Meanwhile, activists from the Maratha community staged *rasta roko* (road blockade) protests in Dharashiv, Beed, Jalna, and Solapur districts of Maharashtra, demanding a resolution to their demands in the quota issue. The two-hour protest disrupted traffic in many areas. Mr. Jarange-Patil refused to withdraw the his protest, and asserted that the demands raised by the protesters involved State government-level decisions.

CBI hosts India-Thailand meet on 'Live Animal Trafficking'

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has organised a two-day case coordination meeting between India and Thailand on 'Live Animal Trafficking' which commenced on Wednesday. The CBI is co-hosting the meeting in coordination with the Interpol Environmental Security Sub-Directorate (ENS). "The smuggling of exotic live animals and birds for pet trade is a growing trend in Asia. Mainly using air routes, live animals are being trafficked from Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia to South Asian countries, including India; Singapore is used as a transit point," said the agency.

SC seeks govt. explanation on IPS deputation in CAPFs

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan says cadre officers of CAPFs are 'completely stifled'; Home Ministry says it has taken steps to implement Supreme Court's directions and initiated cadre reviews across CAPFs

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought an explanation from Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on the implementation of its May 2025 judgment directing the Centre to progressively reduce the deputation of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers to senior posts in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

While hearing the contempt petition filed by retired CAPF officers, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan orally observed that there was a "strong lobby" and the cadre officers of CAPFs were "completely stifled".

"Do you think there are no competent officers in CAPFs to hold responsible positions? This is totally wrong. There are officers who have served over 25 years in service, they are defending the borders, they are also fighting for us, supreme sacrifices they have made. There is a strong lobby there... cadre officers are completely stifled," he said.

Members of the All Ex-Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association stage a protest against the CAPF Bill in March. FILE PHOTO

On May 23, 2025, a Bench of Justice A.S. Oka and Justice Bhuyan had ruled that the deputation posts of IPS officers in the Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) or up to the rank of Inspector-General in CAPFs should be "progressively reduced over a period of time, say within an outer limit of two years." Justice Oka has since retired.

In an affidavit, Mr. Mohan informed the Supreme Court that 46 IPS officers have been brought on deputation to the CAPFs up to the SAG level after the court's 2025 judgment.

The Union Home Ministry said it had taken a series of steps to implement the Supreme Court's directions, including initiating cadre reviews across all CAPFs, examining the issue of IPS deputation, and undertaking statutory changes. The Ministry noted that following the dismissal of its review petition on October 28, 2025, all CAPFs were directed to submit detailed cadre review proposals, which have since been examined by the Ministry and forwarded to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) with the approval of the Home Minister.

The DoPT told the court that cadre review proposals for the CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB were sent by the Ministry between July 27 and August 3, 2026. The proposals were examined in accordance with the government's cadre review guidelines and forwarded to the Department of Expenditure (DoE), along with DoPT's observations and recommendations on August 17. The DoPT said that after comments are received from the DoE, the proposals will be placed before the Cadre Review Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary, whose recommendations would subsequently be considered for approval by the competent authority.

The next date of the hearing is September 22.

To circumvent the 2025 judgment, the government enacted the CAPFs (General Administration) Act, 2026, which was published in the Gazette on April 9. However, five writ petitions challenging the legislation have since been filed and are scheduled for hearing before the court on November 18.

HC dismisses plea challenging Rahul Gandhi's citizenship

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court recently dismissed a petition challenging the citizenship and parliamentary membership of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, after the petitioner failed to produce documentary evidence to support his allegations that he holds British nationality.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Shekhar B. Saraf and Justice Abdhesh Kumar Chaudhary permitted petitioner-in-person Ashok Pandey to withdraw the writ petition on August 31.

The petitioner had alleged that Mr. Gandhi incorporated a U.K.-based company, M/s Backops Limited, in 2003, and declared himself director and major shareholder, as well as a British national.

The High Court observed that while the petitioner's initial arguments appeared "very attractive" and capable of having "far-reaching consequences", he failed to produce documentary material when asked to substantiate his claims.

Rahul Gandhi

"... when he was asked as to what the basis of his aforesaid submission was, the petitioner could not show a single document relating to the formation of the company or records from the Registrar of Companies of Britain or any declaration to the effect that the aforesaid Shri Rahul Gandhi @ Raul Vinci has declared himself to be a British Citizen. The only document relied upon by the petitioner-in-person is some alleged letter of confirmation issued by the University of Cambridge certifying the study of one Raul Vinci, which according to this Court does not in any manner prove any of the allegations being contested in the present petition," the court noted while dismissing the petition.

What's the reason behind the sudden surge in onion prices?

EXPLAINER

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The story so far: Days after sugar prices increased sharply, the price of onion, an essential commodity whose prices are considered a politically sensitive topic, nearly doubled from last year's.

On September 1, the all-India average price was ₹49.59 a kg, registering an over 74% increase from ₹28.48 on the corresponding day in 2025.

On August 1, the price was ₹35.47 a kg. In Kolkata and Chennai, the price has now reached ₹60. What has worried the Centre is the fact that over the past two weeks, the price has gone beyond ₹70 in certain retail markets, particularly in North India. This increase is unprecedented, and according to some officials, has left the Centre searching for reasons behind this surge, as the Opposition says the government has failed to curb the price rise of essentials.

Big farmers, traders try to keep the stock in cold storage, hoping to release it at better prices. PTI

What could be reason for the increase?

The production of onion is estimated at 307.37 lakh tonnes (lt) in 2025-26, which is in line with the previous year's production of 307.67 lt. The production is adequate for the domestic consumption and for export, which comes to about 15 lt. However, industry sources claim that the quality of onions, particularly after the delay in the rain and the subsequent delay in harvest in Maharashtra (the largest onion producing State), was not up to the standard. The fact that quality onions are less than last year is considered a reason for the price rise.

Historically, according to the government, onion prices have exhibited a seasonal uptick and volatility from August-September owing to increased demand during festive season, weather, supply-chain movements, and other demand conditions.

This year, as soon as the price of sugar increased, there was a tendency not to release the onion stocks, particularly among the big traders. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare have outlined hoarding and black marketeering as the reasons for the sudden increase in the prices of onion.

What steps are being taken to ease the prices?

As it is natural for traders and big farmers to look for better prices of what they produce and sell, the government says that it was expecting such a problem in the case of onions. Big farmers and big traders try to keep the stock in cold storage, hoping to release it when prices are right.

To counter this, the government has started a calibrated release of onion from its buffer stocks. It is selling onions at ₹35 a kg, to give a message to the consumer that it is the real price of onion and put pressure on those hoarding it, a senior official said.

Bhupathi: from dreaded Maoist to Gondwana University coordinator

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
GADCHIROLI/MUMBAI

Life has taken a dramatic turn for Bhupathi, also known by the aliases Abhay, Mallojula Venugopal, and Sonu. Once a dreaded Maoist with a bounty of ₹6 crore on his head and wanted by the police in six States, he is now looking at a very different future. Less than a year after surrendering before the Maharashtra Police, a move that dealt a major blow to Maoist insurgency in the State, the 70-year-old is preparing for a new chapter in life.

"I am the first person to end Maoism in this country. But what were we doing? There was no personal rivalry between the Maoists and the government. We were representing the tribals. We fought with the system as the representatives of the adivasis. Conflicts will stay till the tribals don't feel safe. Conflicts will stay till there are no radical changes, till there is no real rehabilitation for the tribals," he told *The Hindu* in Gadchiroli.

Bhupathi. VINAYA DESHPANDE PANDIT

When *The Hindu* spoke with him, he was awaiting the result of the interview he had given for the position of a coordinator at the Village Council Capacity Building and Training Centre at Gondwana University. He has now been selected for the post.

According to the University notification, the coordinators will visit villages in Gadchiroli district to supervise the functioning of the Gram Sabhas and to create awareness among the local tribal communities of their rights, particularly under forest-related legislation such as the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA). They will receive a monthly stipend of ₹30,000 and travel allowance.

For tribal rights

"Many tribals are not aware about their rights. Why did we come out of the movement? Because we could not work for people, with arms. To struggle for them, we came out. We have left arms now. There are different ways of working," he said, adding that he was not inclined to join any mainstream political party either, despite getting several invites. He also refused the possibility of forming a political party.

He expressed concern about the government acquiring fertile land of the tribal communities for development projects.

Last year, Bhupathi's letters, distributed widely among the Maoist cadre of the erstwhile 'Red Corridor', had led to many insurgents giving up arms. Sixty of them surrendered along with him on October 15, 2025, in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

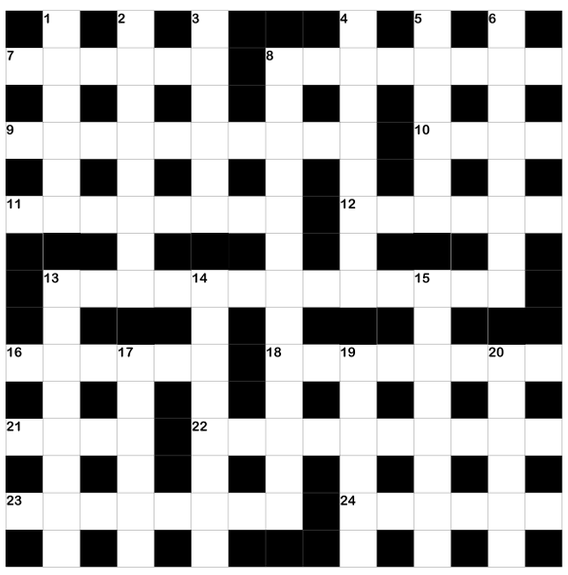
When asked about the interview for the current job, he spoke about his disconnect with the system. "I was asked when PESA was enacted. I said it was legislated in 1996. Then I was asked when the PESA Rules were made. I did not know that they were made a whopping 12 years after the law was made. Who makes rules 12 years after bringing in a law? Why weren't the rules made then itself?" he asked.

TH CROSSWORD + 14889

(set by Saral)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

7. Linger outside park leading one animal (6)
8. Unionist against politician with international group for mediating (8)
9. Diplomat arranging mass abroad (10)
10. Voice is regularly suppressed in fights (4)
11. Plan of regime finally ousting Welsh in new reign possibly (8)
12. Sweet-sounding music for two including originally lovely contralto (6)
13. One in French hotel caught with director actively stopping reel continuously (5,3,5)
16. Minister from new circle (6)
18. Reverend's double course rejected (5,3)
21. Delay report covering lecture essentially (4)
22. Rag this ordinary garden parties perhaps (10)
23. Old relative in favour of European support (8)
24. Upset Republican bumping boxer's head in combat (6)

DOWN

1. Son to get cut nut for swimmer (6)
2. Note: Butter is used primarily in dessert (8)
3. Paper from government issued (6)
4. Irregular distribution of aid blocking yields in return (8)
5. Tour starts to take relatives around various enjoyable locations (6)
6. King, born idiot giving reaction without thinking (4-4)
8. Without being detected abused a thread run about the German (5,3,5)
13. Maybe sister in joy backing brother in the end (8)
14. Crack and lit heroin piece inhaled by doctor (8)
15. Tough to persuade bud sadly controlled by old judge (8)
17. Verses in religious education listing chants ignoring number (6)
19. Again chase passion and shine (6)
20. Working in underpass initially dark (6)

SUDOKU

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

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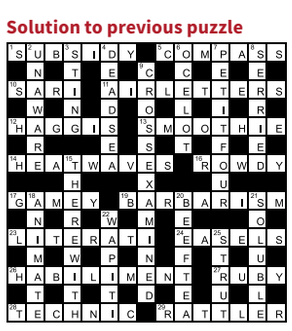
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Unconditional dependence

Bhakti yoga is highly recommended for devotees as an achievable goal in the Kali Yuga. There are two types of devotees: those who worship an idol/archa murti etc and those who pray to the imperishable, the indefinable, the omnipresent, the unthinkable, the unchangeable, the eternal and the unmanifested. People pray as per their appetite, but the object of devotion is the same, said Swami Sivayoganandhaji.

Lord Krishna tells Arjuna that whosoever's mind is fixed upon Him, everyday, every moment, with complete faith in Him, trusting Him totally with unconditional dependence is the best exponent of yoga (Ch XII, verse 2). There are three types of worshippers. First is the ordinary devotee who is important to himself, always analysing what he would get out of it for himself (focus is not on God). Second comes the kind who says both he and God are equally important in this relationship. The third kind is the devotee who says he is not important at all and whether God fulfills his wishes or not is entirely up to Him. Like the gopikas of Brindavan whose minds were always fixed on Krishna with no expectations of reward, and the last type of devotee prays to God because God is everything to him. Such a person is confident that the God who created him and given everything, would know when to give and when not to. One may wonder how to discipline one's mind, since it has a tendency to wander away from Him often, straying towards worldly affairs. Just as how water tends to travel downstream, our minds too will turn in the direction of our thoughts. One should be like Bhishma, considered to be among the top 11 bhakti acharyas.

INBRIEF

Simple Energy forays into 'family scooter' segment

Bengaluru-based EV manufacturer Simple Energy on Wednesday unveiled Simple Wave, a new range of electric scooters aimed at family buyers. The range comprises three variants and is available in six colours – Pearl White, Coral Red, Twilight Black, Polar Blue, Dolphin Grey and Forest Green. The company claims the scooters offer an IDC range of up to 243 km and storage capacity of up to 70 litres. Prices start at ₹1,09,999 (ex-showroom).

Novonesis to invest ₹6,660 cr. in Maharashtra unit expansion

Danish biosolutions company Novonesis has announced an investment of ₹6,660 crore (€600 million) to expand its facility at Patalganga in Maharashtra and establish an advanced enzyme production facility. The expansion is aimed at increasing the company's production capacity to meet growing global demand for biosolutions. The new facility, which is expected to be fully operational by 2030, will manufacture enzymes for a range of industries, including biofuels.

Essel chief opposes formation of 5-member NCLT bench

Essel Group Chairman Subhash Chandra on Wednesday opposed the formation of a five-member bench by the NCLT to decide his personal insolvency case, contending that the tribunal does not have the power to constitute such a bench. Appearing for Mr. Chandra before the appellate tribunal NCLAT, Senior Advocate Sasmit Patra termed the NCLT order "faulty and wrong" and said, "they are not empowered" to form a five-member bench. PTI

Forex swap rakes in over $136 bn

According to RBI data, this includes $1,27,226 mn via FCNR(B) deposits, $5,260 mn through OFCBS and $3,891 mn via ECBs; central bank may prioritise closing its short forward dollar positions with the FCNR(B) deposits received, say insiders

Lalatendu Mishra
Ashokamithran
MUMBAI

Foreign exchange inflows via foreign currency non-resident (Bank) FCNR(B) deposits, overseas foreign currency borrowings (OFCBs) and external commercial borrowings (ECBs) under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) swap facility have crossed $136 billion, surpassing all projections.

A total of $1,36,377 million has been mobilised, as per data released by the RBI. This includes $1,27,226 million through FCNR (B) deposits, $5,260 million through OFCBS and $3,891 million through ECB.

Cushioning impact: The RBI has already begun absorbing rupee liquidity to ensure call rates did not fall below policy rate. REUTERS

The RBI had introduced a special USD-INR forex swap facility covering these instruments on June 8 this year to deal with forex outflows due to high oil prices and flight of capital owing to exit of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FOIs) from the stock market.

The central bank may prioritise closing its $137 billion short forward dollar positions with the FCNR (B) deposits received, according to experts and industry insiders. "The RBI has an outstanding short forward position of $137 billion. If the regulator decides not to roll over the outstanding positions, the rupee liquidity will be absorbed from the banking system and RBI may use the excess forex reserves generated from the FCNR (B) scheme for delivering the dollars," said Shashi Dhar, Chief General Manager of Treasury & Global Markets at Bank of Baroda.

Short forward dollars are currency derivative contracts, wherein the RBI commits to sell dollars at a future date at a predetermined rate. This is used to defend the rupee without drawing down spot reserves immediately.

The central bank had already begun absorbing rupee liquidity to make sure call rates did not fall below policy rate, Mr. Dhar said.

Mr. Dhar further informed that liquidity was at ₹6.5 lakh crore and the RBI might absorb some of this to make sure short-term money supply did not feed into inflation and to keep the borrowing cost aligned with policy rate.

Meanwhile, banks may be inclined to use this to "bolster their asset-side books and reduce their dependence on wholesale deposits in the immediate term," he said, adding that in the long term, they could use the excessive liquidity to fund credit growth.

Canadian pension fund acquires 24% stake in Altius Telecom Infra

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Quebec-based La Caisse pension fund announced on Wednesday that it was acquiring a 24% stake in Altius Telecom Infrastructure Trust, India's largest trust through which tower and other telecom infrastructure spending is directed. The acquisition entails a CA$1.76 billion investment, or ₹12,100 crore.

Canadian investment management MNC Brookfield remains the SEBI-registered Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)'s largest shareholder.

'Reflective of demand'

In a statement alongside Brookfield, La Caisse said that its acquisition "reflects growing demand for mobile connectivity and 5G infrastructure in India".

The pension fund added, "India is the world's second-largest telecommunications market, and continued growth in mobile data use and 5G is increasing the need for digital infrastructure."

While two of the three private telecom operators have spread their 5G networks throughout every district in India in record time, infrastructure spending is expected to grow as many sites are not directly connected through fiber optic cables, and more sites need to be added to expand coverage in semi-urban and rural areas to meet growing traffic demand by users.

Sugar mills reassure adequate availability during festive season

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The Indian Sugar and Bioenergy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) and the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF) have reassured consumers that domestic sugar availability would suffice to meet the festival demand.

The ex-mill prices have cooled by nearly 30% from a brief surge following government intervention.

For most of the 2025-26 sugar season, mills have realised prices well below the normal cost of production of ₹42 a kg.

The prices were at ₹39.5-40.0 per kg in June and roughly ₹41-41.5 per kg through August.

The brief surge to ₹49-50 per kg witnessed in the third week of August applied to fractional volume of just about three lakh tonnes, ISMA said.

Japan Credit Rating Agency lifts India a notch up on 'high growth'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR) has upgraded India's credit rating by one notch from BBB+' to 'A-, it announced on Wednesday, on the back of India's relatively high growth, the government's growth-oriented policies, and the improved strength of the financial system.

FinMin welcomes

The Ministry of Finance has issued a statement welcoming the development,

Higher rating means India can borrow at lower costs, reducing interest burden on the exchequer

saying that this comes against the backdrop of a challenging global environment.

A higher rating means that India can borrow at lower costs in the future, leading to a lower interest burden on the exchequer.

"The Indian economy has maintained a high growth rate of around 7%, supported by robust private consumption and public investment," JCR said in its rationale for the ratings upgrade. "The government of India has steadily implemented policies conducive to productivity growth and economic development, including the development of digital public infrastructure and the implementation of the goods and services tax (GST), strengthening the country's economic foundations as compared to the past," it added.

Textile mills under stress as cotton prices soar

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Textile mills are witnessing a revival in cotton-yarn demand with capacity utilisation crossing 90% but a sharp rise in cotton prices is raising concerns over operational sustainability.

"Cotton yarn demand started reviving almost five months ago and now, mills are not holding much yarn stocks," said Durai Palanisamy, chairman, Southern India Mills Association.

Cotton prices had risen sharply since mid-March, with local prices moving in line with ICE Futures, he said, adding mills had relatively low inventories with most maintaining less than two months stock.

Cotton prices which ranged between ₹51,700-₹57,000 a candy between October last and end March 2026 surged to ₹70,000/candy on September 2 on an ex-gin basis.

"Factors such as higher demand from China and likely lower output from the U.S. and China are pushing up prices," said Nishant Asher, secretary, Indian Cotton Federation.

"Our cotton yarn cannot be used fully by local apparel sector. Textile mills need global opportunities for viable operations. Yarn prices adjust to cotton prices. Globally, too, yarn availability is under pressure, boosting prices," said Ravi Sam, vice-chairman, Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council.

Sources said Indian cotton prices were lower than global prices. The Cotton Corporation of India, which procured huge quantities of cotton at minimum support price, must stabilise prices.

Consultations on for offshore wind tenders in TN: official

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Consultations are on for introducing a new tender for wind offshore technology in Tamil Nadu, Rajesh Kulhari, Joint Secretary, Union Renewable Ministry told reporters here.

Mr. Kulhari said feasibility studies conducted in the State had yielded positive results.

"All [feasibility] studies have been completed in Tamil Nadu. The good news is capacity utilisation factor is more than 50%," he stated, adding, "collection of required data for offshore wind off the coast of Tamil Nadu, that is, wind velocity, geo-technical and geo-physical – have been completed by the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE)."

An offshore wind farm (for representative purpose only).

Thus, "In the near future, we will be trying to [bring] bid for that part of the country."

As part of its goal for leasing offshore wind energy sites, the government initially identified eight potential zones each off the coasts of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat in initial studies. It faced a setback in Tamil Nadu as tenders did not receive anticipated response.

VinFast said to put brakes on making some cars in India

Reuters
NEW DELHI

VinFast suspended plans to make three electric vehicles in India and ordered suppliers to halt work on the projects while it reviews costs, as per sources and a memo reviewed by *Reuters* – a year after Vietnam's automaker entered the crucial growth market.

VinFast asked suppliers to "hold all activities" on three programmes, including a two-door SUV called VF 3 – expected to be its most competitive model in the market – and VF 6 and VF 7 SUVs, which it imports from Vietnam and assembles in the country.

The suspension marks another setback for loss-making VinFast which turned to India after difficulties in gaining market shares in U.S. and Europe.

PayPal said to fire 25% India staff on AI adoption, cost cuts

Sanjana B
BENGALURU

Almost a quarter of PayPal's about 6,700 India staff have either been laid off or are in the process of being laid off, sources said.

A PayPal spokesperson said, "The recent staffing changes are part of previously announced multi-year transformation to simplify global operations, strengthen execution and position the firm for long-term growth. We are committed to supporting staff through this transition."

In May, media reports

The firm had earlier laid off 12% of staff in Ireland.

emerged the U.S.-based digital payments giant planned to cut about 20% global workforce over the next few years to hasten AI adoption and reduce costs.

As per the firm's annual report, PayPal employed about 23,800 globally as of December 31, 2025. As per its website, PayPal had two software development and operations centres in Chennai and Bengaluru, the largest for PayPal outside of the U.S.

The latest move follows a series of cost-cutting and restructuring steps in recent years. Media reports earlier this week said PayPal laid off about 160 staff in Ireland or almost 12% of its Irish workforce.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is issued on behalf of My client **1.Mrs.Roopashree.V.B W/o. Mr. Shashikumarachari.B and 2. Mr. Shashikumarachari.B S/o. Late Brahma Chari,** to bring the notice of the general public that, they are intends to purchase the schedule property from **Sri.Nagaraja.G S/o Gurunathachari.V.B.**

If any, person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the Schedule Property by way of inheritance, sale, agreement, mortgage, lease, lien, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within **Seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, with all supporting documents failing which reference to such claim and the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of immovable residential property bearing **Site No.84**, having V.P Katha No.1065/19/1/84, PID No. 150200203100501109, carved out of Sy.Nos.19/1, 19/2, 19/3, and 18/2 of Bynahalli Village, formed in the BIAAPA approved residential layout known as "SLN Dreams, Phase-I" (part of SLN Dreams Layout), Situated at **Bynahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** now comes under the Limits of Village Panchayat, Bainahalli, measuring East to West : on North Side : 11.95 Mtrs (39.20ft), on South side : 12.19 Mtrs (39.99ft) and North to South : on East side : 9.14Mtrs (29.98ft), on West **Side: 8,35 Mtrs (27,39ft), totally measuring 105,65 Sq.Mtrs (1137,20 Sq.ft)** and bounded as :

East by : Site No.81, West by : 9 Mtrs wide Road, North by : Private property, South by : Site No.83.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: CAO/CN/BNC/196/2026
Dated 25.08.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.No.	Item of work	Approx. Value
1	Construction of ROB at Km. 137/259 in Lieu of LC No. 81 (Manned traffic) 1x30.0m Composite girder (Railway Span) and 12x18.71 PSC Girder (Approach Portion) and Limited height subway 1x5.0x2.5m RCC box between Tiptur - Banashankari Stations (Composite Work). **(Tender Ref. No. ROB-LC-81-TTR-BNK)**	**Rs. 27,93,60,565/-**
2	**(1)** Proposed conversion of halt into crossing station with two loop lines at Nandi (NDY) - PH-16. **(2)** Provision of 3 Additional Stabling Lines at Sri Sathya Sai Prashanti Nilayam (SSPN) - PH-16. **(3)** Proposed New Goods Line Arrangements at Yeliyur Station (Y) - PH-16. **(4) Penukonda (PKD) - Dharmavaram (DMM) Section:** Proposed Additional loop line at Narayanapuram Yard (NRYP) - PH-16 - (Composite Work). **(Tender Ref. No. ADDL-LINE-NDY-SSPN-NRYP)**	**Rs. 82,21,19,802/-**

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 18.09.2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantt.

PUB/418/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru, the 19th August 2026

S.O. 4852 (E)--Whereas by the notification of the Central Government (Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment) **S.O. 5748(E) dated: 11.12.2025** published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under Section 2, Clause 20A of Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (herein referred to as the said act) the Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment declare its intention to acquire the land specified in the schedule annexed to the said notification for in **Construction of ROB and LHS in Lieu of LC No. 44 between Tumakuru-Mallasandra Ch:75/300-400** in the district of Tumakuru in the state of Karnataka.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in **"Udaya Vani" News Paper dated 23.12.2025** and in **"Indian Express" News Paper and "The Hindu" News Paper dated 23.12.2025** under Section 2, Clause 20A of Railway Act-1989. And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under section 2, clause 20D, considered and settled the same appropriately.

And whereas, in pursuance of Section 2, Clause 20E of Railway Act-1989, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment.

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the Section 2, Clause 20E of Railway Act 1989 the Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of Section 2, Clause 20E of Railway Act-1989, the Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling in the stretch of land from 75/300 Km to 75/400 Km. In the district of Tumakuru in the state of Karnataka.

District: Tumakuru **Hobli:** Kasaba West
Taluk: Tumakuru **Village:** Heggere

Sl. No.	Survey Nos.	Govt. / Private Land	Classification of Land	Acquired Extent (in Acres - Guntas)				RTC Holders Names
				Total	A Kharab	B Kharab	Balance	
1	8/1C (3172/18)	Private	Site	359.50 Sq.Ft	-	-	359.50 Sq.Ft	Mohammed Azam S/o Late Abdul Rehaman
2	8/1C	Government	Road	827.50 Sq.Ft.	-	-	827.50 Sq.Ft.	Layout Reserve Road
3	8/2	Private	N.A.K	0-01 1/4	-	-	0-01 1/4	Obalaiah S/O Obalegowda
4	183 (661/7)	Private	Site	1159 Sq.ft.	-	-	1159 Sq.ft.	Rathnamma D/O Narasimhaiah
5	183	Private	Site	552 Sq.Ft.	-	-	552 Sq.Ft.	Talavarike Inam
6	184/1	Government	Government	0-02	-	-	0-02	Government
7	Grama thana	Private	Grama thana	348 Sq.Ft.	-	-	348 Sq.Ft.	Gramathana
8	Road	Government	Road	1-10	-	-	1-10	From N.H.-04 National Highway to way to Kumkumanahalli Road Haddidada Road
	Total			**1-13 1/4 + 3246 Sq.Ft.**	-	-	**1-13 1/4 + 3246 Sq.Ft.**	

ABSTRACT

Village	Classification of Land	Acquired Extent (In Acres-Guntas)			
		TOTAL	A KHARAB	B KHARAB	BALANCE
Heggere	Road	1-10 + 827.50 Sq.Ft.	-	-	1-10 + 827.50 Sq.Ft.
	Site	2070.5 Sq.Ft.	-	-	2070.5 Sq.Ft.
	Alienated	0-01 1/4	-	-	0-01 1/4
	Government	0-02	-	-	0-02
	Gramathana	348 Sq.Ft.	-	-	348 Sq.Ft.
TOTAL	-	**1-13 1/4 + 3246 Sq.Ft.**	**-**	**-**	**1-13 1/4 + 3246 Sq.Ft.**

No. W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27/Land SRP/1727

For details log on: https://egazette.gov.in

Sd/-
Pardeep Puri, Chief Engineer, Construction - III, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/421/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

HONG KONG

Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong pleads guilty to 'foreign collusion'

AFP

Prominent Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong pleaded guilty on Wednesday to conspiracy to collude with foreign forces to endanger national security under a Beijing-imposed law. It was the second prosecution of Mr. Wong, a former student leader in the pro-democracy movement. AP

ISTANBUL

'Mechanism needed for Black Sea safety before grain crisis escalates'

AFP

Turkiye's President Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday a mechanism is needed to permanently ensure the safety of commercial maritime transport in the Black Sea before a grain crisis escalates. "The safety of all civilian maritime transportation in the Black Sea is important to us," Mr. Erdogan said. REUTERS

KYIV

11 injured in Kyiv as Russian attacks continue for seventh straight day

AFP

Russian drones tore into central Kyiv on Wednesday morning, wounding 11 people and damaging residential and university buildings on the seventh day of nearly round-the-clock attacks. Russian President Vladimir Putin said he had ordered his forces to prepare the new campaign of "massive" strikes. REUTERS

BUNIA

Congo's Ebola outbreak shows no signs of slowing; deaths top 3,000

AFP

Congo's Ebola outbreak has killed more than 3,000 people out of over 6,100 cases, the government data showed on Wednesday, as the disease is spreading at an unprecedented speed, faster than efforts to slow it. It was declared a global health emergency in May and remains the fastest-growing outbreak of Ebola ever. AP

Iran fires on its Gulf neighbours in retaliation for renewed U.S. strikes

Tehran says four members of Revolutionary Guard and 10 of the Basij forces killed in U.S. attacks; Israel's Defence Minister warns of 'strong independent response' if attacked; U.S. President suggests Strait of Hormuz be renamed 'Trump Strait'

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran fired on U.S. allies in the Gulf early Wednesday following a night of American bombardment that Iranian officials say included a deadly strike on a wedding party.

Fighting has escalated since the American military hit Iranian rocket launchers on an island in the Strait of Hormuz over the weekend. Iran retaliated by firing missiles at American bases in Jordan that were intercepted.

Kuwait and Bahrain said they had also come under attack, without reporting any casualties.

The aftermath of a U.S. strike on a wedding ceremony in southern Sirik county in Hormozgan province in Iran on Wednesday. AFP

"You will soon see that Iran's new strategy on the battlefield, in diplomacy, and in confronting the economic blockade will shatter your foundations," the recently appointed head of Iran's powerful Supreme National Security Council, Mohsen Rezaei, said on X.

Separately, Iran has said four members of its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard and 10 members of the Guard's volunteer Basij forces died in the U.S. attacks.

In Iraq, where Iranian-backed forces are active, Kurdish authorities said they had intercepted 10 drones laden with explosives in the Erbil area. Iranian television reported that American bases in Erbil had been targeted.

Israel's military also said that Iran-backed Hezbollah fired two explosive drones at its soldiers in southern Lebanon, without causing casualties.

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Wednesday his country was prepared to "respond with great force, independently of anyone else" if attacked by Iran, adding "our planes are ready to take off".

'Trump Strait'

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday suggested renaming the Strait of Hormuz as "Trump Strait" despite the fact that the crucial waterway remains contested.

"Now that we have it under U.S.A. control, should we change the name Hormuz Strait to TRUMP STRAIT??? Like America itself, it would be 'hotter' than ever before!" Mr. Trump said on his Truth Social network.

'Attempted airport attack state-sponsored terrorism'

Associated Press
BRUSSELS

The European Union's top diplomat said on Wednesday that an attempted attack on a German airport blamed on Russia appears to be "state-sponsored terrorism," as EU countries weighed their response.

The German government on Tuesday blamed Russia for the attempted attack at Leipzig/Halle Airport on August 4 using a drone laden with explosives and announced it would shut down a Russian consulate among other measures.

The drone was found near a Ukrainian cargo plane and the device was defused. The airport is a major international freight hub and is used for providing support to Ukraine.

Kaja Kallas

German officials said at the time that the incident posed a new level of danger.

"It is clear that it has all the hallmarks of state sponsored terrorism. The question is: what do we do about this?" EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas told presspersons before chairing a meeting of the bloc's Defence Ministers in Ireland.

Moscow has been widely accused by Western officials of running a campaign of sabotage and disruption with the aim of undermining support for Ukraine and destabilising European nations.

Russian President Vladimir Putin dismissed Berlin's allegations, instead claiming that Germany's government wants to distract from its own failings and dissatisfaction among voters with "the need to counter an aggressive Russia". He said that any proof being offered "has been planted".

The EU had been planning to impose sanctions on more people over Russia's war on Ukraine and has "in the pipeline 1,600 listings for the military complex of Russia, and maybe there are more to be added," Ms. Kallas said.

Hopes of finding survivors dim week after Nepal flood

Reuters
KATHMANDU

Hopes of finding more survivors among the thousands still missing in Nepal were fading, authorities said on Wednesday, a week after a glacier collapse in the Himalayas unleashed flash floods that devastated the mountainous nation.

At least 1,114 people have been killed and nearly 4,000 remain unaccounted for, with officials fearing many are buried under debris left by the floods that tore through towns and valleys near the Chinese border.

Across the border in Tibet, China's official toll has held steady since Sunday at 16 dead and 546 missing.

"The hope of finding survivors is decreasing," Phanindra Paudel, a senior official at the government's National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC), said.

Nepalese soldiers work during a relief operation outside a tunnel near the hydropower project sites in Rasuwa district. REUTERS

"We pray and are hopeful. Hope is hope!"

Rescuers are trying to find survivors believed to be trapped inside the tunnels of several hydroelectric plants, whose powerhouses have spaces and rooms for people to stay, Army spokesperson Raja Ram Basnet said.

Authorities said 279 people had been rescued from the ruins of hydropower projects but at least 639 more were still missing, some of whom are believed to be trapped in tunnels.

Prime Minister Balendra Shah said the focus would shift from search, rescue and relief operations towards rehabilitation and reconstruction.

UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said aid agencies were "very concerned" about the growing public health risk.

U.S.-Sri Lanka operation busts drug network

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

A joint operation by Sri Lankan and U.S. authorities busted a Pakistan-based narco-trafficking network allegedly attempting to smuggle drugs valued at $21 million.

Acting on intelligence about suspicious maritime containers being shipped from Pakistan to Colombo, the joint team seized the crystal methamphetamine concealed in bath towels, a U.S. Embassy release said.

Taliban defend ban on protests, saying it 'does not exist in Islamic law system'

Agence France-Presse
KABUL

The Taliban defended on Wednesday its ban on protests that has drawn condemnation from rights groups, saying the order complies with Islamic law.

Demonstrations in Afghanistan have been rare since the Taliban returned to power just over five years ago, but the government last month introduced a rule holding that "all types of protests are banned".

International organisations have decried the law as "ruthless" and a move to suppress any dissent in the country.

Zabihullah Mujahid

Taliban regime spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said during a news conference that the "law fully complies with Islamic law", adding that "protests don't exist in Islamic law".

"Protests belong to societies where there are different laws established, for example a democracy or a republic," he said.

Under the Islamic system, he said, people can approach the government with concerns rather than hold demonstrations.

Mr. Mujahid argued the ban "will also protect people from wasting time" and prevent the destruction of private property.

Human Rights Watch late last month slammed the ban as "another step in the Taliban's ruthless effort to suppress all dissent".

Amnesty International described the Taliban's broader series of changes to law enforcement as "another sweeping assault on human rights in Afghanistan", calling the protest ban "among its most egregious provisions".

While demonstrations are rare, at least two persons were killed in June when security forces reportedly opened fire on a women's rights protest in the western city of Herat, a group of UN experts said.

BENGALURU CO-OP. MILK UNION LTD., [BENGALURU DAIRY]
Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, Bengaluru-560029
E-mail Address : bamulpurchase@gmail.com
Website: www.bamulnandini.coop Phone:080-26096214 & 282

Tender Ref No: BAMUL/PUR/09/1853/T-359/2026-27 Date: 02.09.2026

SHORT-TERM TECHNICAL CUM COMMERCIAL TENDER THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL

Bengaluru Co-op Milk Union Ltd., (BAMUL) Bengaluru, invites e-tender through e-Procurement Portal from the interested and eligible Manufacturers/Contractor/Dealer /Distributors for Supply of the following item.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Qty	Estd Cost in Lakhs	Tender No
01	Design Supply Installation Testing And Commissioning Of Plastic Blown Pouch Film Plant at Bengaluru Dairy.	01 Lot (Lumpsum)	2200.00	KMF/2026-27/ IND2324/Call-3

1	Access to E-tender Documents	**03.09.2026** to **10.09.2026** till 02.00 PM
2	Pre-Bid Meeting /Tender clarification date & time	**05.09.2026** till 11.00 AM
3	Last date for submission of tender/ quoting	**10.09.2026** till 02.00 PM
4	Date & time for opening Technical Tender	**11.09.2026** at 02.05 PM
5	Date & time for opening Commercial Tender	**15.09.2026** at 11.00 AM
6	Place of opening of Technical and Commercial Tender	BAMUL (Bengaluru Dairy) Board Room

The Tenderers shall submit separate tender for the above, Tenderers are advised to note the qualification criteria specified in Section VII to qualify for award of the contract.
The Earnest money deposit (E.M.D.) valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the tender i.e. total for 135 days, Tender processing Fee, modes of e-payment, tender document details and other details are mentioned in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and also contact Help line No: **8046010000 /8068948777**

Sd/- Managing Director
Tender Inviting Authority, Bamul

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
CHENNAI RIVERS RESTORATION TRUST(CRRT)
INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS (IFP)

CRRT/Tender/Advt/01/2026 Date: 01.09.2026.

1. The Member Secretary, Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust, proposes to appoint a Maintenance firm for TholkappiaPoonga (358 acres including Adyar Creek & Estuary) in Chennai for a period of two years.

Description of Services	Estimated Value incl. GST in Rs.	EMD in Rs.	e-Tender Submission last date	e-Tender Opening date
Appointment of Maintenance firm for Tholkappia Poonga (358 acres including Adyar Creek & Estuary) in Chennai for a period of two years	7,73,98,586/-	7,73,986/-	28-09-2026 up to 11.00 hrs.	28-09-2026 after 12.30 hrs

1. The assignment is open to all eligible firms. Request for Proposals (RFP) may be downloaded and used free of cost from the tender portal viz. https://tntenders.gov.in/
2. A pre-proposal conference will be held on **09.09.2026 at 11.00 hrs** in the office of Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT), TholkappiaPoonga, 6/103, Dr. D.G.S. DinakaranSalai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai–600028, to clarify queries, if any as stated in the RFP.
3. Any Clarifications, Minutes of Pre-proposal meeting, Extension of time and Addendum & Corrigendum issued will be uploaded only in the Tamil Nadu e-tender website. Other details are available in the RFP.

Member Secretary
Chennai Rivers RestorationTrust
DIPR/2719/TENDER/2026

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No.Civil/EST-22/2026-27 : TCN No.25282, dt.25/08/2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. **Name of the Work : Construction of Block level Stadium (with Indoor Hall), in Kukudakhandi Block under Ganjam District.**
2. **Value of the Work : Rs.15.42 Crore**
3. **Period of completion : 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months**
4. **Availability of tender online for Bidding :**
   - **Start Date : 18:00 Hours of dt.08.09.2026**
   - **End Date : 15:00 Hours of dt.23.09.2026**
   - **Opening date : 16.00 Hours of dt.23.09.2026.**

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.** Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website.**

Chief General Manager (Civil), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
4001/293/2627 OIPR-4001/4075/1/26-27/0103

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KANUPUR IRRIGATION PROJECT
AT/PO-BASUDEVPUR, DIST-KEONJHAR, ODISHA, PIN-758047
e-mail: ccekipbpur@gmail.com

"e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE - Bid Identification No.: CCE, KIP (KRC&BD)-09/2026-27
(Pertaining to Kanpur Rehabilitation Campus & Building Division, Basudevpur)

1.	Name of the Work	As per Detailed Tender Call Notice
2.	Total No. of Package	05 (Five Nos. of individual Work)
3.	Estimated Cost	559.90 to 690.56 Lakh
4.	Period of completion	As per Detailed Tender Call Notice
5.	Class of Contractor	"A" or "Special" Class Contractor as per Detailed Tender Call Notice
6.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	Dt.03.09.2026 from 10.00 Hours to Dt.18.09.2026 up to 17.00 Hours.
7.	Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	18.09.2026 up to 17.00 Hours.
8.	Date & Time of Opening of Tender (Technical Bid)	19.09.2026 at 11.00 Hours
9.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Er. Mahendra Kumar Behera Chief Construction Engineer, Kanupur Irrigation Project, At/Po.- Basudevpur, Dist.- Keonjhar, Odisha - 758047.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in"

(Er.Mahendra Kumar Behera)
Chief Construction Engineer,
Kanupur Irrigation Project, Basudevpur, Keonjhar, Odisha
32001/781/2627 OIPR-32001/32376/1/26-27/0006

Uttarakhand Simply Heaven!
Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB)
Pandit Deendayal Upadhayay Paryatan Bhawan, Near O.N.G.C. Helipad, Nimbuwala, Garhi Cantt, Derhadun - 248003 (UK)
Ph. 0135-2559898, Fax 135-2559988

Ref. No. 3230/2-7-1020/2026-27 Dated: 02 September, 2026

UTDB invites tender for Supply of Ski Equipment to the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB), Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Details may be obtained on website: **uktenders.gov.in** and **uttarakhandtourism.gov.in** from **3:00 PM on 03.09.2026.** Prospective Bidders may seek clarification till **03:00 PM on 08.09.2026** through E-mail: **adventurewingutdb@gmail.com** with CC to **procurement.utdb@gmail.com.** Any Addendum/ Corrigendum including date extension will be uploaded only on **uktenders.gov.in.** Bids must be submitted online through **uktenders.gov.in** only. The last date for submission of bids is **26.09.2026 till 15:00 PM.**

Chief Executive Officer

EALA MANIA

'We're very loud when it comes to supporting our people'

AP

Alex Eala's fans arrived in huge numbers when she trained and then played in her first round US Open match. One of them was Andrea Belen, who FaceTimed with her father during the session so he could see Eala. "Everyone went crazy. We're very loud when it comes to supporting our people," said Belen.

DOUBLY SWEET

To play on the day of my 40th birthday was special: Monfils

AFP

Gael Monfils stood in the middle of the court and bowed to the crowd that treated the Frenchman to a roaring ovation on his 40th birthday. "To play on the day of my 40th birthday was special. You guys made it incredible," said Monfils to the fans at the Louis Armstrong Stadium, who sang happy birthday to him.

SHOWTIME

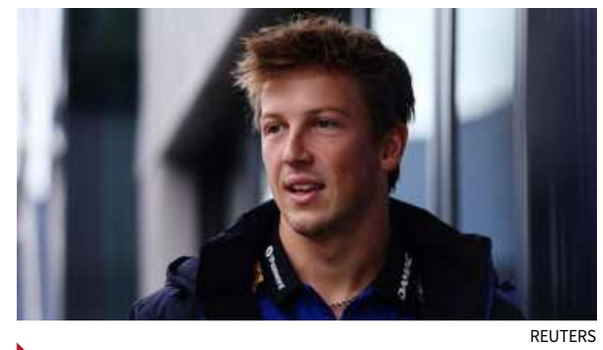
Frodin, Serena's body double in *King Richard*, hogs the limelight

AP

Thea Frodin once had to hit like Serena Williams in the *King Richard* movie in 2021. On Tuesday at the US Open, the 17-year-old showed some pretty good power of her own in real life. "Being aggressive has always been my game. Hopefully, the next time I meet her [Rybakina], I will see what I can do," said Frodin.

IN THE HOTSEAT

Red Bull's Lawson to race in Italian GP as injury keeps Hadjar out



REUTERS

Liam Lawson will remain Max Verstappen's teammate at Red Bull for the Italian GP after Isack Hadjar failed to recover in time from his wrist injury, the team confirmed. Hadjar had said he was hopeful of returning for Sunday's race but will now miss a second event. Yuki Tsunoda gets a second race with Racing Bulls in Lawson's seat.

Zverev battles back from the brink to subdue Sonego

The top-seeded German was two points from defeat in the fourth set; French Open runner-up Cobolli also wins five-set marathon; Rybakina and Gauff move up with ease on rain-affected day

US OPEN

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

Top-seeded Alexander Zverev survived a scare, overcoming Lorenzo Sonego in a wild-five setter at the US Open on Tuesday as Elena Rybakina and Coco Gauff advanced with ease.

Zverev fought off a determined challenge from Italy's lowly ranked Sonego, winning 6-4, 3-6, 6-7(7), 7-5, 6-4 in a tense all-court battle spiced by unlikely retrievals, impossibly angled winners and some inexplicable errors, which wrapped up on Arthur Ashe Stadium after four hours and 53 minutes at 1:55 in the morning.

"I'm just happy I won, that's it. Incredible battle," said Zverev, who was two points from defeat trailing 5-4 in the fourth set.

The German held serve and broke Sonego in the next game, then earned the lone break of the fifth set to complete the win.

Fifth-seeded Flavio Cobolli, runner-up to Zverev at Roland Garros, rallied from two sets down for the first time in his career to beat Argentina's Francisco Comesana 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Nerves didn't seem to be a problem for ninth-seeded Taylor Fritz as he sailed past fellow American Darwin Blanch 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

There was no such drama for women's World No. 2 Rybakina and former champion Gauff. Rybakina, eyeing a third Grand Slam title and the top ranking, beat US teen Thea Frodin 6-3, 6-2.

Gauff showed off her immensely improved serve in a confident 6-3, 6-4 victory over 53rd-ranked Zeynep Sonmez of Turkey.

Gauff blazed through the opening set before Sonmez upped her game, recovering an early break in the second and briefly taking the lead before Gauff regrouped.

Kazakhstan's Rybakina showed little sign of the left heel injury that forced her out of her quarterfinal in Cincinnati this month.

She saved both break points she faced in a polished performance against the big-hitting if erratic American, who was playing her first Grand Slam main draw match on a wild card.

Women's French Open champion Mirra Andreeva also advanced easily, cruising past Indonesia's 36th-ranked Janice Tjen 6-2, 6-2.

Keys, a former Australian Open winner who lost in the first round at Flushing Meadows last year, conquered first-match jitters to beat 19-year-old Russian Alina Korneeva 7-5, 6-4.

While play went as scheduled on the covered Ashe and Armstrong stadiums, those on outside courts – including Rybakina – had to wait out some lengthy rain delays.

That included a near four-hour delay to the start of play and more delays in the evening. Five late matches were postponed altogether and a handful of others suspended.

Finding his range: Zverev conjured up unlikely retrievals and hit impossibly angled winners. REUTERS

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: Second round: 7-Medvedev bt Gorzny (USA) 6-1, 6-3, 7-5; Michelsen (USA) bt 16-Nakashima (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. **First round:** 1-Zverev (Ger) bt Sonego (Ita) 6-4, 3-6, 6-7(7), 7-5, 6-4; 13-Musetti (Ita) bt Fery (GBr) 6-3, 6-3, 7-5; 9-Fritz (USA) bt Blanch (USA) 6-3, 6-2, 6-4; 24-Cerundolo (Arg) bt Misolic (Aut) 6-4, 6-3, 7-5; 5-Cobolli (Ita) bt Comesana (Arg) 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.
Women: Second round: 19-Paolini (Ita) bt Stefanini (Ita) 6-4, 6-1; 31-Fernandez (Can) bt Sawangkaew (Tha) 6-4, 6-1; 15-Shnaider bt Pliskova (Cze) 6-1, 7-6(4); 3-Pegula (USA) bt Kenin (USA) 6-3, 6-1. **First round:** 5-Andreeva bt Tjen (Ina) 6-2, 6-2; 24-Potapova (Aut) bt Semenistaja (Lat) 6-2, 6-2; 4-Gauff (USA) bt Sonmez (Tur) 6-3, 6-4; 22-Keys (USA) bt Korneeva 7-5, 6-4; 17-Eala (Phi) bt Stoiana (USA) 6-1, 6-2; Putintseva (Kaz) bt 12-Bencic (Sui) 4-6, 7-5, 6-3; 23-Mertens (Bel) bt Quevedo (Esp) 6-4, 6-4; 32-Sakkari (Gre) bt Montgomery (USA) 2-6, 7-5, 6-2; 2-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Frodin (USA) 6-3, 6-2.
Fallen seeds: Men: 16-Nakashima; **Women:** 12-Bencic.

Nidheesh and Tilak do it for South

DULEEP TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

An omnipresent Tilak Varma fashioned South Zone's entry into the 2026-27 Duleep Trophy final with a thumping seven-wicket triumph over North Zone at the BCCI Centre of Excellence here. The 23-year-old from Hyderabad, who had starred in the first innings with an ultra-patient, unbeaten 116 (250b), scored a breezy half-century (51 n.o., 79b, 8x4) on Wednesday to help South chase 181 and set up a final date with East Zone in Chennai starting this Sunday.

Tilak first batted during a nervous few minutes towards the end of day one. He then occupied the crease for the whole of day two, helped swell South's first-innings lead to 117 on day three before coming up with a first-rate finishing act on the final day.

And when he was not batting, he was marshalling his team's resources as captain, making it an all-encompassing show.

North began the final morning from 256 for seven, ahead by 139 runs. But Kerala pacer M.D. Nidheesh cleaned up the tail to claim his 10th First Class five-wicket haul (five for 56) and limit North's lead to under 200.

A 64-run, opening-wicket partnership between Ricky Bhui (42, 53b, 7x4) and N. Jagadeesan (43, 83b, 4x4) set South on course before Tilak and R. Smaran (32 n.o., 42b, 4x4, 1x6) combined for an unbroken 80-run stand.

Tilak drove beautifully, almost always getting to the pitch of the ball and caressing the red cherry. His batting range could be seen in the back-to-back fours off left-arm spinner Abid Mushtaq, one reverse-swept and the other paddled. North was tardy on the field. There were misfields galore, and as many as 12 byes, with Kanhaiya Wadhawan and Abdul Samad alternating wicket-keeping duties. The spiciest moment came when pacer Gurnoor Brar was livid with Wadhwan for dropping Jagadeesan on 14. It would have helped if Brar's aggression had percolated through the side, but it never did.

The scores: North Zone 195 & 297 in 72.4 overs (Sanat Sangwan 76, Ayush Doseja 52, M.D. Nidheesh 5/56) lost to South Zone 312 & 182/3 in 43.1 overs (Ricky Bhui 42, N. Jagadeesan 43, Tilak Varma 51 n.o.).

The orchestrators: After Nidheesh restricted North's lead, South skipper Tilak, left, took over. K. MURALI KUMAR

Leading from the front: Tilak guided South's chase with a breezy half-century. K. MURALI KUMAR

I have always loved red-ball cricket: Tilak

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

For the current generation of cricket fans, Tilak Varma's image is that of a dashing, short-format batter for India and Mumbai Indians.

But over the last four days in the Duleep Trophy, the 23-year-old revealed another face – that of a steely red-ball player.

Captaining South Zone in the semifinal versus North, he made an unbeaten 116 from 250 balls to rescue his side from a precarious 80 for five. In the second essay, he was unconquered on 51 (79b) as South chased 181 with ease.

"I have always loved red-ball cricket," Tilak said after his match-winning performance.

"I had never dreamt of playing white-ball [cricket] for India, but it's God's plan that I have played T20 and One-day for India. But my strength is the red-ball game."

Numbers back this assertion. Though he has featured in just two First Class matches in the last 11 months, the Hyderabad southpaw has scored 1,729 runs at an average of 55.77 and a strike-rate of 52.45 from 24 long-format outings. He also has eight centuries and six half-centuries to his name.

"From 2022, I have played a lot of white ball due to IPL and other things, but before that, I have gone through the grind in red ball," Tilak explained. "No one has seen me since I was 10. It's always been my strength and it's there in my blood.

"In the last three-four years, I am not getting enough time because of the international schedule. But whenever I have had a week, or a break, I have played county and domestic cricket."

Tilak is the vice-captain of the Indian T20I team, and leadership spurs him on, he stated. "It gives you more responsibility. Since childhood, I have been captaining Hyderabad, across age categories and Ranji Trophy.

"I'll be thinking, 'if I am not performing, how will others?' That extra pressure... I love that. It reflects in my batting too, when the team is under pressure."

Tilak says he wants to play in the final

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

South Zone skipper Tilak Varma expressed hope that he would be able to play the Duleep Trophy final against East Zone in Chennai starting this Sunday despite the short turnaround time between the marquee contest and the first T20I versus Afghanistan.

Tilak, who is India's T20 vice-captain, will have to finish the final on September 10 and travel to Delhi for the international game scheduled for the 13th. East skipper Ishan Kishan and his deputy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi are also in the same boat.

"I want to play in the final," Tilak told reporters on Wednesday after the triumph over North Zone. "We have two days break in between. But it depends on the selectors and the management."

Tilak hoped that speedster Vidwath Kaverappa, who didn't take the field starting from the post-tea session on day three (Tuesday), will be available.

"His [left] ankle is slightly swollen, but he can walk and he is also running with a tape. I feel he will be there in the final. But let's see."

Karnataka stalwart Karun Nair, who scored 699 runs in the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy, was benched for the semifinal to accommodate Hyderabad's K. Himateja. Tilak said it was purely because of team combination.

"North had two left-arm spinners, and we wanted a lefty in the middle-order. Himateja is a youngster (24) and has scored decent runs (485). It was very unfortunate for Karun."

Stakeholders to meet today to chart India's roadmap till ODI World Cup

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will convene a critical stock-taking meeting of key stakeholders of India's men's cricket teams at its headquarters here on Thursday.

It is understood that the meeting will seek to take a deep dive into the issues that have affected India's performances of late and chart a roadmap through to next year's ODI World Cup, including a possible extension of chief selector Ajit Agarkar's tenure.

Multiple sources in the BCCI have confirmed that head coach Gautam Gambhir, Agarkar, Centre of Excellence head of cricket V.V.S. Laxman, captains Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer, and BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia will attend the meeting in person. Two key BCCI executives are also expected to be present, while some other office-bearers may join via videoconference.

Having taken charge in July 2023, Agarkar's current contract expires at the end of this month. With BCCI regulations capping a selector's tenure at four years, he is eligible to continue until next September.

That would ensure continuity through the ODI World Cup, scheduled to begin in October 2027. However, India's poor returns in ODIs and the cold war between Agarkar and the BCCI hierarchy over Rohit Sharma's future in international cricket are likely to feature in the deliberations.

The injury-management mechanism at the CoE is another area that has come under criticism from the selection committee and team management. As a result, despite the recent PR overdrive around the CoE, BCCI office-bearers are keen to proactively come up with a plan for a more effective injury-management system.

Scheduling overlaps between key India-A and international assignments and major domestic fixtures are also expected to be discussed. India-A's shadow tour of New Zealand co-inciding with the ODI series against the Kiwis has left little room for adequate Test preparation ahead of the crucial series in November.

The poor run of the limited-overs teams in Ireland and England will also come under detailed scrutiny. Saikia had announced a review meeting immediately after the England tour concluded in mid-July, but it could not be convened because of the unavailability of key personnel.

Agarkar's extension as chief selector will be discussed. FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Mumbai, Vadodara to host first women's CT

Agencies
DUBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Wednesday that the inaugural women's Champions Trophy 2027 will be held in Mumbai and Vadodara from Feb. 14 to 28.

Top six outfits

Mumbai's Cricket Club of India (CCI) and the Vadodara International Cricket Stadium will be the venues for the tournament which will bring together six of the world's top sides – Australia, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka. The teams, which qualified as per their ICC T20I rankings on the July 6 qualification cut-off date, will play in a round-robin league. The top two will progress to the final on February 28.

"With a marquee ICC women's event now taking place every year, we have an opportunity to build greater momentum for the women's game," said Jay Shah, ICC chairman.

INBRIEF

'Humiliated' Aubameyang quits Gabon national team

Gabon captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has announced that he is stepping back from the national team, saying he felt "humiliated" by his exclusion and subsequent reinstatement after the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco. The top scorer in the history of the Panthers was singled out by the Gabonese government as responsible for the AFCON failure. "They humiliated and smeared me even though I played at the AFCON while injured," the 37-year-old said.

Anahat and Ramit advance in London Squash Classic

Reigning World junior champion Anahat Singh eased past Egypt's Mariam Metwally 11-3, 11-2 to enter the second round of the $144,000 London Squash Classic. In the men's first round, Ramit Tandon defeated Qatar's Abdullah Al-Tamimi 11-6, 11-7 but Veer Chotrani lost to Yannick Wilhelmi of Switzerland 9-11, 9-11.

Women in Blue keen to iron out batting flaws

The seven-time champion would look for a better performance ahead of its game against Pakistan on Saturday; Hong Kong's Lamplough will be the bowler to watch out for in Thursday's match

ASIA CUP

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

India will need to sort out its batting frailties for a more complete performance when it faces Hong Kong in its second match of the Women's T20 Asia Cup on Thursday.

The seven-time champion survived some anxious moments after a batting collapse in the second half of the first innings in its opening match against Thailand.

Leeway

India will have more leeway to iron out its issues ahead of bigger battles, including against Pakistan in its last Group A-game.

Shafali Verma shone brightly with a quick-fire 64, while Deepti Sharma too proved her mettle, taking three wickets without conceding a run to emerge as the highest wicket-taker in women's T20Is.

Smriti Mandhana and Pratika Rawal will hope to convert their starts and give a better account of themselves.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, too, will want to get back among the runs in the shortest format.

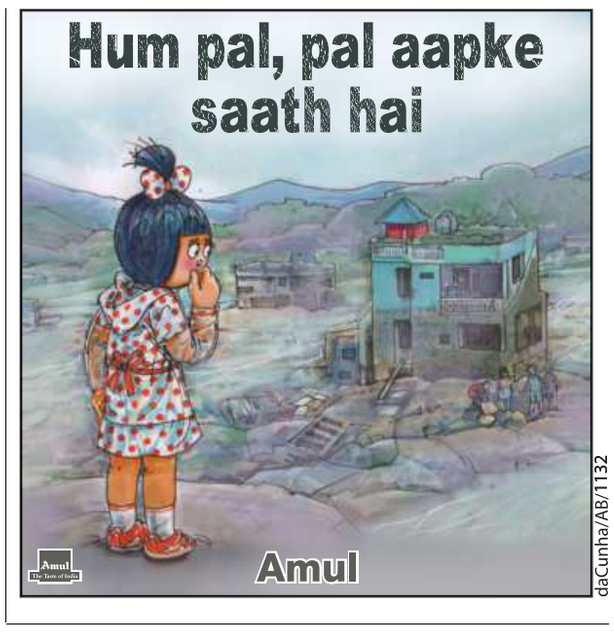
After the Asia Cup, India will head into the Asian Games in Japan and will need to be at its absolute best before that, especially after a disappointing T20 World Cup campaign.

Hong Kong, on the other hand, suffered a narrow six-run defeat to Thailand in the tournament opener.

Chasing 121, it fell just short at 114 for seven. However, its bowling unit showed incredible grit, particularly pacer Marina Lamplough, who recorded stunning figures of four for 11. If Hong Kong is to put up a fight, Lamplough will have to find a way to keep India's explosive top-order in check.

Match starts 8 p.m. IST.

Practice makes perfect: Harmanpreet & Co. gear up for the Hong Kong game. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Wadoo is head coach of India u-17 men's team

FOOTBALL

ANI
NEW DELHI

The AIFF has appointed former India international Mehrajuddin Wadoo as the head coach of the India u-17 men's national team. Wadoo has taken charge of the team as the Blue Colts began their preparatory camp in Margao on Wednesday. The camp is in its trial phase as preparations begin for the AFC u-17 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2027 Qualifiers. India has been drawn in Group E of the Qualifiers, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur from November 11 to 20.

Parkinson's Law, Butterfly Effect and the beautiful chaos of deadline day

PL TRANSFERS

Sankar Narayanan E.H.

Every deadline day is an opportunity to remember Parkinson's Law.

C. Northcote Parkinson's 1955 satirical observation that work expands to fill the time available for its completion was validated once again as English clubs squeezed every last second of the clock before the Premier League summer transfer window closed at 3.30 a.m. IST on Wednesday.

The biggest (read costliest) deadline-day move came as Argentina midfielder Enzo Fernandez swapped Chelsea's royal blue for Manchester City's lighter shade.

The £125 million deal came after the London outfit had reportedly set an August 14 deadline for the player it valued at £120 million. In the end, Man City got its man, and Chelsea pocketed a tidy profit on a player it bought for £107 million in 2023.

Chain reaction

Waiting until the very last moment is risky business, especially when the whole ecosystem relies on a delicate chain reaction.

A player's transfer from one badge to another doesn't just affect the two clubs involved. The ripple effect of that one signature may disrupt or open avenues for other teams and players in the ecosystem, setting off or cancelling a slew of incomings and outgoings by virtue of the original transfer.

In other words, Ray Bradbury's Butterfly Effect, too, assumes utmost significance in the world of football.

Ask Chelsea, and it will tell you how it came close to signing Monaco's Lamine Camara as Fernandez's replacement, only for the French club to renege on the deal because of striker Folarin Balogun's proposed departure to Everton bringing in enough cash to the club. In a late twist, Balogun chose not to move to Merseyside, a decision that left all three of Chelsea, Monaco and Everton unhappy and blindsided!

Lyon's Malick Fofana was at the centre of one of the most dramatic deadline day transfers. After Arsenal reportedly decided not to spend big on the Belgian winger, Sunderland and Crystal Palace entered the fray. According to reports, Fofana had two private jets waiting for him at Lyon airport, one set for Sunderland, and the other for London. While Palace initially thought it had successfully hijacked Sunderland's agreement with Fofana, the player ultimately decided to ply his trade at the Stadium of Light.

The 2026-27 Premier League deadline day had it all: a record-shattering transfer, two private jets on a runway, and a collapsed multi-club domino chain.

After all, what is deadline day without some chaos and manic buying?

News and newsmakers: While Fernandez swapped Chelsea's royal blue for Manchester City's lighter shade, Fofana was at the centre of one of the most dramatic transfers. X@MANCITY & INSTAGRAM@MALICK FOFANA

Atiqa records two top-four finishes in WSK Final Cup

MOTORSPORTS

Press Trust of India
FRANCIACORTA (ITALY)

Indian racing prodigy Atiqa Mir overcame set-up issues to collect two impressive top-four finishes in the opening round of the WSK Final Cup here, continuing her upward trajectory in the world of karting.

The qualifying session didn't go as per plan for the 11-year-old and she could only set the ninth fastest time.

However, the first Indian to be backed by the F1 Academy, made flying starts in both race one and two to charge through the field and secure creditable back-to-back fourth place finishes. Following the two heat races, Atiqa was classified P14 among as many as 72 drivers.

This put her seventh on the grid for the pre-final where she eventually finished ninth after running fifth for the majority of the race. In the final, Atiqa was involved in a crash that damaged her kart and ended her race.

"A mixed weekend for me. I was expecting more but we were struggling for pace.

"I managed to fight my way up in most of the races and was in a competitive spot for the pre finals and finals.

"But things didn't go my way and the lack of pace hurt us on the long straights of Franciacorta," said the JK Tyre and Raise-backed driver.

Atiqa will next be seen in the fourth round of the Champions of the Future Academy in Spain. She had dominated the Greece round earlier this year.

Atiqa. X@FIA

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Aneesh and Anvay prop up KSCA President's XI

BENGALURU: K.V. Aneesh (76) and Anvay Dravid (43) kept KSCA President's XI afloat against Goa CA on the second day of their Dr. (Capt.) K. Thimmappiah memorial tournament match at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday. KSCA President's XI trails Goa CA by 128 runs, with three wickets in hand.

The scores: At Bengaluru: Goa CA 338 in 102.2 overs vs. KSCA President's XI 210/7 in 72 overs (K.V. Aneesh 76, Anvay Dravid 43).
Gujarat CA 350 in 95.1 overs (Abhishek Desai 101, Vedant Trivedi 50, Priyesh Patel 64, Parth Rekhade 7/77) vs. Vidarbha CA 265/7 in 79 overs (Satyam Bhoyar 41, Abhishek Agrawal 52, Yash Kadam 50, Saral Prajapati 5/71).
KSCA Secretary's XI 303 vs. Baroda CA 309/8 in 97.0 overs (Sukrit Pandey 59, Shivalik Sharma 155 n.o.).
Madhya Pradesh CA 290/9 decl. in 93.4 overs (Yash Dubey 69, Shubham Sharma 105) vs. Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh 217/4 in 74 overs (Anuj Tiwari 83, Sanidhya Hurkat 55).
KSCA XI 361 and 59/1 in 19 overs vs. Maharashtra CA 216 in 65.5 overs (Siddesh Veer 86, Madhav Bajaj 4/55).
UT Cricket Association (Chandigarh) 426/5 in 120 overs (Manav Vohra 163, Raj Angad 103) vs. Mumbai CA 144/1 in 56 overs (Angkirsh Raghuvanshi 71 n.o.).
At Mysuru: KSCA Combined XI 66 and 175/5 in 43 overs (Harshil Dharmani 111) vs Jharkhand State CA 357 in 88.3 overs (Sharandeep Singh 78, Utkarsh Singh 119, Shreesha Achar 4/75).
Andhra CA 428 in 106.5 overs (Hemanth Reddy 200, Revanth Reddy 82, Hritik Kalia 5/80) vs Himachal Pradesh CA 323/7 in 71 overs (Akash Vashisht 91, Pukhraj Mann 137).

Mokhit notches up a century for Bangalore City XI

K.S. Mokhit (142) starred for Bangalore City XI against Dharwad Zone in the KSCA under-19 inter-zonal tournament here.

The scores: Dharwad Zone 303 in 75.5 overs (Sujay Korawar 104, Sainath Rajoli 89) drew with Bangalore City XI 318/9 in 89 overs (M. Jayan Samyog 62, K.S. Mokhit 142, S.B. Patil 6/58).
Shivamogga Zone 155 in 39.1 overs and 83/1 in 20 overs drew with Mangalore Zone 231 in 60.5 overs (A.S. Kumar 41, Davin Glenn Mascarenhas 48).
President's XI 235/7 decl. in 65.2 overs (Arya Gowda 105) drew with Mysore Zone 324/3 in 86 overs (Chavanth Gowda 91, Vyshak Nagaraj 76, Manthhan Arun 63, Varun Patel Lokesha 80 n.o.).
Raichur Zone 150 in 53.3 overs and 197/6 in 52 overs (Rajesh Mahadev Kamble 71, Abhilash Rathod 51 n.o.) drew with Bangalore Zone 234 in 56.3 overs (Arnav Anil 56, Dhruv Krishnan 70, Tejas Reddy 54, Rohit Rathod 4/44).
Tumkur Zone 205 in 70.3 overs (Adil 47) drew with Combined City XI 213 in 50.2 overs (Adhrit Rao 62, Arush Jain 66, K.S. Rohith 4/46).

Tejas in last eight

Top seed Tejas Ravi edged out Amrit Dhankar 6-3, 5-7, 6-1 to enter the quarterfinals of the KSLTA World Tennis Tour Junior J30 Bengaluru at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium on Wednesday. In the girls' round-of-16, Disha Kumar defeated Tanusshri Maneni Sathesh 6-1, 6-2.

Zavaray Poonawalla to sponsor marquee Mysuru races

MYSURU: Zavaray S. Poonawalla will sponsor the Invitation Cup and the Mysore Derby in the 16-day Mysuru racing season beginning here on Thursday.

Mr. Poonawalla will also support the 1000 and 2000 Guineas, Mysore Dasara Sprint Championship and the Mysore Race Club Anniversary Cup.

Wherever the guaranteed stake money is not fully covered by the Mysore Race Club's contribution and sweepstakes collections, the shortfall will be shared equally between Mr. Poonawalla and the club.

MRC chairman K.T. Balakrishna also revealed the advertised stake money for the season is approximately ₹7 crore, excluding the prize money for races conducted during the Invitation Cup weekend.

Stud Poker tipped for feature event

RACING

MYSURU: Stud Poker, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the Srikantadatta Narasimharaajawadiyar Memorial Multi Million (1,400m), the feature event of the opening day races to be held here on Thursday (Sept. 3). False rails (width about 2m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 STAR OF MYSORE TROPHY (DIV. II), 1,400m, rated 20 to 45, 2-00 p.m.: 1. Lords Grace (4) R. Ravi 60, 2. Fine Silver (12) Akshay K 59.5, 3. King Scarface (2) Abhishek Mhatre 58.5, 4. Mighty Hero (1) Jitendra S 58.5, 5. Sneha Latha (3) S. Imran 58.5, 6. Elveden (8) Laxman S 58, 7. Sada (5) Sai Kiran 58, 8. Your Sri Shakthi (11) Gautam Raj 58, 9. King D (9) A. Asbar 57.5, 10. Starlight Whisper (10) Mukesh 57, 11. Trump Baby (6) A. Bandaal 55 and 12. Supernal (7) Kiran Rai 54.5.
1. FINE SILVER, 2. SADA, 3. SUPERNAL

2 LAVASA PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30: 1. Calculus (12) S. Sachin 62.5, 2. Dasadyu (9) Ritesh G 61.5, 3. Excellence (4) Aleemuddin 61, 4. Anzac Parade (1) Abhishek Mhatre 60, 5. She's So Beautiful (10) Ramesh K 60, 6. Everwin (6) Inayat 59.5, 7. Rock My Heart (7) B. Darshan 59, 8. Saintly Star (2) S. Shareef 59, 9. Wild Child (11) Sai Kiran 59, 10. Nizbati Queen (3) Gautam Raj 58, 11. Moonlight Speed (8) Siddaraju P 55.5 and 12. Lorven's Glory (5) M. Rajesh K 52.5.
1. EXCELLENCE, 2. DASADYA, 2. ANZAC PARADE

3 STAR OF MYSORE TROPHY (DIV. I), 1,400m, rated 20 to 45, 3-00: 1. Auspicious KIng (1) Kiran Rai 61.5, 2. One Diamond (6) Faiz 61.5, 3. Golden Sabre (3) N. Darshan 61, 4. Bezawada Baasha (8) Sai Kiran 60.5, 5. Yarra Yarra (2) Antony 60, 6. Krishvi (10) Inayat 59.5, 7. Shutterfly (5) Sandesh 59, 8. Super Stride (4) Abhishek Mhatre 58, 9. Sarvottam (11) R. Rakesh 57, 10. Jasmine (9) Salman Khan 56, 11. Words Worth (12) B. Darshan 56, 12. Born Ruler (7) A. Asbar 55.5.
1. SHUTTERFLY, 2. YARRA YARRA, 3. AUSPICIOUS KING

4 B.K. KRISHNADEVARAJ URS MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. I), 1,200m, rated 40 to 65, 3-30: 1. Asio (3) S. Shareef 62, 2. Spectacular (12) Sai Kiran 61.5, 3. Raffinato (1) Md. Talib 61, 4. Winter Agenda (7) Antony 61, 5. Rapidus (8) S. Imran 60.5, 6. Serrano (4) Rushal G.A 60.5, 7. Shibra (5) A. Asbar 60.5, 8. Falcon Fury (2) Abhishek Mhatre 59, 9. Grizzly (6) Ramesh K 59, 10. Silver Spring (11) Rajesh K 58, 11. Beautiful Bloom (9) Prabhu K 56.5 and 12. Zephyrine (10) Akshay K 53.5.
1. ZEPHYRINE, 2. SHIBRA, 3. WINTER AGENDA

5 SRIKANTADATTA NARASIMHARAAJAWADIYAR MEMORIAL MULTI MILLION (1,400m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Enrica (5) Akshay K 57, 2. Seize The Grey (4) Sandesh 55.5, 3. Stud Poker (3) Antony 55.5, 4. Astrid (1) Trevor 54 and 5. Tyche (2) Neeraj 54.
1. STUD POKER, 2. TYCHE

6 H.H. SRI JAYACHAMARAJA WADIYAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 80 & above, 4-30: 1. Huntingdon (7) Inayat 60.5, 2. Czar (3) Antony 60, 3. Gold Kite (8) Md. Talib 60, 4. Yukan (6) Lave Kumar 58, 5. Rise Again (5) Sai Kiran 57.5, 6. Touch Of Grey (9) Akshay K 57, 7. Star Glory (10) Darshan 56, 8. Masato (2) Rayan 56, 9. Tom Cruiser (1) Salman Khan 53.5 and 10. Vandhiyathevan (4) Faiz 53.5.
1. CZAR, 2. MASATO, 3. STAR GLORY

7 B.K. KRISHNADEVARAJ URS MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. II), 1,200m, rated 40 to 65, 5-00: 1. Cynosure (11) N. Darshan 60, 2. Mandolin (6) S. Sachin 59, 3. Moonlight Queen (10) Faiz 57.5, 4. Balgownie (7) Inayat 57, 5. Choice (3) B. Darshan 56.5, 6. Mark One (4) Md. Talib 56.5, 7. Saint Emilion (8) Aleemuddin 56, 8. Windborne (9) A. Hangal 55.5, 9. Selma (5) Antony 55, 10. Sira (2) R. Rakesh 55, 11. Marzgovel (1) S. Imran 54.5 and 12. Straordinario (12) Bharat Mal 54.5.
1. SELMA, 2. MARZGOVEL, 3. MARK ONE

Day's best: **STUD POKER**
Double: **FINE SILVER – EXCELLENCE**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Srikanth, Tanvi advance; Lakshya exits

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SHENZEN

K. Srikanth and Tanvi Sharma registered straight-game wins to progress to the second round while Lakshya Sen was knocked out of the China Masters after a listless performance in the opening round on Wednesday.

Srikanth progressed after beating Taiwan's Chi Yu Jen 21-16, 21-15 in a men's singles opener while Tanvi, defeated Denmark's Amalie Schulz 21-16, 21-17.

Lakshya played an error-riddled game to go down 14-21, 7-21 in 38 minutes to Victor Lai.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also moved to the next round with a 21-11, 21-16 win over Malaysia's Junaidi Arif and Kang Khai Xing.

India's mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto too entered the next round after defeating Thailand's Tonnakorn Saeheng and Tonnicha Saeheng 21-8, 21-9.

The results (first round):
Women: Tanvi Sharma bt Amalie Schulz (Den) 21-16, 21-17; Kaloyana Nalbantova (Bul) bt Devika Sihag 21-18, 21-15.
Men: K. Srikanth bt Chi Yu Jen (Tpe) 21-16, 21-15; Victor Lai (Can) bt Lakshya Sen 21-14, 21-7.
Doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Junaidi Arif and Kang Khai Xing (Mas) 21-11, 21-16.
Mixed doubles: Dhruv Kapila & Tanisha Crasto bt Tonnakorn Saeheng and Tonnicha Saeheng (Tha) 21-8, 21-9; Wu Guan Xun & Lee Chia Hsin (Tpe) bt Rohan Kapoor & Ruthvika Gadde 21-16, 21-18.

LIVE TELECAST

T20 Women's Asia Cup: India vs Hong Kong, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 8 p.m.
US Open: SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 8.30 p.m. & 4.30 a.m. (Friday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

From the Wall to the Hall

Once a boy who broke racquets and scrubbed toilets for it, Federer turned a hot temper into quiet grace and routine brilliance into religion, becoming tennis' closest thing to a spiritual experience. In Newport on Sunday, the Hall of Fame simply made it scripture

Anirudh Velamuri

There should be a word for what Roger Federer did on a tennis court, because "played" barely covers it. Watching him felt like being granted a glimpse of the divine, and that's no exaggeration. Your jaw went slack, your eyes bulged, and sounds escaped your body that no grown adult should make over a man hitting a felt ball with a string racquet.

Federer did not invent anything. Every shot in his arsenal had been struck before, by someone else in some other era.

Yet, in his hands, the borrowed became the sacred, the familiar became revelation, as if the shot had been waiting its whole life for him specifically to unlock it. And he didn't do it once in some career-defining flash of magic. He did it for the better part of two decades. It was a residency in genius, not a hot streak. Pete Sampras once said Federer's game had no weaknesses, and it stands true. What other players built entire careers on – a single jaw-dropping moment etched into a highlight reel – Federer treated as routine.

Except, of course, that routine came around roughly a thousand times, spread across four Grand Slams and every corner of the world, and it never once stopped feeling like the first time. That is the strange arithmetic of Federer's greatness: repetition should have dulled the wonder, but it never did. Familiarity, in his case, only sharpened the awe.

Now the residency has its plaque. The felt ball has been put down, the sermons have ended, and what's left is the reckoning every great career eventually meets - not a match, but a monument.

On Sunday, the world celebrated Federer once again as he was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. It is the sport's great farewell and its eternal afterlife in the same breath, a place where a player's brilliance is carved into permanence, even as it reminds them that greatness is never solitary.

The crowd said as much. Billie Jean King, Martina Navratilova, Stefan Edberg, John McEnroe, Andy Roddick and many others were on hand to celebrate one of tennis' finest champions.

And closer still sat the ones who needed no introduction. His parents, Robert and Lynette. His wife, Mirka, and his four kids that the tennis world had watched grow up, one Slam at a time, in players' boxes scattered across the globe–.

Mirka spoke first and introduced her husband with a line that outshone every statistic that followed. "What makes me proudest isn't what Roger accomplished when the world was watching. It's who he is when nobody's watching," she said.

He, too, glowingly praised the one person who has seen the highs and lows of his stardom from a touch away, while also building a semblance of a normal life together.

"Mirka inspires me every day. She showed me how to stay focused on tennis and take joy in everything else. A wonderful mother to our four kids... she makes the impossible happen. We grab each other's hands, and we run through walls."

More than trophies

For once, the man who made the impossible look routine was undone by his own history. He tried, and failed, to hold it together - pausing a few times to wipe his eyes, half-laughing through his tears. At one point, he pleaded for tissues and sunglasses, but pressed on anyway, the way he always had.

When he steadied himself enough, he spoke not of the trophies or numerous records. He was more focused on the more than 5,000 headbands he wore, the more than 7,000 pairs of socks he went through, some 10,000 racquets strung over the years, and the thousands of sets played on the same two knees.

"I tried to show my love for the game. Because it really mattered to me, and I also wanted it to matter to you. To be worthy of your attention, worthy of your attendance, because people don't have to come watch us play. They come to be entertained, inspired, excited. They could always decide to go somewhere else, but they chose tennis, they chose us," he emphasised.

The 45-year-old even wandered back to where it all began, not in any packed stadium but in the shadows just off it.

"I remember being a ball boy in Basel, standing against the back wall, hands behind me, eyes on the ball. I'll never forget how the game looked from there... the intensity, the adversity, the feeling of being so close to the players. I remember the next morning, my legs were gone... standing all day is a lot of work."

Federer, especially later in his career, had the power to make the smallest cog in the wheel seen and appreciated. His core memory helped him do the same once more at Newport.

"I really want to thank every ball kid who ever stood through my matches or all our matches, for that matter, for hours on end. I see you. I thank you. I was you."

It's a strange, fitting symmetry: that is precisely how everyone felt watching his career unfold. Standing still, eyes fixed on the ball, absorbing the intensity as though they were pressed against the back wall of the court – even from several hundred or several thousand kilometres away, on the other side of the television screen.

More than a hundred titles in his cabinet, and yet Federer insisted the number was never the point.

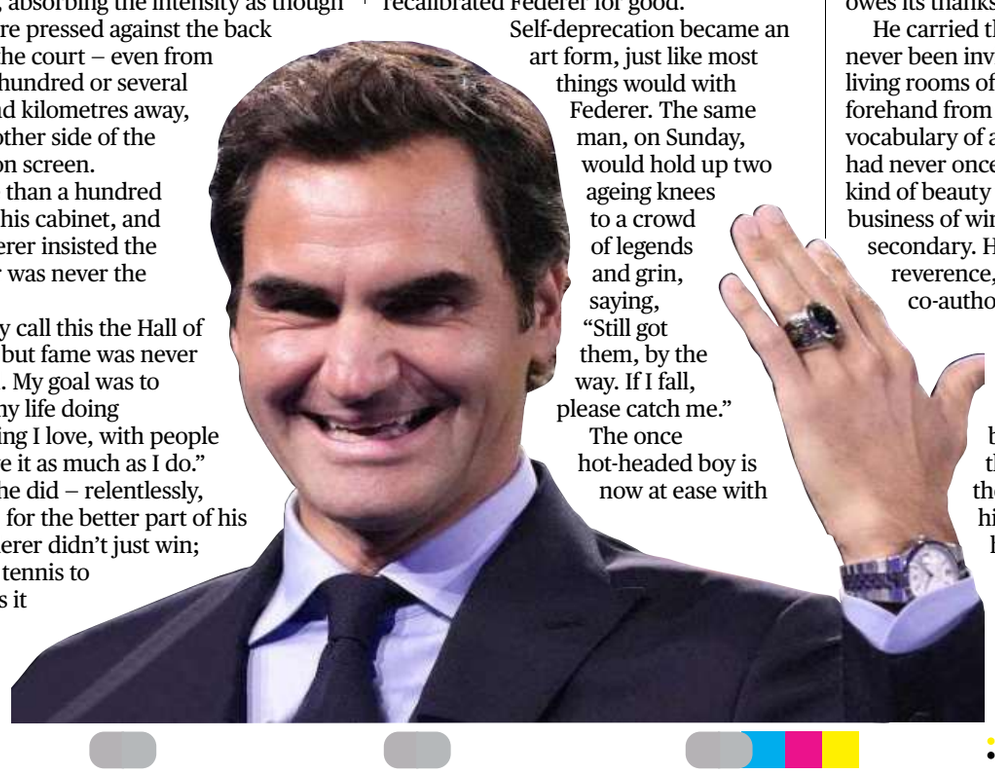
"They call this the Hall of Fame... but fame was never the goal. My goal was to spend my life doing something I love, with people who love it as much as I do."

And he did – relentlessly, joyfully, for the better part of his life. Federer didn't just win; he took tennis to altitudes it hadn't reached before, wrote storylines the sport had never dared to script, and handed the world rivalries (with Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic) that will be studied and mythologised for generations.

Smashed racquet, softened man

There was a time when the future maestro was closer to a menace. As a boy in Basel, he didn't play tennis so much as wage a war with it – swearing between points, smashing racquets and the whole kit and caboodle. At 16, he tore through a practice backdrop, understandably earning a week-long toilet-scrubbing sentence from his coach.

By his own admission, the unlearning took years and was no epiphany. The real turning point wasn't a victory or defeat, but a tragedy – the death of his childhood coach Peter Carter in 2002, which recalibrated Federer for good.



Self-deprecation became an art form, just like most things would with Federer. The same man, on Sunday, would hold up two ageing knees to a crowd of legends and grin, saying, "Still got them, by the way. If I fall, please catch me."

The once hot-headed boy is now at ease with laughing at himself, and became the most graceful man in tennis – on the court and off it. And he did it all with the same unhurried smile, even in the moments when the headband was fighting a losing battle against the sweat of another title run, even when his body was being pushed past what bodies are supposed to give.

"I'm still writing my love letter to tennis. My time as a player is done, but tennis will always stand at the intersection of everything I care most about... my family, our friendships, the past 40 years and the future we're building. So this is not a goodbye," he stated.

"We all leave the court eventually, but the sport keeps evolving. This boy from Basel thanks you... and I thank all of you for sharing the journey."

It is the tennis world, though, that owes its thanks to Federer.

He carried the sport to spaces it had never been invited into before – into living rooms of people who couldn't tell a forehand from a backhand, into the vocabulary of art critics and poets who had never once written about sport, into a kind of beauty that made the utilitarian business of winning feel almost secondary. He turned rivalry into reverence, opponents into co-authors, and a simple racquet into something closer to a paintbrush.

The ball boy became the main event. And the boy who once stood against the back wall, eyes fixed on the ball with hands behind his back, has finally taken his place among the very heroes he once watched from the shadows.

That, perhaps, is the only ending fitting enough: not a farewell, but a homecoming.

Career in numbers

1 The only male player to appear in seven consecutive Wimbledon finals (2003 to 2009)

8 Federer holds the record for most Wimbledon men's singles titles

19 Grass was Federer's most successful surface, where he won an Open Era record 19 titles (including a record 10 Halle Open titles)

20 Number of Grand Slam singles titles he won. He is the first man in history to reach the milestone

31 The number of Grand Slam finals reached (20-11 win-loss record)

56 His record win streak on hard courts (2005 ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam to the 2006 Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships)

103 Number of career titles won

224 Career victories against top-10 opponents, with a 64.6 win percentage

237 Holds the record for most consecutive weeks as World No. 1 (February 2, 2004 to August 17, 2008)

310 Number of weeks spent as the top-ranked player in the world, second only to Djokovic (428)

1,526 The number of matches Federer played (won 1,251 and lost 275)

Moving towards a universal vaccine against pneumonia and meningitis

Scientists are looking for a universal pneumococcal vaccine that can target all the hundred or so forms of *Streptococcus pneumonia* bacteria, and prevent some undesirable outcomes created by existing vaccines that keep the threat of pneumococcal diseases alive in the human population

S. Swaminathan

There is a bacterium called *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. It comes in at least a hundred different forms, or serotypes, and lives in the tissue lining our nose and throat. *S. pneumoniae* is normally harmless. But when your body's immune system becomes weaker, for example when you have a viral fever, these bacteria may invade your lungs and cause pneumonia, your brain and spinal cord to cause meningitis, and your bloodstream to cause sepsis.

These diseases are called pneumococcal diseases, and fortunately, they can be prevented by vaccines. Each of these vaccines contains a unique sugary substance called a capsular polysaccharide, aimed at each serotype of *S. pneumoniae*. That is, they offer protection specific to each serotype.

And the current crop of pneumococcal vaccines protect against only a subset of the 100-odd serotypes. To increase coverage, scientists need to include additional serotype-specific capsular polysaccharides in the vaccine. And covering all the serotypes in a single shot would be extremely challenging, not to mention extremely expensive as well.

The agar plate with red blood cells on the left shows a positive Staphyloccus infection and on the right shows a positive Streptococcus infection. NCI/UNSPLASH

Sugary shot

Recently, a team of British scientists reported an important first step in this direction. They did two things: first, they switched the polysaccharide with proteins and, second, they adopted an approach called reverse vaccinology.

Basically, two kinds of pneumococcal vaccines are available today. One is a mix of purified capsular polysaccharides from multiple serotypes. Pneumovax 23 is an example. It does not work well in infants and offers short-lived protection.

To help boost the effects as well as the durability of the immune response, scientists have linked the polysaccharides to a carrier protein. Such vaccines are known as pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCVs). Typical examples include PCV10 and PCV14; the numerals denote the number of serotypes included.

When these vaccines target and eliminate some serotypes of *S. pneumoniae*, it also opens the door for other serotypes to mount an infection. These non-vaccine serotypes also face less biological competition for space and resources, so they multiply and eventually replace the vaccine-targeted serotypes, rendering the vaccines obsolete.

Second, many non-vaccine serotypes either possess antibiotic resistance genes or can acquire them from their resistant counterparts. This leads to the rise of both vaccine- and antibiotic-resistant serotypes.

Thus, scientists are looking for a universal pneumococcal vaccine that can target all serotypes and prevent these outcomes, which keep the threat of pneumonia, meningitis, and other pneumococcal diseases alive in the population.

Reverse vaccinology starts from the germ's genome to identify proteins that can be included in vaccines. Scientists demonstrated an example of this in the recent COVID-19 pandemic: once the virus's genome was sequenced in early 2020, scientists around the world could analyse it and zero in on the spike-protein gene to make COVID-19 vaccines. The approach completely bypassed the need to culture the germs in large bioreactors and purify molecular components from them to make the vaccine.

The *S. pneumoniae* genome encodes more than 2,000 genes. Of them, around 1,300 are common across serotypes. The genomic data of more than 20,000 *S. pneumoniae* isolates across nearly a hundred serotypes are also available in the public domain.

The scientists deployed extensive computational analysis using an arsenal of bioinformatic tools to analyse these sequences.

They reasoned that the best candidate genes for creating their universal vaccine would need to encode for proteins with three attributes: (i) it must be located on the surface so that the immune system can easily access it; (ii) it must have low or no similarity to human proteins, so that the immune system does not attack the body's tissue, and (iii) it must be capable of eliciting a robust and durable anti-pneumococcal immunity.

The team shortlisted some candidates and further whittled the list down based on their predicted shapes and stability. From this, the team picked three candidate genes. They were: zinc metalloprotease B (Z), pneumococcal adherence virulence factor A (P), and a protein which the scientists designated YfhO-like (Y) due to its similarity to another bacterial protein.

The team produced proteins Z, P, and Y in the laboratory and made an experimental vaccine by mixing them together. They also added two non-protein immune response boosters: a small piece of synthetic DNA called CpG and a sugary polymer called chitosan. They named this formulation ZPY-CpG-Ch.

Potent antibodies

To test whether the vaccine could elicit protective anti-pneumococcal antibodies, the scientists vaccinated laboratory mice. After some time, they exposed the mice to a lethal dose of *S. pneumoniae* serotype 1, which is known to be hypervirulent. Compared to unvaccinated mice, all of which succumbed to the lethal dose, vaccinated mice showed 80-100% survival.

Importantly, the scientists found that the level of protection offered by ZPY-CpG-Ch was comparable to that of PCV13.

The team also found that antibodies from the mice vaccinated with ZPY-CpG-Ch could help kill *S. pneumoniae* bacteria in a test tube. When injected into unvaccinated mice, the antibodies could also protect them against a lethal dose of serotype 1.

Third, ZPY-CpG-Ch fully protected vaccinated mice exposed to lethal doses of two non-vaccine serotypes, 11A and 33F. It also offered 50% protection against a third non-vaccine serotype, called serotype 8.

In all mouse experiments, measures of the vaccine's protective effect based on the bacterial load in lungs and blood mirrored the rodents' survival rates. However, the ZPY-CpG-Ch vaccine did not reduce the load of pneumococcal bacteria in the upper respiratory passages of vaccinated mice. That is, despite being protected, vaccinated mice have the ability to still spread the infection to uninfected mice.

Worthy goal

Finally, the team also reported that vaccinating mice with ZPY-CpG-Ch stimulated a subset of immune cells that are implicated in pneumococcal immunity.

The results from this work are too preliminary for ZPY-CpG-Ch to be a universal pneumococcal vaccine. It has also been tested against a very small subset of serotypes, four to be precise. Vaccine data from laboratory mice also may not truly reflect the human situation.

Nevertheless, this work represents a baby step towards the worthy goal of developing a universal pneumococcal vaccine.

(S. Swaminathan is a retired professor of biology at BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad, and a former scientist at ICGEB, New Delhi. ssn225@gmail.com)

Scientist Akiko Takii collects samples from a young Asiatic black bear before releasing it back into the wild in Nagano, Japan, in July 2026. AFP

An alternative emerges to check Japan's bear troubles

Agence France-Presse

As a sensor sounded, scientist Akiko Takii hurried to a bear trap deep in the forests of Nagano in Japan, where rising attacks have brought fear and resulted in the culling of thousands of the animals. "It is a small bear, I think, about a year and a half old," Ms. Takii said as she peered at the 15-kilogramme Asiatic black bear thrashing in the cage. "It must have just parted from mum." Its mother was not around, and Ms. Takii took blood and fur samples after her co-researcher tranquilised the young female. The animal was too small to be tagged with a GPS tracker, so she was released.

The process of trapping, tagging, and releasing the animals is part of a pioneering management plan launched in 1995, as authorities realised the bear population was shrinking in the mountainous region in the centre of Japan's Honshu island. And it is becoming part of a model of coexistence in the region that some experts believe is an alternative to the dominant practice of culling the animals in an effort to prevent attacks. "By not killing too many of them, more bears survive to live out their expected lifespan. In that sense, a healthy bear population is being formed," Ms. Takii said of the process, which is paired with other methods intended to keep bears away from humans and monitor their movement.

Even before a cull guidance in Japan was expanded in April, large numbers of bears were being killed; however, several communities are embracing co-existance to prevent attacks

Another group in the area used specially trained Karelian Bear Dogs to scare bears away, and more than 3,000 kilometres of fencing was installed near farms, towns, and along rivers to prevent encounters. Bears who slip through are tranquilised, tagged, and set free far away. The programme has been credited with prompting both a recovery in bear numbers – although the animals are hard to count – and fewer encounters with humans.

There is little sympathy across much of Japan for healthy bear populations. Bears have killed six people nationwide since April 1, after a record 13 fatal attacks last fiscal year, according to the Environment Ministry. Sightings last year doubled the previous record and bears are increasingly entering the outskirts of towns and cities.

The causes are complex and, including variations in the availability of food like acorns, are potentially linked to climate change. The emptying out of rural areas due to depopulation and urbanisation is also leaving forests, farmland, and buffer zones less managed, said Shuichi Kitoh, a Tokyo University professor emeritus of environmental ethics. The government's response has focused largely on culling bears, expanding the process beyond animals in towns to those that wander into buffer zones on the outskirts. Even before the cull guidance was expanded in April, large numbers of bears were being killed – a record 14,000 last fiscal year, or almost 40 a day.

Ms. Takii argued Nagano's coexistence programme offered a different path.

While direct comparisons are difficult, some figures appear to show it has helped limit dangerous encounters. Annual sightings have remained broadly stable at around 1,400 in recent years, while some northern prefectures have recorded sharp increases. Last year, Nagano recorded 11 bear-related incidents, including one death, compared with 59 encounters and four deaths in Akita further north and five fatalities in Iwate.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

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

It works — but we do not know how

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

The element X is one of the most effective mood stabilisers known, but after having been in use for decades, medical researchers still lack consensus about how exactly it works. Leading theories say it affects inositol signalling and inhibits the GSK-3 enzyme, but they haven't been able to explain all of X's effects. Name X.

QUESTION 2

The general form of _____ induce unconsciousness, amnesia, and immobility during surgery and have been used safely for over 150 years, yet scientists still lack a cohesive theory of how they work at the molecular level. Different forms of the drugs also seem to act through somewhat different molecular routes, yet succeed in inducing unconsciousness. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

The BCS theory does a good job of explaining conventional superconductivity. However, high-temperature superconductors that scientists found in compounds called Y in the 1980s still lack a complete and cogent theoretical explanation for how they superconduct. Name Y.

QUESTION #4

_____, a.k.a. Glucophage, is used worldwide as a first-line drug in the treatment of type II diabetes, yet scientists are still figuring out how it lowers blood glucose levels. Some leading ideas include the drug's effects on the gut microbiome and the mitochondrial complex I. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION #5

At sub-anesthetic doses, name the drug derived from phencyclidine — and which was used as surgical anesthesia during the Vietnam War — that can lift severe depression within hours, in dramatic contrast to the drugs called SSRIs. As with other therapies on this list, its full mechanism of action is still unclear.

Visual: Name the phenomenon depicted here as an aeroplane flies through coloured smoke. A complete analytical theory describing it is one of the Millennium Prize problems. NASA

Answers to August 27 quiz:

1. Businessman who drilled world's first commercial oil well – Ans: **Edwin Drake**
2. Substance yielded along with crude oil, used to be flared off – Ans: **Natural gas**
3. Components of hydraulic fracturing fluid – Ans: **Water and sand**
4. Valve systems that prevented uncontrolled gushing of oil – Ans: **Blowout preventers**
5. Machines called 'nodding donkeys' to mechanically lift oil – Ans: **Pump jacks**

Visual: **Paul Thomas Anderson directed There Will Be Blood**

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For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Amount mobilised by banks in deposits from Indian diaspora

127.23 in $ billion. India attracted a whopping USD 127.23 billion in Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR-B) deposits under the Reserve Bank's special USD-INR forex swap facility till August 31, the closing date. The RBI's special USD-INR forex swap facility was launched on June 8, 2026. PTI

Length of Manipur's border with Myanmar that has been fenced

55 in kilometres. Manipur Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam on Wednesday said that nearly 55 km out of 398 km of the State's international border with Myanmar has been fenced. Mr. Konthoujam was responding to a calling attention motion raised by Congress MLA K. Ranjit Singh on the "reported proposal for a land swap deal between India and Myanmar". PTI

Number of dengue cases recorded in Delhi till August 29

311 As many as 311 cases of dengue, 119 of malaria and 22 of chikungunya have been recorded in Delhi till August 29 this year, while no death has been reported due to any of the diseases. Delhi recorded its highest monthly tally of dengue cases this year in August, with 90 infections reported during the month, a Municipal Corporation of Delhi report says. PTI

Number of special trains operated during Onam season this year

180 As many as 180 special train services were operated in the Thiruvananthapuram Division during the Onam festive season this year, carrying an additional 2,45,823 passengers, railway officials said here on Wednesday. The division recorded an overall punctuality of 94.67% in August this year, compared to 91% during the same month last year. PTI

Applications received for police recruitment in Himachal Pradesh

98 in thousands. The State Public Service Commission has received over 98,000 applications for police constable recruitment till September 1, 2026, Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu told the Assembly on Wednesday. He said the September 5 deadline for application would not be extended. PTI

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Constitutional faultlines in FCRA Bill

The FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026 provides for a 'Designated Authority' to oversee the management and disposal of foreign contributions and assets when an organisation's FCRA certificate is cancelled or ceases to exist; raising questions about the extent of State intervention and the need for sufficient safeguards against overreach

LETTER & SPIRIT

Thajaswini C.B.
Siddharth Dev Prasad

It is hard to deny that the state has a legitimate concern in regulating foreign contributions in India, as foreign donations raise issues concerning national security, transparency in democracy, and public accountability. For decades, the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act has been the instrument through which this interest has been pursued. However, the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 raises a different question altogether. It goes beyond regulating foreign contributions, to the extent to which the state may intervene in assets and institutional activities associated with them.

The fundamental issue, therefore, is not a debate between civil society and national security. It is about where the State, in pursuit of its legitimate regulatory goal, may cross the boundary from regulating foreign contributions to exercising undue executive control over the institutions that receive them.

The Bill's most important aspect is a statutory framework for the vesting, supervision, management and disposal of foreign contributions and assets through a 'Designated Authority'. Where an organisation's FCRA certificate is cancelled, surrendered or ceases to exist, including due to non-renewal, the Central government may appoint an authority to which the foreign contribution and assets created from it may vest provisionally. The measure is framed as an accountability mechanism to prevent the diversion or abuse of such properties.

Expansion of statutory consequences

However, the constitutional difficulty lies elsewhere.

The FCRA has always empowered the state to scrutinise foreign funding. If there are any violations in this regard, registrations can be withdrawn, cancellation can follow continuing non-compliance, and penalties can attach to the diversion or misappropriation of foreign contributions. The Bill, however, represents a significant expansion of the statutory consequences that can follow the loss of FCRA registration. Importantly, the existing FCRA law already contains a provision for vesting assets created from foreign funds upon cancellation. What is new is the detailed statutory framework for their provisional vesting, possession, management, restoration and ultimately, permanent vesting and disposal.

Opposition MPs protest in New Delhi on April 1, demanding the withdrawal of the FCRA Amendment Bill.

In case of cancellation, surrender, or cessation of registration, the government may, through the Designated Authority, take possession of and manage assets created from foreign contributions and, where considered necessary or expedient in the public interest, undertake the management of the concerned organisation's activities. This is not merely a change in administrative policy; it raises a constitutional question about the extent to which a statute regulating foreign contributions may permit executive authorities to assume possession and, in specified circumstances, management of institutional assets and activities.

Even if the dichotomy between ownership and custody may have some legal relevance, its practical consequences are not. An entity whose success is dependent on the continuity of management will place greater emphasis on control than ownership. Ownership may remain formally undisturbed, but a change in management control fundamentally alters the relationship between the institution and the state. A hospital, school or laboratory is not made effective by ownership alone; it depends on its independence to administer, for charitable ends, what it owns.

Evaluation of proportionality

This is where the doctrine of constitutional proportionality may be relevant. The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that even where the state pursues a legitimate objective, the means it adopts must bear a reasonable connection to that objective and must maintain an appropriate balance between the public purpose and the burden imposed on rights. The amendment raises difficult questions when measured against the said rationale. If the consequence of losing FCRA registration is the provisional vesting of assets in, and potentially the management of institutional activities by a government-appointed authority, the safeguards attending that transfer must be commensurately robust.

Therefore, the Bill warrants scrutiny of the extent of the discretion delegated to the executive, the safeguards governing its exercise and the standards applicable to decisions concerning possession, management, and permanent vesting. The Bill provides for the restoration of assets when registration is obtained, renewed, or restored within the prescribed period, as well as mechanisms for revision and judicial appeal. The constitutional question is whether these safeguards are sufficiently clear, timely and effective.

This concern becomes more significant against the broader regulatory landscape. Over the past decade, thousands of FCRA registrations have ceased to operate for reasons ranging from non-renewal to alleged statutory violations. While many regulatory actions may be justified, the Bill may increase the consequences arising from the cessation of registration. What might previously have been limited to the loss of eligibility to receive foreign funds could, under the proposed framework, extend to provisional management and, if registration is not restored within the prescribed period, permanent vesting and disposal of assets.

None of this suggests that the government lacks the authority to strengthen financial oversight or ensure that funds from abroad are used for lawful and proper ends. But in a constitutional order, any regime that reaches into the management of civil society's institutional infrastructure must operate within clear legislative standards.

Ultimately, the constitutional question posed by the FCRA Amendment Bill is not whether foreign contributions should be regulated, but how far the state may go in regulating institutions and their assets.

(Thajaswini C.B. is an advocate practising before the Supreme Court, Madras and Delhi High Courts. Siddharth Dev Prasad is a 4th year law student at Gujarat National Law University.)

THE GIST

- The FCRA has always empowered the state to scrutinise foreign funding. The amendment Bill, however, represents a significant expansion of the statutory consequences that can follow the loss of FCRA registration.
- Therefore, the Bill warrants scrutiny of the extent of the discretion delegated to the executive, the safeguards governing its exercise and the standards applicable to decisions concerning possession, management, and permanent vesting.

Can jurists be appointed as Supreme Court judges?

Why has the provision allowing distinguished jurists to be appointed as SC judges remained unused?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

Supreme Court judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan on Sunday questioned why a constitutional provision allowing a "distinguished jurist" to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court has remained unused for more than 76 years. Addressing the 13th convocation of National Law University, Delhi's LL.M. programme, Justice Bhuyan pointed out that Article 124(3) of the Constitution permits the appointment of a person who, in the President's opinion, is a "distinguished jurist" as a Supreme Court judge. However, no legal academic has so far been elevated to the top court under this provision.

What does the Constitution stipulate?

Article 124(3) of the Constitution lays down three routes through which a person may qualify for appointment as a Supreme Court judge – a person must have served as a High Court judge for at least five years, practised as an advocate of a High Court for at least 10 years, or be, in the opinion of the President, a "distinguished jurist".

The provision, however, does not define who qualifies as a "distinguished jurist" or prescribe any minimum period of professional experience for such a person. Its inclusion as a separate category nevertheless indicates that the framers contemplated a route to the Supreme Court beyond the conventional pathways of judicial service and legal practice, potentially opening the door to eminent legal scholars and academics.

What do Constituent Assembly debates reflect?

The "distinguished jurist" category was added to the list of persons eligible for appointment to the Supreme Court in the draft Constitution. The Constituent Assembly debates reflect that this was intended to bring diversity in professional backgrounds among those appointed to the Bench of the Supreme Court.

Moving the amendment on May 24, 1949, Constituent Assembly member H.V. Kamath said it sought "to open a wider field of choice" for Supreme Court appointments. He noted that persons with "outstanding legal and juristic learning" were "not necessarily confined to judges or advocates", pointing to the selection of judges of the International Court of Justice on similar terms.

The Constituent Assembly debates also referred to the appointment of Felix Frankfurter to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Frankfurter, who had been a professor at Harvard Law School for 25 years, as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Justice Frankfurter went on to become a noted advocate of the doctrine of judicial restraint – the principle that courts should respect the domain of the elected legislature and the executive, and exercise restraint in interfering with their decisions.

Assembly member M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar cited Justice Frankfurter's appointment as a "novel experiment" that had worked well, noting that legal expertise was not confined to practising lawyers or judges.

Can a 'distinguished jurist' be appointed as a High Court judge?

The Constituent Assembly had also considered allowing "distinguished jurists" to be appointed as High Court judges. On June 7, 1949, Professor Shibban Lal Saksena moved an amendment proposing their inclusion among those eligible for appointment to a High Court. The proposal, however, was not accepted.

Nearly three decades later, the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, enacted during the Emergency, amended Article 217, which lays down the qualifications for appointment as a High Court judge. The amendment allowed a person who was, in the opinion of the President, a "distinguished jurist" to be appointed to a High Court. The provision came into force in January 1977 but was omitted by the Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978.

What limits the use of this provision?

Despite being part of the Constitution since its inception, the provision has never been invoked. Supreme Court judges have overwhelmingly been appointed from among High Court judges, with only 11 advocates directly elevated from the Bar.

The appointment process itself may also help explain why the provision has remained unused, since a jurist would first have to be recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium. Legal scholar Upendra Baxi, whose possible appointment to the court never materialised, described the provision as a "dead issue" in a 2015 interview with LiveLaw.

Another concern is that legal academics may lack courtroom and procedural experience. However, full-time law teachers themselves face restrictions on practising as advocates. Under Rule 49 of the Bar Council of India Rules, an advocate who takes up full-time salaried employment must cease to practise while such employment continues. In 2019, the Consortium of National Law Universities sought a relaxation of this restriction to allow full-time faculty to practise in courts and bridge the divide between "law in books" and "law in action".

BOOK EXTRACT

Fisherwomen cast a large traditional fishing net into the Indravati river on the outskirts of Jagdalpur in Bastar district, Chhattisgarh. PTI

A colonial gaze: how the British imagined Bastar and its people

Colonial accounts portrayed Bastar as a primitive, isolated woodland whose inhabitants were 'rude and barbarous', while a flawed census produced wildly unreliable population figures and recorded a plethora of colourful yet inaccurate professions

Shantanu Nandan Sharma

For years, Bastar remained an enigma to the British, who erroneously and conveniently dismissed it as a mysterious woodland inhabited by cannibals, painting it as an island of primitiveness amidst civilisations. In his enthusiasm to author a two-volume work on India, East India Company official Henry Harpur Spry went so far as to describe the people of Bastar as those who 'sacrifice and eat their fellow creatures'.

Spread of misinformation

Consider this: Spry never set foot in Bastar, relying instead on hearsay from Company officers like Captain Crawfurd of the Bengal Artillery, who oversaw Chhattisgarh. Spry's armchair account reads more like lengthy chatter rather than a valuable historical document. Further, there is no evidence to suggest that Crawfurd himself had any first-hand experience in Bastar. It is important to put it on record that Spry also made a glaring mistake on Bastar when he called its Rajput Raja a Gond. This mistake was possibly carried over from the past. While translating the *Tarikh-i-Firishta*, a medieval Persian history of the Deccan with intriguing references to the Bastar of 1610-11, John Briggs added an asterisk to the Bastar raja, mistakenly labelling him as a Gond chief.

The isolation of Bastar fostered the spread of misinformation. A report from the East India Company in 1812, for example, provided a skewed perspective of the area and the people therein. The inhabitants were described as 'rude and barbarous', yet they were paradoxically praised for the staunch defence of their 'ancient rightful inheritance' - the lowlands. The report says that they, 'although rude and barbarous, may yet be denominated warlike, as they have always distinguished themselves bold, persevering champions of the great law of nature'.

It further adds: 'Being driven to their wild unwholesome fastness, among the mountains, they frequently descend in harvest time, into the lowlands, to dispute the produce of their ancient rightful inheritance with their present possessors...' Clearly, the report's author had not visited the territory.

Counting the people

The first attempt to quantify Bastar's population came on November 5, 1866 during a census in the Central Provinces. This inaugural headcount yielded a figure of 2,69,684. However, the census was plagued by significant anomalies. The administration faced a dilemma when the next census in 1872 showed an inexplicable 70 per cent drop in the population, bringing the total down to 78,856. The breakdown of this figure included 29,060 Hindus, 1,704 Muslims, and a substantial category of 48,092 classified as 'others'.

A deadly combination of cholera and famine ravaged central India in 1869, undoubtedly impacting Bastar. However, this alone would not explain the population plunge – a staggering 1,90,828 residents vanishing in just six years. The numbers reeked of error.

J.W. Neill, officiating secretary to the Central Provinces' chief commissioner, echoed these concerns in his report on the 1872 census. He pointed out glaring inconsistencies: The 1866 Bastar figures were likely mere estimates based on area, while the 1872 census, despite claiming a more rigorous method, also appeared flawed, as in many villages 'the children were not enumerated'. The report quotes comments from the deputy commissioner of Upper Godavari district, under whose jurisdiction Bastar fell for census purposes.

Neill's report continued to expose the flaws of the 1872 census in Bastar. While forms and instructions reached the raja, 'there is no means of knowing whether houses were numbered or lists of inhabitants taken previous to the night of the Census'. Some areas, such as Jagdalpur, Bhopalpatnam and Bijapur, showed decent efforts, but the rest carried errors.

Most alarmingly, children under twelve were entirely omitted. While the Central Provinces overall saw a modest increase (from 9.06 million to 9.25 million), Bastar's dramatic decline remained an enigma. In the census exercise of early British days, a headcount was conducted on a single day.

The 1872 census wasn't just plagued by regional discrepancies; there were some structural errors too. The sheer number of categories (caste, occupation, race, religion, remarks, etc. – a whopping nineteen) gave printers nightmares. Worse yet, a lack of training on open-ended questions led to a plethora of colourful yet inaccurate professions across the Central Provinces. Imagine finding entries like 'con man', 'pimp', 'prostitute', 'idiot', and 'thief' – a reflection more on the confusion of the enumerators than the reality of the population.

Neill's report candidly highlighted the hilarious mishaps. He blamed some of the bizarre entries on overzealous enumerators who seemed determined to write something or the other in the occupancy column against every individual. Infants, for instance, were listed as 'sucking', children as simply 'playing', and newcomers to a village as 'guests'.

Further confusion arose with the term *pesha-i-khud*, loosely translated as self-employed. Its frequent appearance left senior officers scratching their heads, unsure of the specific occupations it indicated. Neill even documented the enumerators' struggle to differentiate between lunatics and idiots, wryly noting 'it having been impossible to separate them, as the enumerators did not appreciate the distinction between the two classes'.

(Excerpted with permission from Hachette India from Shantanu Nandan Sharma's *Rebel Bastar: History, Maoism and the Search for Answers in India's Heartland)*

THE DAILY QUIZ

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

A look at Lionel Messi's international career in the wake of the Argentine football legend's retirement

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
In which year and where did Lionel Messi win the Olympic Gold and the Under-20 World Cup?

QUESTION 2
How many goals and assists did Messi net in his 207-match career for 'La Albiceleste'?

QUESTION 3
Messi had a senior international debut to forget on August 17, 2005, because he was shown a straight red card, less than a minute after coming on in the 63rd minute, for an accidental elbow to an opponent. Against which European team did this happen?

QUESTION 4
Which final heartbreak prompted Messi's first international retirement in June 2016?

QUESTION 5
Messi holds the record for most major tournament goals in men's history with how many goals?

QUESTION 6
With whom does Messi share the record for FIFA World Cup appearances (six in total)?

QUESTION 7
Against which South American country has he netted the most international goals (11)?

Visual question: In this image, Messi is celebrating the triumph in which tournament? REUTERS

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. This British constitutional initiative provided the framework for the formation of the Interim Government. **Ans: The Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946**
2. The Commander-in-Chief of India while the Interim govt. was in operation. **Ans: General Sir Claude Auchinleck**
3. The Muslim League finally joined the Interim Government on this date. **Ans: October 26, 1946**
4. The members of the Constituent Assembly, from which the Interim Government was formed were chosen through this mechanism. **Ans: They were not elected directly by the public. Members were elected by the provincial legislative assemblies**
5. The Interim Government ceased to exist on this date. Mention the major constitutional event which brought its tenure to an end. **Ans: It ceased to exist on August 15, 1947, when British India was partitioned and power was transferred to the new Dominions of India and Pakistan**

Visual: Identify these members of the Interim Government. **Ans: (From left) Sarat Chandra Bose, Jagjivan Ram, Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Asaf Ali, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Syed Ali Zaheer**

Early birds: Prem Nath Tiwari| Sitaram Saharay| Neil Lall| Anan E A Rahim| Venkat Parthasarathy

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the difference between "cousin" and "half brother"? (N. Vardhan, Chennai)
The children of your father's/ mother's sister or brother are your "cousins". In other words, your uncle's kids or your aunt's kids are your cousins. For most native speakers of English, cousins are what we in India call "first cousins". In India, however, we have a tendency to introduce anyone who is distantly related to us as "my cousin". Native speakers of English do not do this.

A "half brother" is someone who shares the same father or mother as you. In other words, if you have a half brother, it implies that you either have a stepfather or a stepmother.

What is the meaning of "on the qui vive"? (A. Umar, Kadayanallur)
First, let's deal with the pronunciation. "Qui" is pronounced like the word "key" and "ive" in "vive" sounds like the word "eve".

When you say that someone is "on the qui vive", what you are implying is that he/she is alert; he/she is watching very carefully. This is what the expression means in English.

Geetha is always on the qui vive for bargains.

The soldiers were on the qui vive for another assault.

What is the difference between an "escort" and a "convoy"? (P. Parshuram, Secunderabad)
An "escort" is something or someone that is given to an individual as a mark of respect or as a form of protection. For example, Ministers in our country always have bodyguards surrounding them. The bodyguards are their escorts; they go wherever the Minister goes. Similarly, when an actress attends a party, she usually has an escort. When Hema Malini was young, her mother escorted her to most parties.

A "convoy", on the other hand, refers to the vehicles that accompany someone important. Whenever a Chief Minister goes somewhere, he/she usually has about ten or fifteen cars following him/her. These cars are part of the convoy. Unlike the word "escort", a convoy is usually used to refer to things (cars, lorries, ships, etc); the word is not used to refer to people.

What is the origin of the term "Molotov cocktail"? (M. R. Hareesh, Taliparamba)
Let me begin by telling you that this "cocktail" is no drink. A "Molotov cocktail" is a homemade firebomb! It usually consists of an inflammable liquid in a bottle to which a wick is attached. The wick is then lit and the bottle is thrown at someone or something. The result? The bottle explodes and the object catches fire. We see a lot of such bombs used by the villains in our regional films.

"Molotov cocktail" is named after V.M. Molotov, the man who was the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union during World War II. When the Nazis invaded Russia during the Second World War, the Russian civilians used this cocktail quite successfully to destroy the German tanks.

Published in The Hindu on November 11, 2001

Word of the day

Excoriate:
express strong disapproval of

Synonyms: condemn, reprobate, decry

Usage: *The activists excoriated the violence against minority communities.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/excoriate

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪkˈskɔɹ.iˌeɪt/

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