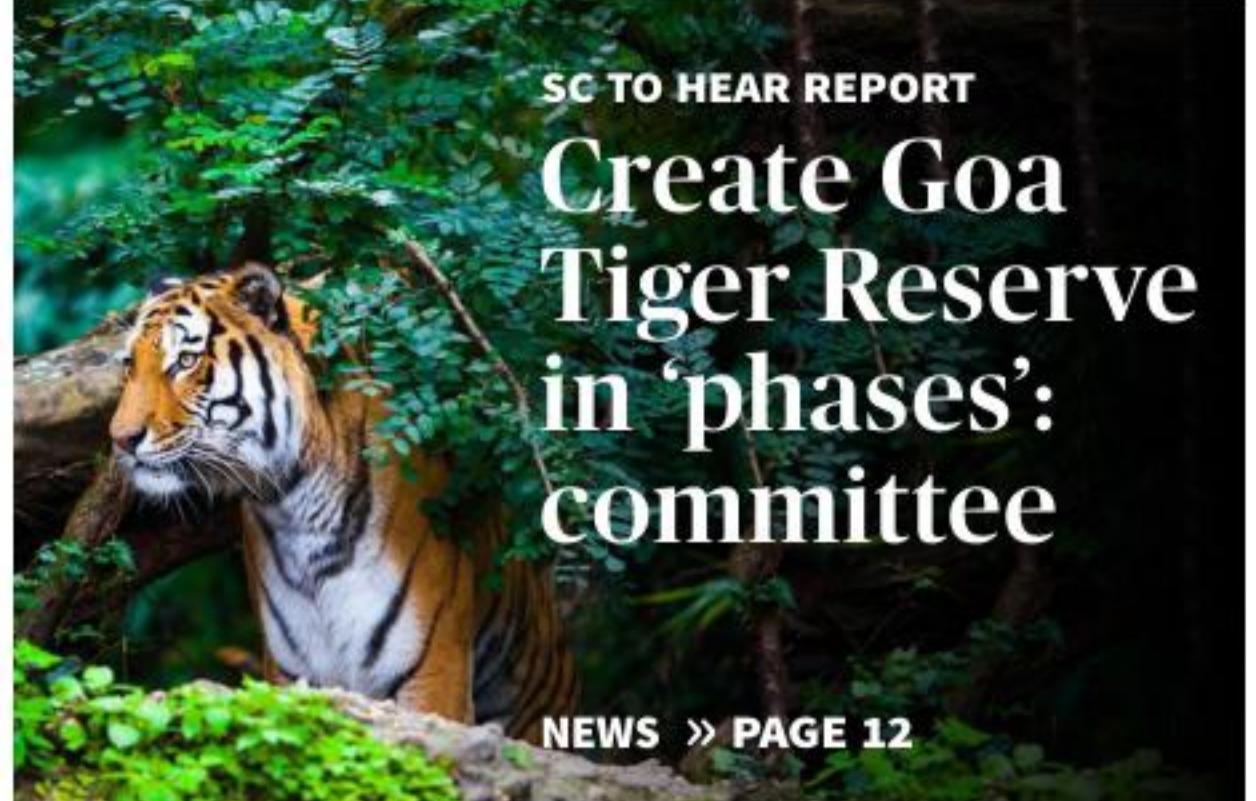


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Constitution is key to national pride: Murmu
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Create Goa
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Cabinet nod to scheme
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Reconciliation in J&K
Best way to redress issues is dialogue rooted in compassion
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SWEEEPING SUCCESS
South Africa crushes India, wins series 2-0
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IN BRIEF



26/11 anniversary: Mumbai pays homage to heroes

MUMBAI

On the 17th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday honoured the brave officers who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. » Page 4

Students vandalise VIT campus in M.P. over food quality

BHOPAL

Hundreds of students waited outside VIT University near Bhopal on Wednesday to leave for their homes, a day after they protested against allegedly contaminated water and unhygienic food on the campus, torching multiple vehicles and vandalising campus property. » Page 12

No problem in Kerala SIR, 99% forms given: EC to SC

EC says it is coordinating with State poll panel, denies human resources crunch; Kerala govt. had moved SC saying simultaneous conduct of exercise, local body polls will be a 'near impossibility'

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) expressed confidence that it can conduct the special intensive revision (SIR) of poll rolls in Kerala in the midst of local body elections, telling the Supreme Court on Wednesday that there is "no problem" whatsoever, and noting that enumeration forms have been distributed to 99% of voters in the State.

"EC and the Kerala State Election Commission are collaborating, coordinating and have held meetings with officials and District Collectors in Kerala. There is no problem. The State Election Commission has said its work is not hampered. In any case it is almost over, 99% voters have

Obstacle course

The Kerala government and political parties have filed separate petitions in the SC submitting that the "cumbersome" SIR process would create an "administrative impasse" during civic polls

■ The Kerala State Election Commission has decided to conduct polls to the local self-government institutions (LSGIs) on Dec. 9 and 11

■ Kerala has 1,200 LSGIs made up of 941 gram panchayats, 152 block panchayats, 14 district panchayats, 87 municipalities and six corporations. There are 23,612 wards in total

been distributed [enumeration forms], more than 50% have been digitised," said the EC, represented by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

The SIR process began in Kerala on November 4 and will go on till December 4. The Kerala State Election Commission had decided to conduct the local body elections on December 9 and 11.

The State government, in a petition filed through advocate C.K. Sasi, had said that the simultaneous

conduct of the SIR and the local body elections would be a "near impossibility".

"SIR is a huge exercise requiring deployment of 1,76,000 personnel from government and quasi-governmental services for election-related duties, and further 68,000 police and other security personnel. SIR is also a comprehensive process with a cumbersome procedure," it had submitted.

On Wednesday, the EC denied the Kerala government's version of a human resources crunch, saying "different people have been allotted Booth Level Officer duties from those deployed in the local self-government institutions elections".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

REDACTED

Don't take any extreme steps, Bengal CM urges BLOs

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

After three Booth Level Officers (BLOs) died in West Bengal amid the ongoing special intensive revision, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday urged BLOs not to resort to suicide or take any extreme steps amid rising concerns of work pressure.

DETAILS ON
» PAGE 10

Vibrant hues



Natural colours: A worker at a silk yarn unit that uses traditional dyeing processes, in Srinagar on Wednesday. Kashmir is known for its handwoven silk, pashminas, and carpets, many of which rely on natural dyes and skilled craftsmanship passed down through generations. IMRAN NISSAR

Will write to Centre seeking renaming of IIT Bombay as IIT Mumbai: Fadnavis amid row

Purnima Sah

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said his government will write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Ministry of Education seeking the renaming of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay as IIT Mumbai.

The announcement follows a political storm triggered by Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh's recent comments on the institute's nomenclature.

"As far as IIT Bombay is concerned, thank god it still has this name. You have not changed it to Mumbai. So, that's another compliment to you. And [this is] also true for Madras. It remains IIT Madras," Mr. Singh had said while addressing an event at IIT Bombay on Monday.

Interacting with reporters in Nagpur on Wednesday

Union Minister Jitendra Singh's recent comments on the institute's name drew criticism from MNS president Raj Thackeray

day, Mr. Fadnavis said, "First of all, everyone knows that BJP leader Ram Naik had made the biggest contribution towards changing the name of Bombay to Mumbai. We always say Mumbai, not Bombay. We have been consistently trying to ensure that 'Bombay' is replaced with Mumbai. But his aim is to get praise by knowing what is going on in the minds of our top leadership and saying so."

Mr. Thackeray urged Marathi-speaking people to remain vigilant. "The name 'Mumbai' bothers them because it is named after Mumbadevi, the original goddess of Mumbai. All children of that goddess

mindset that undermines Marathi identity. Taking to X, he wrote, "Jitendra Singh's statement is clearly a symbol of the government's mindset. What is this mentality?"

'A deeper conspiracy' The MNS chief went on to allege a deeper conspiracy, saying decades ago, there was a plan to separate Mumbai from Maharashtra. "That plan was foiled by Marathi leaders and the people. Actually, Jitendra Singh has no connection with Mumbai, Maharashtra, or Gujarat. He comes from Jammu, but his aim is to get praise by knowing what is going on in the minds of our top leadership and saying so."

Mr. Thackeray urged Marathi-speaking people to remain vigilant. "The name 'Mumbai' bothers them because it is named after Mumbadevi, the original goddess of Mumbai. All

children of that goddess

are Marathi people who have lived here for generations," he said.

Drawing parallels with the Centre's recent proposal to "wrest Chandigarh from Punjab's control", he said, "The Central government tried to take away the city of Chandigarh from Punjab. They withdrew it [the proposal] because of opposition from all parties, but it is a temporary withdrawal. Something similar must be cooking in the case of Mumbai. They don't want 'Mumbai'; they want 'Bombay'. A bid to slowly take over this city is definitely under way."

Mr. Thackeray said, "First Mumbai, then the entire MMR [Mumbai Metropolitan Region] will be seized and linked to Gujarat. Marathi people should wake up."

MNS workers put up a banner outside IIT Bombay in Powai, "renaming" the institution set up in 1958 as IIT Mumbai.

Will consider plea to revive NJAC, end Collegium system of judicial appointments: CJI

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Wednesday orally said the court would consider a plea seeking to revive the National Judicial Appointments Commission and bring an end to the Collegium system of judicial appointments to the constitutional courts.

The plea, which arraigns the Chief Justice of India and even the Supreme Court Collegium as respondents along with the Union Government and a clutch of parties, submitted that the striking down of the NJAC by the court was a "great wrong because it meant substitution of the will of the people by the opinion of the four judges".

The oral mentioning of the application was made by advocate Mathews J. Nedumpara, who has sought permission to argue the case in-person.

History revisited

1993: Collegium system of judicial appointments came into existence by virtue of a Constitution Bench judgment

2014: The National Judicial Appointments Commission, 2014 and the Constitution (99th Amendment) Act, 2014 came into existence to substitute the Collegium system

2015: A Bench declared the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act and the NJAC Act unconstitutional, reviving the collegium system

Since the Collegium came into existence, appointments to higher judiciary have been a 'riddle wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma' to borrow an expression from Winston Churchill. There has been no transparency whatsoever, at all. Even within the judiciary there has been lamentation. The Parliament which represents the will of the people, in exercise of its constituent power, had enacted 99th Constitutional Amendment Act and the NJAC Act. However, the enactments were "quashed and set aside" by this court, reducing the Parliament to an inferior tribunal," it said.

Struck down in 2015

The NJAC, which briefly gave the government an equal role along with the judiciary in the appointment of judges to constitutional courts, was struck down by the court in 2015

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Two teens die in Haryana after poles collapse during basketball training sessions

Ashok Kumar
GURUGRAM

Two teenage basketball players have died in separate accidents in Haryana over the past two days after the basket poles collapsed on them during practice sessions. Both players belonged to Rohtak.



recently shortlisted for the Under-15 national basketball championship.

In a similar incident, Aman suffered injuries when a basketball pole collapsed on him during a practice session inside a school in Bahadurgarh on November 23. He succumbed to his injuries a day later.

Speaking to a news channel, Suresh, Aman's father, alleged that delay in treatment led to his son's

death and demanded strict action against the doctors responsible for it. Mr. Suresh said Aman was taken to a civil hospital after he suffered injuries and later referred to PGIMS Rohtak. "The negligence on the part of doctors at PGIMS Rohtak led to his [Aman's] death," he alleged, saying that his son was "very bright" and had won two silver and a gold medal at the sports event in his school a few days back.

In a post on X, Haryana Sports Minister Gaurav Gautam expressed grief at the loss of the young athletes and guaranteed that delivering justice was his "top priority". He said a probe would be launched into the incidents and action will be taken against the guilty.

GRAP Stage III curbs lifted as Delhi air quality improves

Stage I and II measures of GRAP to remain in effect to prevent further deterioration of air quality; construction sites shut due to violations not to resume work without clearance from CAQM

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Centre's Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Wednesday revoked the stringent Stage III restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across the National Capital Region (NCR), citing an "improvement" in air quality.

The Stage III curbs were imposed on November 11 when Delhi's air pollution breached the 400 mark. After the easing of restrictions, hybrid classes for students up to Class 5, 50% attendance limits in public and private offices, and the ban on BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers



Hybrid classes for students, 50% strength in offices and the ban on BS-III and BS-IV vehicles will not apply anymore. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

will no longer apply.

The CAQM noted that Delhi's average air quality index (AQI) has steadily improved – from 391 on Sunday, 382 on Monday, 353 on Tuesday, to 327 on Wednesday. "Keeping in view

the disruptive nature of Stage III restrictions impacting a large number of stakeholders and the trend of improvement in Delhi's average AQI, the CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP today unanimously decided to revoke all actions under Stage III in the entire NCR, with immediate effect," read the order.

The CAQM said that all actions under Stages I and II remain in force and must continue to be implemented, monitored, and reviewed across the NCR to prevent any deterioration of air quality. It also noted that construction and demolition project sites shut down for violations will not be allowed to resume operations without explicit approval from the body.

Air quality in Delhi-NCR worsens during winter due to a mix of adverse weather conditions, vehicle emissions and stubble burning in neighbouring States.

JNUSU denies role in Delhi pollution stir

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) on Wednesday denied any association with the recent anti-pollution protest at India Gate, calling the FIR naming it a set of "false claims" made by the Delhi police to "hatch a conspiracy" against the union.

The Delhi police, in its FIR dated November 23, alleged that protesters shouted "pro-Maoist slogans" during the demonstration on Sunday. The police also arrested 22 participants on Monday, claiming that the protest turned violent.

In response, the group denied the charges. "JNUSU unequivocally denies the false claims made by the police to hatch a conspiracy against it," the group said in a statement.

Assam tea planters' body sets conditions to part with land for labourers for new Bill

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The body demanded compensation as per the Right to Fair Compensation Act, if any land is acquired

Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The proposed amendment law prescribes compensation, but under its relevant section.

Welfare burden

The CCPA further said the management of the tea estates should be relieved from providing welfare facilities, including water supply, sanitation, and electricity in the areas acquired for the distribution of *patta* to the workers.

The planters' body said the State government had acquired large areas from the tea gardens under the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 2025, aimed at removing labour lines from the "ancillary land" in tea estates. This would guarantee "land protection" for 3.33 lakh tea worker families across 825 tea estates in the State, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Labour lines are rows of dwellings for plantation workers in specified sections of a tea estate.

The CCPA, which covers tea, coffee, rubber, and cardamom planters, pointed out that the Assam Plantation Labour Rules exclude the ear-marking of any garden land to be apportioned as *patta* to be distributed. It also said that la-

"...the land now available with the tea estates is residual land after surrendering the surplus land. Therefore, any further acquisition would adversely affect the long-term viability of the tea sector..."

It, however, said that if any estate land is acquired, compensation must follow the

Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The proposed amendment law prescribes compensation, but under its relevant section.

Separatists not rewarded in J&K anymore: Manoj Sinha

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said the practice of "rewarding separatists and torturing patriots" has been stopped completely in the Union Territory.

"After a long wait of 67 years, the provisions of the Constitution were made fully applicable to J&K in 2019, ending the rule of discrimination and injustice. Those who ask what was achieved over the past five years, I want to tell them that the practice of rewarding separatists and torturing patriots has been stopped completely," Mr. Sinha said, speaking at an event commemorating Constitution Day in Jammu. "J&K is now moving ahead, guided by the ideals of equity, social, and economic justice as enshrined in the Constitution by Babasaheb Ambedkar," he said.

With the implementation of all the provisions of the Constitution, PM Narendra Modi has ensured honour, dignity for everyone J&K, Mr. Sinha said.

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Name of the work	Purchase of Certified Onion Seeds for Rabi - 2025-26.
No of work	One
Availability of bid documents in portal	15.00 hours on dt.27.11.2025 to 13.00 hours of dt.03.12.2025
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	13.00 hours of dt.03.12.2025
Date and time of Opening of Bid	15.00 hours of dt.03.12.2025

The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation can also be seen in the said website. The Managing Director OSSC Ltd reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

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CHANGE OF NAME

NOTICE
I, Nami Prava Saikia, W/O, IC/Army No.-JC-329900L, Rank-Sub Major, Name - Nila Kanta Saikia, R/O- Vill-Purani Satra, PO-Kuwaritol, PS-Kaliabor, PIN-782137, Dist-Nagaon (Assam) have changed my name from Nami Prava to Nami Prava Saikia vide affidavit signed before Executive Magistrate, Nagaon on 26.11.2025.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Smt. Rupa Saikia, M/O-Jenushe Saikia (As per Discharge Book), legally wedded spouse of Army No. JC-548761-L, Rank-SUBEDAR, Name-Anil Saikia, R/O-Vill-P.O- Dakhin Changchaki, P.S.- Kamrup, Dist- Nagaon, Assam, Pin- 782426 have changed my daughter's name from JENUSHRE SAIKIA, D.O.B. 08.01.1994 (As per Discharge Book) to TINURI SAIKIA, D.O.B. 08.01.1994 vide an affidavit dated 15.11.2025 before Addl. District Commissioner, Nagaon, Assam.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SAID ANOWAR S/o Ansarul Haque Mondal, R/o Madhyagharibpur, PO: Garibpur, District: Mursidabad, State: West Bengal, PIN Code: 742121, solemnly declare that I have changed my name from SAYED ANOWAR MONDAL to SAID ANOWAR, and hereafter I will be known as SAID ANOWAR sworn before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata on 24.11.2025.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PROMOD Roy, residing at 3/30C, Sappachi 2nd Lane, Tijlala, Kolkata - 700039, West Bengal, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my name has been changed to PROMOD Roy by an affidavit dated 25/11/2025, before the Notary, City Court, Kolkata. Henceforth, I shall be known as PROMOD Roy for all official and legal purposes. I further declare that PROMOD Roy and PROMOD Roy refer to the same and one identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Promod Roy, son of Late Sudheer Roy, residing at 3/30C, Sappachi 2nd Lane, Tijlala, Kolkata - 700039, West Bengal, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my name has been changed to PROMOD Roy by an affidavit dated 25/11/2025, before the Notary, City Court, Kolkata. Henceforth, I shall be known as PROMOD Roy for all official and legal purposes. I further declare that PROMOD Roy and PROMOD Roy refer to the same and one identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MICHAEL NAVID SIDDIQUI, S/o - Md. Ejaz Siddiqui, R/o - 31, Beck Bagan Row, P.S. Karaya, Kolkata - 700017, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MICHAEL NOEL SEQUEIRA as declared before the First Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore vide Affidavit No. 62341 dated 25.09.2025.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PROMOD Roy, son of Late Sudheer Roy, residing at 3/30C, Sappachi 2nd Lane, Tijlala, Kolkata - 700039, West Bengal, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my name has been changed to PROMOD Roy by an affidavit dated 25/11/2025, before the Notary, City Court, Kolkata. Henceforth, I shall be known as PROMOD Roy for all official and legal purposes. I further declare that PROMOD Roy and PROMOD Roy refer to the same and one identical person.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Azhar Warsi, S/o Ehsan Ahmed, Rio Village-Gonhar, Nawa Kharji, Sambatpur, Bihar-84134, hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my name is wrongly mentioned as AZHAR WARSI in my passport J-052674 instead of AZHAR WARSI and in the address line of first page GONHAR is missing. KHARJI is wrongly spelled as KHARAY in the last page GONHAR is wrongly spelled as GONHER, Vide Affidavit No.30565 Dtd.18.11.2025

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRIYANKA GUHA SIDDIQUI, W/o - Michael Siddiqui, R/o - 31, Beck Bagan Row, P.S. Karaya, Kolkata - 700017, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as PRIYANKA GUHA as declared before the First Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore vide Affidavit No. 62340 dated 25.09.2025.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Azhar Warsi, S/o Ehsan Ahmed, Rio Village-Gonhar, Nawa Kharji, Sambatpur, Bihar-84134, hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my name is wrongly mentioned as AZHAR WARSI in my passport J-052674 instead of AZHAR WARSI and in the address line of first page GONHAR is missing. KHARJI is wrongly spelled as KHARAY in the last page GONHAR is wrongly spelled as GONHER, Vide Affidavit No.30565 Dtd.18.11.2025

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Army No.14588437 M, Rank-NAIK, Name - Juzar Khan presently residing at Vill-Chenimari (Malipara), P.O-Chenimari, P.S.-Tabarai, Dist-Barpeta, Assam, PIN-781305, have changed name of my dependents wife from Golapi Begam to Golapi Khutun vide affidavit dated 15.11.2025 signed before Executive Magistrate, Barpeta, Assam.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PROMOD Roy, son of Late Sudheer Roy, residing at 3/30C, Sappachi 2nd Lane, Tijlala, Kolkata - 700039, West Bengal, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my name has been changed to PROMOD Roy by an affidavit dated 25/11/2025, before the Notary, City Court, Kolkata. Henceforth, I shall be known as PROMOD Roy for all official and legal purposes. I further declare that PROMOD Roy and PROMOD Roy refer to the same and one identical person.

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BLO's death sparks uproar in U.P.; ordered to remove names of OBC voters: kin

Allegations completely false, panel formed to probe incident, says Gonda district administration; proof of BJP's dictatorial working style: Congress; extreme pressure leading to tragic incidents: SP

Mayank Kumar

LUCKNOW

Uproar erupted in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday, a day after a Booth Level Officer (BLO) engaged in work related to the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was found dead.

Vipin Yadav, posted as an assistant teacher at Jaitpur Majha Primary School in Nawabganj block, was serving as a BLO in Khempur gram panchayat in Gonda district, his family said on Wednesday.

Vipin's kin alleged that he was under extreme work pressure and attempted to take his life on Tuesday morning. Fellow BLOs rushed him to a private hospital in Gonda and he was referred to a medical college in Lucknow, where he was declared dead, the family said.

The Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Block Development Officer threatened



This is a direct appeal to the EC to give compensation of ₹1 crore to those losing their lives due to mental and physical distress during the SIR.

AKHILESH YADAV
Samajwadi Party chief

him and ordered the removal of names of OBC voters. He told me over phone that officers were threatening to suspend him," a relative said in a video that went viral.

The Gonda district administration issued a statement denying the charges. It stated that everyone involved in the SIR exercise is executing tasks as per the rules and claims of instructions being given to remove the names of people belonging to a particular community are "completely false". It added that a panel has been formed to probe the BLO's death.

Opposition parties tar-

ghts must end now," said State Congress leader Anil Yadav.

Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav in a post on X claimed that several people involved in the exercise were facing extreme pressure. "This is a direct appeal to the EC to grant compensation of ₹1 crore to those losing their lives due to mental and physical distress during the SIR. We, too, commit to providing ₹2 lakh to the dependents of every deceased," he said. He cited a news report from Fatehpur on a land revenue official's alleged death by suicide on Tuesday, a day before his wedding due to "excessive work pressure and denial of leave". The police said Sudhir Kumar was recently assigned supervisory responsibilities for the SIR in Jahanabad Assembly segment.

(Those in distress can contact Tele MANAS at 14416 to seek help.)

Police seize 400 litres of liquor in 'dry' Bihar's Saran, arrest 47

Amaranath Tewary

PATNA

The police in 'dry' State Bihar's Saran district on Wednesday seized more than 400 litres of liquor and arrested 47 people. The development came a day after Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, who also holds the Home portfolio, declared that the mafia would be dealt with sternly.

After assuming the

charge of the Home Department on Tuesday, Mr. Choudhary had warned that actions would be taken against all criminals regardless of their influence. "During the special drive on Wednesday, the police also seized several four-wheelers, motorcycles, mobile phones, gas cylinders, and other incriminating items. In accordance with the directive of Superintendent of Police Kumar Ashish, the drive will continue to maintain the law and order situation in the area," said a senior police officer.

"A list of 400 people has been prepared, and action would be taken against them," said Mr. Choudhary.

"We will also monitor social media posts. Pink patrol vans and 'anti-Romeo' squads would be out on streets and around colleges to prevent harassment," he added.

Rajasthan all set for storage systems in solar energy

The Hindu Bureau

JAIPUR

The storage and hybrid systems will form the backbone of renewable energy in the coming decades and Rajasthan, with its expansive solar parks and cutting-edge grid infrastructure, is poised to lead this shift. The desert State has already achieved the top rank in the solar energy sector.

These views were expressed at the "Global Solar Expo-Rajasthan 2025" here on Wednesday, with the experts affirming that the State was fast emerging as a magnet for large-scale solar-hybrid, storage and green hydrogen investments.

Minister of State for Energy Heeralal Nagar inaugurated the two-day mega exhibition at Rajasthan International Centre.

Bengaluru West City Corporation Malleshwaram Zone
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website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

The Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers registered in GBA (BBMP) or equivalent registration with PWD/CPWD or any State Govt. Organisation for the execution of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Est. Cost (₹ in Lakhs)	Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs)	EMD (₹. in Lakhs)
1.	Improvements to Water Body in Deepanjali Lake	200.00	164.82	Rs.2,47,230/- (Rs.1.00 lakh through e-procurement portal & the balance Rs.1,47,230/- Shall be in the form of Bank Guarantee/FD)

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal from 04.12.2025 at 5:30 p.m. onwards. (2) Pre bid meeting will be held on 09.12.2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the Office of Chief Engineer, Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC, Palike Soudha Building, 1st Floor, 14th Cross, Chandra Layout, Bengaluru-560 072. (3) Last Date & Time for uploading tender documents on 12.12.2025 upto 4:00 p.m. (4) Opening of Technical document on 15.12.2025 at 4:30 p.m. (5) Financial opening date will be intimated through KPP Portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division, BWCC

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH

OLD GT ROAD, AURANGABAD, BIHAR-824101

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower(s) and guarantor(s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

APPENDIX-IV-A [SEE PROVISO TO RULE 9(1)] SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Lot. No.	Name of the Branch	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagors of property/ies)	A/Id. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 B/Oustanding Amount C/Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 D/ Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/Constructive	A/Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B/EID C/Bid Increase Amount	Date/ Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
BO: Arrah (002200) A/C NO.: 0022009300031011 M/s D/P Residential School, Prop: Harendra Prasad Singh/S/o Dharmeshwar Prasad Singh Sh. Harendra Prasad Singh (Borrower) S/o Dharmeshwar Prasad Singh Smt. Veena Singh, (Mortgagor) W/o Sh. Ram Narayan Singh All are resident of Mohalla- New Kawana, Tola, Ward No-38, PO+PS-Ara Kawana, Dist-Bhagalpur, Bihar-82301	Land & Building Situated at: Registered Sale Deed 403 Dt.17.01.1987. Mauza- Kasbeh Ara, Thana No-237, Ward No-19, Nagar Nigam Ward 38, Khata No-1436, Plot No-4061 and 4064, MS Plot No-2004, Area-2 Katha. Boundary as per deed-North-Municipal Road then Sadar Hospital, South- Ramdayal Sah, Shiv Kumar Singh and others, East-Krishna Singh, West-Ramuan Prasad Mortgagor-Smt. Veena Singh W/o Ram Narayan Singh	(A) 15.06.2021 (B) Rs. 37,59,459.39/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lac Fifty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Nine and Paisa Thirty Nine Only) as on 31/10/2025 + further interest & charges. (C)24.01.2022 (D) Symbolic	Rs.1,42,74,000/- B) Rs.14,27,400/- C) Rs. 25000/-	17.12.2025 From 12:00 Noon to 04:00 PM	Not Known	

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: 1. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://baanknet.com> on 17.12.2025 @ 12.00 Noon to 04:00 PM for detailed term and conditions of sale, please refer <https://baanknet.com> & www.pnbindia.in. 5. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or postpone/cancel/auction/withdraw or vary the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final.

Statutory Notice under Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, (SARFAESI ACT, 2002)

Authorized Officer

Protest held for quota for Hindus in varsity

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti on Wednesday held protests in Jammu's Ramtan district to press the administration of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, to reserve all the MBBS seats for Hindus.

"Money for the varsity is donated by those affiliated to Sanatana Dharam and

should benefit our own people," Sangharsh Samiti president Subedar Major (retd.) Surinder Singh Jamwal said.

The Samiti also sought cancellation of the NEET selection list.

The BJP also continued its protest in Jammu. "... Hindu students have primary right to admission," BJP spokesperson Sunil Sethi said.

BJP MP Ghulam Ali Khan also supported the

party's demand to bar admission of Muslims at the varsity. "Two things are important – merit, and the fact that around 70% of the people here belong to a particular community, so they naturally choose that option. Apart from that, if an institution is associated with any faith, that factor also matters and should be taken into consideration. There is no Hindu-Muslim angle in this," Mr. Khatana said.

However, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said merit and not religion should be the basis of admission in varsities. He expressed concern over "education being given the colour of religion". "Even in medical colleges, it is said that Muslims or non-Hindus should not study here. Where will the constitution of the country go?" he said while speaking at the Jamia Zia Ul Uloom in Poonch.

Timings
KOLKATA

THURSDAY, NOV. 27	
RISE 05:57 SET 16:51	
RISE 11:21 SET 22:52	
FRIDAY, NOV. 28	
RISE 05:58 SET 16:51	
RISE 11:57 SET 23:49	
SATURDAY, NOV. 29	
RISE 05:59 SET 16:51	
RISE 12:31 SET 00:00	

Kolkata Weather max min
Ranchi 25 13
Imphal 25 09
Kolkata 28 18

Kolkata Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool.

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Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(CIN: U85310UP2018SCC102425) (A Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
Address: SUWA Bhawan, 7/23, Sector-7, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow
Advertisement S. No. UPMSCLHR/2025-26/1186
Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited invites application for the following position on Deputation / Contractual:
Sr. No. Designation Maximum Age Limit (in year) Vacancy Category Mode of Recruitment Essential Qualification & Desirable Qualification Honorary in Rs (Monthly) Post Qualification Experience

1 General Manager (Equipment Procurement) 45 1 UR Deputation/Contractual Applicant must have full time Electrical/Electronics / Bio Medical Engineer Degree from UGC recognized Indian University
Desirable Qualification-
1 Post Graduate degree or diploma in business management from a recognised institution (University/College)
2. Certificate / Diploma in procurement /Supply chain Management or related fields

1. Applicant must have minimum 8 years of post qualification of which at least 5 years of experience in procurement of medical equipment for public agencies.
2. Minimum 3 years of supervisory experience

Interested Candidates must send their application form in the prescribed format along with self attested relevant document by speed post/registered AD from Indian Postal Department by mentioning on the envelop "Application for the (Post Name)" to GM (AHL), SUWA Bhawan 7/23 sector -7 Gomti Nagar extension, Lucknow PIN-226010. Applications sent by any other mode shall not be entertained. Submission of Application Starts from November 27, 2025. The Last Date of Submission of Application is December 26, 2025 at 05:00 PM. Regular government (Department/Corporations/Institutions) employees with suitable experience on seniority (matrix level) are encouraged to apply on deputation. * Vacancies shall be subject to the State reservation policy of Uttar Pradesh. * Candidate Applying on deputation shall be in accordance with Govt. of UP Service Norms * Please note July 01, 2025 shall be taken as a reference date for computing age, qualification, experience etc. Application not received on prescribed format will be rejected. Application format may be download from the website- www.upmscl.in

Managing Director, UPMSCL
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

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IN BRIEF



Murmu to be the first President to address Odisha Assembly

Droupadi Murmu will script history on Thursday by becoming the first President to address the Odisha Assembly, of which she was earlier a member. Speaker Surama Padhy, who chaired an all-party meeting on Wednesday, said it will be a historic moment for the Assembly and its 147 members. "The President will address the House from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. We are all eagerly waiting to listen to her. Her visit and address as the President are truly historic," Ms. Padhy said.

During her visit, Ms. Murmu will also visit room number 11, the chamber in the Assembly from where she functioned as a Minister. PTI

Kathua rape: prime accused withdraws revision bail plea

Shubham Sangra, prime accused in the 2018 rape and murder case of a minor nomad girl in Kathua of Jammu and Kashmir, on Wednesday withdrew his revision application from the Punjab and Haryana High Court seeking bail in the heinous crime. The Union Territory of J&K was represented by Senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli who was recently appointed along with three other lawyers to handle legal matters arising out of the case. As the matter was to be heard before the High Court, accused Sangra withdrew the revision petition challenging the High Court's earlier order denying him bail. PTI

Proposed law to regulate fees of private educational institutions worries Christians in Assam

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Assam Christian Forums (ACF), the apex body of Christian communities in the State, said that a proposed law to regulate the fees of private educational institutions would make minority-run schools lose their long-standing protections. The Assam Private Educational Institutions (Regulation of Fees) Amendment Bill, 2025 approved by the State Cabinet on November 23, is set to be tabled during the Winter Session of the 126-member Assembly. The session concludes on November 29.

Posting a list of 18 Bills and reports to be tabled in the House, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma highlighted the amendment to regulate the fees of educational institutes. He said the proposed Bill "brings minority schools under the fee

The Assam Christian Forums said the proposed Bill ends hands-off approach for minority schools

regulatory mechanism and mandates 25% fee relaxation for schools in panchayat areas".

"This proposed law would strip away long-standing protections for minority-run schools by allowing unchecked government control over their fee structures. In simple terms, the proposed Bill ends the hands-off approach for minority schools and hands the State sweeping powers to fix fees, monitor collections, and intervene at will," the ACF said in a statement on November 25.

It said that for Christian missionary institutions, which have been pillars of education in Assam for over

a century, the proposed law seems to be a direct attack on their freedom to run schools in line with their values and needs.

"We are pained and feel intimidated. These schools are not businesses; they are nation builders, our community's heartbeat, preserving our identity, language, and culture through education. Now, the government wants to decide how we fund them, which could force many to close or lose what makes them special," Archbishop John Moolachira, chairman of the ACF, said.

'Christians targeted'

The ACF said the apprehension of the community stems from the passage of the Assam Healing (Prevention of Evil) Practices Act, 2024, where Christians were targeted for allegedly converting people through magical practices.

On the 17th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday honoured the brave officers, employees and security personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, along with Minister Ashish Shelar, also joined the Chief Minister in paying floral tributes at the martyrs' memorial on the premises of the Police Commissioner's Office in south Mumbai. Maharashtra Director General of Police Rashmi Shukla, Mumbai Police Commissioner Deven Bharti and other officials were also present.

Family members of the slain policemen also paid homage to the fallen heroes on the occasion.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah took to social media to ho-

nour the victims and security personnel, while reiterating India's commitment to combat terrorism.

Ms. Murmu said the nation remembers the "supreme sacrifice" of the brave soldiers with gratitude. "On the anniversary of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, I pay my humble tribute to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the people of our country. The nation re-

members their supreme sacrifice with gratitude. Let us reaffirm our commitment to combat terrorism in all forms. Let us move forward together on the path of progress with a resolve to build a stronger and more prosperous India," she wrote on X.

Mr. Modi called the day a solemn reminder of the need for global unity against terror. "We remember the horrific terror at-

Sengottaiyan resigns from post of MLA, meets TVK chief Vijay

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Former Minister K.A. Sengottaiyan, who resigned from his Gobichettipalayam MLA post on Wednesday morning, met Tamilarai Vettir Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay later in the day.

The nine-time MLA, who was expelled from the AIADMK, tendered his resignation to Speaker M. Apavu at the Assembly Secretariat here.

He then met Mr. Vijay at his residence in Pattinapakkam and held discussions. Key functionaries of the TVK participated in the meeting that lasted nearly two hours.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Sengottaiyan had refused to speak to the press, who posed questions on his future course of action.

Mr. Sengottaiyan is the second MLA of the AIADMK to tender a resignation this month. On November 4, P.H. Manoj Pandian resigned as Alangulam MLA hours after joining the DMK.

On October 31, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami expelled Mr. Sengottaiyan from the party, a day after the latter accompanied expelled leader O. Panneerselvam



Expelled AIADMK leader K.A. Sengottaiyan.

and AMMK founder T.V. Dhinakaran in the same car to Pasumpon in Ramanathapuram district and also addressed a joint press meet.

Jayalalithaa loyalist

A staunch loyalist of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, the 77-year-old leader's meeting with Mr. Vijay, nearly a month after his expulsion from the AIADMK, assumes significance as it has been widely speculated that he is set to join the TVK on Thursday morning.

Mr. Palaniswami had expelled Mr. Sengottaiyan over his actions against the interests of the party, despite being aware that the party was against associating with those who have been expelled from the party.

Rabri Devi will not vacate her government bungalow: RJD

Press Trust of India
PATNA

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) on Wednesday said former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi, wife of its founding president Lalu Prasad, will not vacate the government bungalow she has been occupying for two decades.

The party's State unit chief, Mangani Lal Mandal, made the remark a day after the building construction department issued a notification directing her to shift to 39, Hardinge Road, which has been "earmarked" as the residence of the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly.

Talking to reporters, Mr. Mandal said 10, Circular Road, the bungalow situated right across the street from the Chief Minister's official residence 1, Anney Marg, "will not be vacated, come what may".

Amid Bengal SIR, Kolkata's Sonagachi sex workers fear loss of rights

Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

Anita Das, now 47, was lured from her home in West Bengal's Nadia district in her 20s with the promise of a job. Like many other women, she was trafficked to the red light area of north Kolkata's Sonagachi in the same clothes that she left home in, no identification documents or money in hand.

"I left home over 15 years back and never returned. I work here, I have birthed and raised children here. Suddenly, I am being asked about my parents, where they were and where I was in 2002. I am being asked for identification documents by a society that did not consider me worthy of recognition or respect," Ms. Das said, referring to the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of West Bengal's electoral rolls.



Sonagachi sex workers line up at the office of Usha Multipurpose Cooperative Society to deposit their savings. MOYURIE SOM

Ms. Das described SIR as a 'crisis equivalent to the COVID pandemic'.

"We are not against SIR. But most of us are uneducated and don't know what to write in the form, how to fill it, or how to trace ourselves or our parents from the 2002 list. The booth-level officer (BLO) is filling it on our behalf but we don't know what he is writing. Some of us do not even know where we were born,

Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Agarwal announced special camps for sex workers and their families and assured them that he would try to visit the SIR camp and personally ensure that Sonagachi's nearly 15,000-strong community of sex workers do not face difficulties during the SIR exercise.

Shivani Giri, a sex worker and the secretary of Society for Human Development and Social Action, said help from the CEO's office is of utmost importance. "We cannot risk being considered illegitimate and invalid by our country's top officials after years of being treated as untouchable by society," she said.

"In 2007, we had written to the then Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal Debasish Sen to help us get government IDs and be recognised as voters. He

acknowledged the Usha Cooperative passbook that most sex workers here have, and helped hundreds of us get voter ID cards," said Tutul Singh, a former sex worker and secretary of the Usha Multipurpose Cooperative Society (UMCS).

This organisation, registered as a cooperative society in 1995, helps sex workers and their families build monetary reserves, take loans, etc in a setting where they would often be robbed, defrauded, or extorted in the face of violence.

Mr. Sen said that at that time, there was some confusion around the issuance of EPIC cards to sex workers, and that a request had been put up by welfare organisation Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee and UMCS for the voter registration of Sonagachi's sex workers

and their ID photos being discreetly photographed in a separate registration booth.

Kohinoor Begum, 53, who recalled coming to Sonagachi on February 17, 1994 from her home in Murshidabad's Behrampore, asks agitatedly if sex workers should work or spend their time "running around to make sense of the form".

'No same rules' Satabdi Saha, 48, daughter of a sex worker and secretary of Amra Padatik, a welfare body, pointed out that patrilineal identification is impossible for any child born in the red light area.

She said that when sex workers have always been 'othered' from society and discriminated against, the rules that apply to the rest of society should not be implemented identically on them.

Passive euthanasia: SC forms medical board for 31-year-old man

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Noida District Hospital to constitute a primary board to explore passive euthanasia for a 31-year-old man suffering from 100% disability quadriplegia and who has been in a vegetative state for over a decade, saying his health condition has gone from bad to worse.

Plea by father Passive euthanasia is the intentional act of letting a patient die by withholding or withdrawing life support. A Bench of justices J.B. Pardiwal and K.V. Viswanathan asked the hospital

to file its report within two weeks on an application filed by father of 31-year-old Harish Rana seeking passive euthanasia for his son.

"We want the primary board to give us a report that life-sustaining treatment can be withheld. Let the primary board place its report at the earliest, and once it is before us, we shall proceed to pass further orders. Let this exercise be done within two weeks," the Bench directed.

This is the second time in as many years that parents of the patient have approached the top court seeking passive euthanasia for their son.

IN BRIEF



Toll in fire accident at Hyderabad store rises to two

The death toll from the Shalibanda fire rose to two after the shop owner Shiva Kumar Bansal, who sustained 80% burn injuries, died during treatment late on Tuesday night. A major fire broke out on Monday night in an electronics showroom in Hyderabad neighbourhood, Hyderabad and engulfed the two-floor building promoting a major emergency response from fire and police officials that lasted for four hours. One person died at the spot, while eight were injured.

Remand prisoner found dead in Kerala jail; foul play alleged

A remand prisoner was found dead under suspicious circumstances at the Kasaragod Sub-Jail in Kerala on Wednesday, following which his family alleged that he was murdered. A police investigation has been initiated into the incident. The deceased, identified as Mubashir of Deli, was reportedly found unconscious and shifted to a hospital, where he died during treatment. He was arrested on November 5 by the Vidyanager police in connection with a 2016 POCSO case.

Man booked after minor delivers baby at govt. hostel

A 16-year-old Class 10 student residing at the Sri D. Devaraj Urs Pre-Matric Girls Hostel in Koppal, Karnataka, delivered a baby boy inside the hostel washroom early on Wednesday. The incident has prompted the police to register a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, against a 23-year-old man. Six others, including hostel staff, teachers, and health workers, have been booked for alleged negligence and failure to protect the minor.

Karnataka HC slams 'hurried' removal of govt. pleader

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has restored appointment of an advocate to the post of "additional district government pleader" by setting aside the State order withdrawing his appointment within 24 hours solely for the reason that a Minister had ordered for appointing another advocate based on the recommendation of an MLA.

The appointment made after due process, was extinguished the very next day, not for administrative exigency or legal infirmity, but solely on account of a sudden change of mind, resting on a *tippai* [note] from the Minister.

'Arbitrary action'

"If such caprice is permitted judicial shelter, then the doctrine of pleasure would transmute into an instrument of unbridled executive whim, reducing the Constitutional safeguards to a rhetoric," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Sunil from Athani in Belgaum district, who was removed from the post of "additional district government pleader", XI Additional District and Sessions Court, Belgaum.

The petitioner was appointed on October 28 and removed from the post the very next day based on a note put up by the Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights, who issued instruction to appoint one D.K. Thakkannavar to the post based on the recommendation made by the MLA of Athani constituency.

In full throttle: Left Democratic Front supporters in Vattavada, Idukki, near the Tamil Nadu border, paste Tamil posters of candidates ahead of Kerala's local body polls next month. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Madanapalle district proposal has political and bureaucratic circles in Rayalaseema talking

K. Umashanker
MADANAPALLE

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's green signal to create Madanapalle district, carved out of parts of Annamayya and Chittoor, has generated a sudden heat in the political and administrative circles of Rayalaseema. Though the move has been officially projected as an initiative to improve governance, it is broadly viewed as a strategic reshaping of power equations in the region.

With six Punganur man-

dals set to be realigned into the new district, it is observed among a cross section of the public and political circles that the move could directly crush senior YSRCP leader Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy's influence over the region, where he has long remained a formidable force.

On the other hand, the announcement unleashed long-suppressed aspirations among the local people, particularly farmers. According to a horticulture officer, the district status could finally push the State to invest in cold-storage

networks, transport connectivity, and agro-processing facilities. Madanapalle's handloom and silk-weaving industries are also expected to receive a fresh lease of life once the district status comes into force.

However, there is also scepticism that, since the State's earlier district-formation exercise was marred by hasty execution, poor office infrastructure, and delayed staff deployment, as per a TDP leader, Madanapalle could become another "district on paper".

A 3.5 billion-year-old crater on Mars will henceforth be known after M.S. Krishnan, the pioneering Indian geologist. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has approved it and several other names for Martian landforms proposed by two Kerala-based researchers.

Apart from Krishnan, the IAU has also accepted several Kerala-based names for smaller landforms associated with the crater. These are 'Valiamala', 'Thumba', 'Bekal', 'Varkala' and 'Periyar' for smaller craters and a vallis

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

3.5 billion-year-old crater on Mars to be christened after geologist M.S. Krishnan



Smaller craters and vallis in Mars are set to get names — 'Valiamala', 'Thumba', 'Bekal', 'Varkala' and 'Periyar'. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

(valley). Which means, these places in Kerala now have counterparts on Mars!

The naming proposal was jointly submitted by Asif Iqbal Kakkassery, former research scholar at

Sciences, IIST.

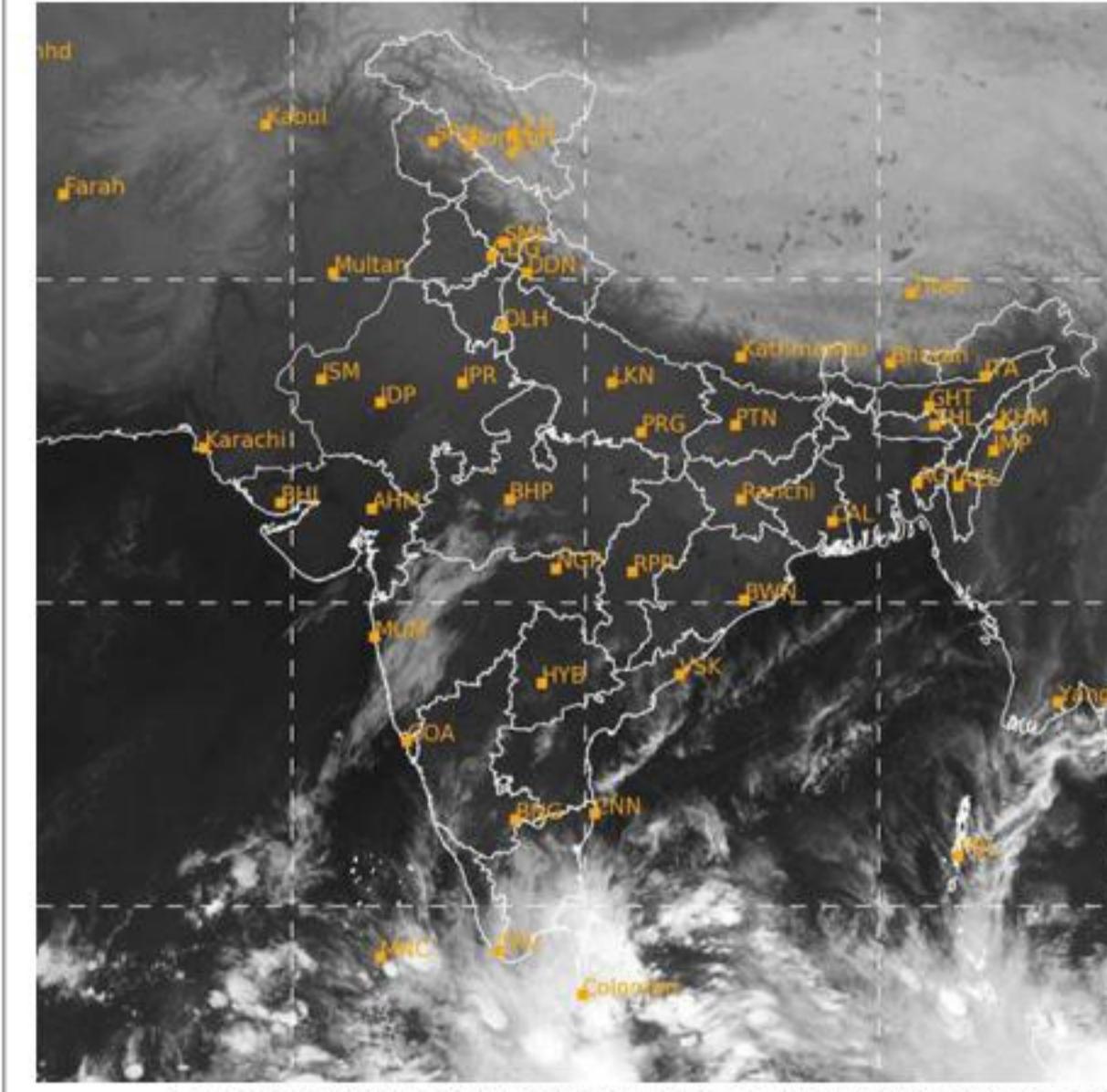
Born in Thanjavur in what was then Madras Presidency in 1898, Dr. Krishnan was the first Indian to be director of the Geological Society of India. As for the other names, it is the first time that place names from Kerala are being adopted for Martian features, the team said.

"The plain inside Krishnan Crater has been officially named Krishnan Palus, and a channel cutting across it has been named Periyar Vallis," Dr. Rajesh said.

The findings have been published in the journal *Meteoritics & Planetary Science*.

WEATHER WATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe. Fog likely at isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	30.1	15.0	15.0	Kozhikode	33.6	25.2	
Ahmedabad	30.9	18.3		Kurnool	31.9	20.8	
Aizawl	26.9	14.2		Lucknow	30.4	10.0	
Allahabad	25.8	9.9		Madurai	30.4	24.3	
Bengaluru	26.6	13.9		Mangaluru	32.4	23.0	
Bhopal	27.0	15.4		Mumbai	33.3	22.8	
Bhubaneswar	28.7	16.0		Mysuru	29.4	18.0	
Chandigarh	25.7	8.1		New Delhi	25.5	8.0	
Chennai	30.2	25.4		Patna	26.3	14.7	
Coimbatore	30.6	21.8		Port Blair	31.4	25.5	
Dehradun	24.8	8.2		Puducherry	29.0	23.4	
Gangtok	18.5	8.9		Pune	31.9	18.5	
Goa	33.8	22.0		Raipur	29.0	16.8	
Guwahati	28.5	15.6		Ranchi	22.4	9.2	
Hubballi	29.0	16.0		Shillong	20.2	8.0	
Hyderabad	28.6	18.2		Shimla	18.2	8.2	
Imphal	24.8	13.9		Srinagar	13.6	3.9	
Jaipur	25.0	11.6		Tiruchi	30.1	24.1	
Kochi	30.8	24.4		Vijayawada	30.0	21.9	
Kohima	19.9	9.4		Visakhapatnam	29.2	21.6	
Kolkata	27.5	16.0					

(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	.21	.46	.17	.254	.169	■
Bengaluru	.11	.37	.48	.109	.102	■
Chennai	.8	.22	—	.118	.114	■
Delhi	.56	.126	.120	.356	.319	■
Hyderabad	.4	.25	.97	.170	.138	■
Kolkata	.14	.18	.21	.328	.163	■
Lucknow	.10	.46	.57	.225	.278	■
Mumbai	—	.81	.86	.259	.247	■
Pune	—	.47	.51	.208	.146	■
Visakhapatnam	.26	.29	.27	.310	.178	■

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hapur, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 366 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

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

SO₂: 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.

NO₂: 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

Kerala mulling review plea on SC ruling on setting up primary schools: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala is considering filing a review petition in the Supreme Court in connection with the latter's directives to the State government on establishing primary schools in areas where none function, Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty said.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, the Minister said the government respected the top court's ruling in the case related to a petition seeking the setting up of a school at Elambra in Manjeri municipality in Malappuram district and was examining the practical aspects of the judgment,



V. Sivankutty

though a copy of the order was awaited.

He pointed out that Kerala was much ahead of northern States when it came to educational facilities. Government and aided schools functioned within a 1-2 km radius in majority of the populated areas.

School dropout rates were almost zero and when it came to literacy

rates, the national average is much lower than that in Kerala. This showed that no student was denied education just because of lack of schools.

The matter of the school at Elambra would be specially considered since the local body had informed that free land and building would be made available for it. The government, the Minister said, was committed to implementing the Right to Education Act, but it should be done scientifically and in a practical manner.

The State's policy was to lift existing schools to international standards, rather than increase the number of schools, the Minister said.

Sciences, IIST. Born in Thanjavur in what was then Madras Presidency in 1898, Dr. Krishnan was the first Indian to be director of the Geological Society of India. As for the other names, it is the first time that place names from Kerala are being adopted for Martian features, the team said.

"The plain inside Krishnan Crater has been officially named Krishnan Palus, and a channel cutting across it has been named Periyar Vallis," Dr. Rajesh said.

The findings have been published in the journal *Meteoritics & Planetary Science*.

Madanapalle district proposal has political and bureaucratic circles in Rayalaseema talking

K. Umashanker
MADANAPALLE

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's green signal to create Madanapalle district, carved out of parts of Annamayya and Chittoor, has generated a sudden heat in the political and administrative circles of Rayalaseema. Though the move has been officially projected as an initiative to improve governance, it is broadly viewed as a strategic reshaping of power equations in the region.

With six Punganur man-

dals set to be realigned into the new district, it is observed among a cross section of the public and political circles that the move could directly crush senior YSRCP leader Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy's influence over the region, where he has long remained a formidable force.

On the other hand, the announcement unleashed long-suppressed aspirations among the local people, particularly farmers. According to a horticulture officer, the district status could finally push the State to invest in cold-storage

networks, transport connectivity, and agro-processing facilities. Madanapalle's handloom and silk-weaving industries are also expected to receive a fresh lease of life once the district status comes into force.

However, there is also scepticism that, since the State's earlier district-formation exercise was marred by hasty execution, poor office infrastructure, and delayed staff deployment, as per a TDP leader, Madanapalle could become another "district on paper".

A 3.5 billion-year-old crater on Mars will henceforth be



Limited room

India must reduce dependence on oil imports to stabilise the rupee

Between late November 2024 and now, the rupee has depreciated about 7%, sliding from roughly ₹83.4 a dollar to about ₹89.2. This is not unprecedented as in 2018, it slid 11%-12% against the dollar. The comparison is instructive because the political and trade backdrops have echoes of that earlier period. In 2018, during the first term of U.S. President Donald Trump, global dollar strength, rising U.S. interest rates and trade tensions pressured emerging market currencies, including the rupee. The RBI used its first longer-term currency-swap as a systemic liquidity check. In 2019, it completed a \$5 billion three-year dollar/rupee swap. And in February 2025, it carried out a \$10 billion dollar/rupee buy-sell swap auction to infuse long-term rupee liquidity into the banking system under global stress. Such swaps are a standard tool by central banks to supply liquidity, shore up forex reserves and prevent disorderly currency depreciation when the dollar surges or capital flows reverse. The steep rupee slide in November arises in a context of external pressures – a widening current-account deficit, driven partly by higher imports of bullion, as a hedge in uncertain times, and exporters scrambling to maintain competitiveness amid high U.S. trade tariffs. In such a hostile global macro-environment, the RBI's mandate is limited; under the floating-but-managed regime, it can only 'smoothen volatility' rather than fix the exchange rate.

Between November last year and now, the RBI sold a net of roughly ₹50 billion in forex to stabilise the rupee. Even so, the slide has proceeded, highlighting the external pressures. That said, there is room for cautious optimism. India's foreign exchange reserves are comfortable – close to ₹693 billion. On the domestic front, retail inflation has slumped: headline CPI inflation came in at just 0.25% in October 2025, well below the RBI's target-band of 2%-6%. This gives the RBI space to tolerate modest currency depreciation without triggering aggressive rate hikes especially as India transitions from cheaper Russian crude to relatively costlier U.S. oil imports. With crude accounting for over a fifth of total imports in FY25, rupee depreciation combined with costlier oil imports could exert upward pressure on inflation. Given this environment, monetary stabilisation alone cannot suffice. The Centre must address India's long-standing vulnerability: heavy dependence on oil. Steps such as faster transport electrification must be treated as strategic imperatives and pursued with urgency. These must be done with a well thought-out trade policy, as opposed to a raft of bilateral trade deals that India has focused on, in the hope that these would diversify trade routes. If anything, trade agreements with Japan, the UAE and ASEAN have tilted the trade balance against India.

Fighting the fire

COP30 sought to change the narrative by focusing on 'implementation'

The 30th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP) concluded in Belem, Brazil, a city chosen for its proximity to the Amazon rainforest. The symbolism was high this year. It is 10 years since the Paris Agreement was signed by 195 countries – a pact to ensure that the globe did not heat up beyond 2°C of pre-industrial times and, as far as possible, contain it to 1.5°C. That was a goal easier stated than done; 2024 ended up being the first time that temperatures breached the 1.5°C territory though it will require several more such transgressions for 1.5°C to be the 'new normal'. In all the years since, COPs have been about systematically getting all countries to move on the path of restructuring their economies away from their fossil-fuel hardwiring; apportioning responsibility – and finance – in ways to actualise these goals, and finally work towards addressing the damage that climate change had already done to societies, livelihoods and ecologies. While there has been success, in that most countries – even the United States – recognise that renewables are the future of energy, it has been challenging for countries to execute the transformation while also growing their economies and keeping their competitive edges sharp. This has led to the formation of the two broad blocs – one led by developed countries and affiliated allies that has pushed for hard targets and road maps to phase out fossil fuels, and the other by developing countries or petro states who reject such prescription and demand more money and action from the developed countries.

The Brazil COP sought to bring a change in the narrative by stressing 'implementation', and reminding the world that multilateralism and 'muitirão' (coming together) were indispensable to the Paris Agreement. While the absence of the U.S. weakened the developed country blocs, this year saw greater thrust on topics such as 'adaptation' and 'just transition' – concepts that acknowledge the everyday effects of climate change and stress practical preparatory steps and finance pledges to help countries burnish climate defences. India, which has been one of the prominent voices for developing country coalitions, was welcoming of the Brazil Presidency's acknowledgement of concerns but did not declare its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (actions on adopting clean energy). The COP's negotiation process often leaves one wondering about the net gains made, given that pollution, deforestation and climate denialism seem more volatile and visible but, as it is often said, this is humanity's only opportunity to mitigate a cataclysm of its making.

Presidential opinion versus the federal structure

In the journey of every nation, there comes a moment where institutions must stand up as solid guardrails to defend what is intrinsic to the foundational values of the nation-state. Because, if the foundational principles are allowed to crumble, the remaining structure will wither away. Further, the institutions which sanction such an obliteration of core ideas, almost always meet the same end. Once the tree falls, the branches cannot survive.

The Supreme Court of India has done just that, while answering the 16th Presidential reference on the powers of Governors and the President of India. The core philosophy of federalism, ingrained in India's Constitution, lies eroded and buried. The States will gradually become shadow Union Territories with Legislatures but dependent on the dictates of those in power in the central government. Federalism is a vital safeguard in addition to being part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Sounding the death knell for federalism would precipitate the absolute dominion of the Government of India over the remaining institutions that seek to control, regulate and quash arbitrariness and the autocracy of those in power at the Centre.

Equal partners

Under the constitutional scheme, the Union and States are equal partners, with the Government of India being only 'first among equals'. States are not subservient to the Union Government, nor are they secondary appendages, bound by the diktats of the Government of India. In fact, in all areas in the State list (such as land laws and law and order), they enjoy complete autonomy. Any other understanding of federalism in the Indian context would disrupt and violate the constitutional scheme envisaged by the framers of the Constitution.

If Bills/laws passed by the State Legislature are going to be kept pending by the Governor for months and then returned to the Legislature for 'reconsideration', and on reaffirmation by the Legislature then reserved for the assent of the President, it would effectively mow down an 'elected Legislature' before the whims of an 'unelected Governor'. This is the very anti-thesis of democracy.

Governors are appointees of the ruling party at the Centre, who, more often than not, act on the whims of those in power in the Government of India and even actively accommodate their political agendas. This is a reality that cannot be ignored or wished away.

Therefore, the scales of federalism and democracy must be weighed between what the Supreme Court calls the "unwritten and undefined powers" of an unelected Governor, acting to serve the political agenda of the



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of India

Government of India vis-à-vis the mandate of an elected State Government and Assembly reflecting the will of the people of that State. How then can Governors be permitted to overrule the will of the people of the State?

Once the Legislature has passed a law, a timeline on the exercise of the powers by the Governor, under Article 200 of the Constitution of India, has to be read therein to bring it in conformity with the principle of federalism, which is part of the basic structure. This is not just harmonious but also imperative in the current climate of unprecedented administrative excesses. The two-judge Bench in the Tamil Nadu Governor's case (the decision which led the President to seek an opinion) understood this and prescribed finite and reasonable timelines accordingly.

What the touchstone is

The power of the Governor has to be tested on the touchstone of reasonableness, i.e., a reasonable time to think through and decide on the Legislation. If this timeline is not read, the Governor will become an unelected despot over an elected Government.

Let us not forget that fairness, reasonableness and non-arbitrariness are the threads that run through the veins of our Constitution, and especially Part III which protects citizens against a wayward state. If you anoint unelected Governors or even the President of India as unbridled monarchs over elected governments, the entire edifice of the Constitution will start to crumble.

"Judicial Review" is also a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. No authority, howsoever high it may be, including Parliament, can ever say that its actions will not be tested by judicial review.

The exercise of powers by the Governor or the President of India cannot remain alien to the principle of judicial review. The office of Governor or the President of India is not bigger than Parliament. Even Parliament cannot escape judicial review for its actions. So how can the Governor or the President of India claim immunity from judicial review, especially when they are creations of the same Constitution?

The theory of 'limited direction' propounded by the Court goes against the grain of the constitutional scheme, the doctrine of federalism, the doctrine of reasonableness enshrined in Article 14, the doctrine of judicial review and the principles of fairness and justice.

To give such unbridled power to the Governor and the President to keep important pieces of legislation pending for long periods of time, so as to defeat the very purpose thereof, cannot be accepted. This is tantamount to giving Governors

a pocket veto and holding States captive to the whims of Governors (and the President) and also keeping States perpetually embroiled in litigation before the courts in order to get a direction for giving assent to every legislation. Ultimately, such an arrangement is constitutionally unsustainable and democratically indefensible.

A weakening of the federal structure

The other problem with the opinion is that it does not take into account the broader context of the series of designed attacks by the Centre on the federal structure in recent times. Here are some examples. First, the refusal by the central government to provide compensation to producing States for loss of Goods and Services Tax, thereby effectively disincentivising efficiencies, revenue generation and good governance.

Second, cess collected exclusively by the central government being used as an excuse to deny sharing of its revenue with the States.

Third, refusal by the central government to fully implement the devolutions recommended by the Finance Commission.

Fourth, forcing States to adhere to a 'one-size-fits-all' conditions to central schemes and making them conditionally applicable to States only on States agreeing to contribute up to 50% of the schemes budgeted expenditure. This puts unprecedented pressure on their already stressed finances.

Fifth, weaponisation of money in the central kitty by providing financial support as a quid pro quo for advancing the political agenda of the party at the Centre. The recent transfer of ₹10,000 to 1.21 crore women in Bihar very close to the Bihar Assembly election 2025 or the grant of a special financial package for Andhra Pradesh in the last Budget are two recent examples.

Sixth, misuse of the Central Bureau of Investigation/Enforcement Directorate/Income-Tax Department to raid, browbeat, arrest Chief Ministers and Ministers and bring down Opposition governments.

And, finally, to top it all, central control through the Governor's fiat, which will be the straw that broke the camel's back as far as federalism is concerned.

If this deep distortion of federalism is permitted to take root, the Union Government will command unrestrained authority while States are reduced to mere administrative outposts. Democracy cannot survive where the will of the people is held hostage to the whims of unelected constitutional functionaries. It is imperative that citizens take notice, institutions reflect, and the Supreme Court reconsiders. Because the preservation of federalism is the preservation of India itself.

The way to reconciliation in Jammu and Kashmir

The bomb blast in New Delhi that claimed the lives of innocent civilians and injured many others saddened me deeply. No one who values humanity can remain untouched by such loss. As Kashmiris, we have lived through the pain of violence for decades and, therefore, understand better than most what it means for families to lose loved ones, suddenly and brutally. Every act of violence against the innocent is unacceptable and no cause or ideology can ever justify it.

The rush to judge

Yet, while we mourn, it is troubling to see how quickly such tragedies are converted into sensational narratives. Even before investigations establish facts, sections of the media are quoting "inside sources" and are ready with headlines that cast suspicion on a particular community and religion. This rush to judge not only misleads the public but also places an entire population under scrutiny – especially Kashmiri students and professionals living across India, who suddenly find themselves being treated as suspects. Fear replaces safety, and anxiety grips families back home.

Condemnation of acts of terror must not be allowed to transform itself into collective punishment. Unfortunately, this has become a recurrent pattern in Jammu and Kashmir. In recent years, we have seen houses, the homes of aging parents, spouses and children, being blown up or demolished because a family member was accused of supporting militancy.

A house is not just a structure. It represents dignity, belonging and memories. Destroying it punishes those who have committed no crime.



Mirwaiz Umar
Farooq

is Chairman,
Hurriyat Conference

Similarly, detaining or harassing relatives and the acquaintances of suspected militants is neither justice nor strategy. It spreads anger and pain further. Young people do not turn to violence, that too educated professionals if they feel heard and hopeful. They do so mostly when they feel oppressed, humiliated and disempowered. While the larger issue remains unaddressed, there is also the curtailment of civil liberties, constant police surveillance, fear of arbitrary dismissals from government service, and attachment of properties by investigative agencies and frequent raids and arrests. Combined with shrinking employment avenues and the unjust reservation and recruitment policies that leave local educated youth feeling excluded even from the limited jobs that exist, all these have created a deep sense of suffocation among them.

Furthering alienation

This alienation is further intensified by the abrogation of constitutionally guaranteed Article 370, the withdrawal of land and job protections, and the widespread fear of demographic change through policies that encourage outsider settlement and domicile rights. These steps and measures – however, they may be defended officially – are experienced on the ground as attacks on identity, dignity, and ownership of one's homeland. Such measures do not foster integration. They reinforce the feeling of dispossession. And the stronger that feeling, the more extreme the retaliatory violence.

Highlighting these realities is not justification of violence – it is an attempt to prevent it. Peace cannot be built on the denial of wounds. If peace is the goal then the causes that lead to violent

extremism must be addressed. Security operations may suppress symptoms, but only justice and empathy can heal the root.

The path to pursue

I have also always urged the youth not to resort to violence or extremism measures. It is totally unjustifiable, completely against religious tenets, destructive and self-defeating. To me, the best way to redress issues among people is dialogue, rooted in compassion and mutual respect. Guns, demolitions, collective punishment, and blanket suspicion will not bring peace. They produce resentment, distrust and alienation. But when dignity is protected, aspirations are addressed and rights are respected, hearts open and reconciliation becomes possible.

I, therefore, urge policymakers in India to view Jammu and Kashmir not merely as a law-and-order issue, but as a human and political reality that requires engagement, redress and confidence building. The framework once articulated by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee – *insaniyat* and *jamoohiyat* – still holds the promise of a dignified future for all.

Whether those in power choose that path or ignore it, is for them to decide. As for us, the pulpit of Jama Masjid will continue to advocate for peace, condemn injustice and violence wherever it occurs. We will not give up on hope fostered by our faith in the belief that hope is the strength that sustains societies through their most difficult moments and leads them toward better days.

(This article is an elaboration of the Friday Sermon delivered by the writer at the Jama Masjid, Srinagar)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Polygamy Bill

The Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025 (Front page, November 26) opens an inevitable constitutional debate. While the State invokes women's protection and social order, criminalising polygamy raises clear tensions with Muslim personal law, which still permits limited polygamy under the Shariat Act, 1937. A State law overriding a protected personal law regime will almost certainly invite judicial scrutiny under Articles 14, 15, 21 and 25. Moreover, carving out exemptions for Scheduled

Tribes and Sixth Schedule areas weakens the Bill's claim to universality and exposes it to an Article 14 challenge on reasonable classification. Until a nationwide Uniform Civil Code democratically resolves such divergences, Assam's unilateral move risks being seen as legislative overreach. The Chief Minister may present this as social reform, but the Bill stirs up a hornet's nest.

Gopalaswamy J.,
Chennai

Dismissal of officer

I was shocked to read the

report, "SC upholds dismissal of Christian officer from Indian Army" (Inside pages, November 26). As a Christian priest in a garrison church, Wellington Barracks, The Nilgiris, I have been asked to carry the Bible before Christian soldiers who had just finished their rigorous nine-month training programme at the attestation parade, before they left for different parts of the country. It was the same with Muslim soldiers with the Koran. Every religion was honoured and respected, secularism was safeguarded and the

sentiments of every soldier were protected.

S.C. Jayakumar,
Coimbatore

Religion is a very sensitive personal matter and the top court could have been more empathetic to the officer. In a pluralistic and secular nation like ours, the situation could be remedied if the higher-ups in the Army try to reinstate the officer by making an appeal before the top court.

D.D. Vayanan Thomas,
Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu

Clinical Proteas

The shocking and

embarrassing series defeat of the Indian team places Indian cricket at the crossroads. It is wrong to bay for head coach Gautam Gambhir's blood as he is only partially responsible for the poor showing. The foremost reason for the debacle is the Indian batsmen's inability to play quality spin bowling on turning tracks. Team selection is wrong. If Ravindra Jadeja is the first option all-rounder, there is no place for players such as Washington Sundar and Axar Patel. If Rishabh Pant is an automatic choice, there is no place for Dhruv Jurel.

Specialist bowlers and batsmen must be selected in their places. Batsmen who can also bowl and bowlers who can also bat should not find a place in Test matches. Playing six bowlers was questionable. The retirement of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli and Shubman Gill's injury have impacted the team balance. Now that youngsters are getting moulded for limited overs games, there will be a dearth of specialists.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu

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

The INO that wasn't and the JUNO that is

China has finished building its Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO), a bittersweet development given that the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) has been in limbo for years. Both JUNO and INO were designed to study subatomic particles called neutrinos, which are very hard to catch because they rarely interact with matter. This is why both INO and JUNO are huge: the more matter there is, the more interactions there will be between neutrinos and matter, and thus more opportunities for study.

Progress on JUNO

However, this size was perhaps the original trigger of the INO's downfall, so to speak, in India. Because the INO detector was so massive (weighing 50 kilotonnes), it could not be operated from inside a lab nor could scientists situate its detector in an existing facility. Instead, the INO collaboration had planned to install the detector inside a mountain in Theni in Tamil Nadu, together with other research facilities. The mountain's rock was to serve as a natural shield for the detector, obviating the need for a separate structure, which would have been expensive.

However, the scale of the construction activity in the area and the involvement of the Department of Atomic Energy, which was helping fund the project, spooked the locals and spurred local leaders to draw political mileage from that. The INO collaboration also erred (in hindsight) by not following procedure and by not estimating how controversial the project could become, which, if it had done, would have helped it respond to and manage certain public sentiments better.

In the late 2010s, these delays were painful as China moved in leaps to realise JUNO. The 'pain' was because the INO collaboration was hoping to secure a limited pool of grants and investments from foreign governments to



Vasudevan
Mukunth

operate the detector. China expected to complete JUNO by 2020 but that turned out to be five years too soon. If it had said it would aim for 2025, would the INO have had a better chance by no longer having a tight deadline? Maybe not but it wouldn't have been implausible either.

While the INO remains stalled, JUNO has released its first analyses. The team uploaded two preprint papers on November 18. One reported the "initial performance results of the JUNO detector". Its author list reveals the sort of international collaboration India was hoping for, with researchers from Russia, the U.S., the U.K., Chile, Armenia, Belgium, Brazil, Taiwan, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Pakistan, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Thailand participating.

It is not clear why there are no researchers from India. Journalist Jatan Mehta has documented a similar issue in the space science sphere: researchers from India were conspicuous by their absence in the (first) list of applications to access the rocks China had brought back from the moon on its Chang'e-5 mission in 2020. India has a long history in neutrino physics and analysing lunar samples, and boasts of many excellent scholars in these fields.

The second preprint paper reported the object of INO's study. Even though neutrinos are so elusive, physicists have discovered that they come in three types, or flavours, and that they can oscillate between these as they travel through space.

Figuring out how the three neutrino masses are ordered is an important open question – and it is related to neutrino oscillations, which are in turn described by three figures called θ12 ("theta one two"), θ13, and θ23. Previous experiments have pinned down θ13, and JUNO and INO were conceived to use this prior knowledge to determine the neutrino mass ordering. In the second paper, the JUNO collaboration reported that it had measured θ12 very precisely, in a

India had the wherewithal in the previous decade to help crack an important scientific mystery, but now China has surged ahead

way broadly consistent with previous findings.

On the back of this, Institute of High Energy Physics scientist and JUNO project manager and spokesperson Yifang Wang had said, "With this level of accuracy, JUNO will soon determine the neutrino mass ordering, test the three-flavour oscillation framework, and search for new physics beyond it."

Rising bar

While we can debate the way the INO collaboration (at times), bureaucrats, political leaders, and some activists conducted themselves during the saga, one must acknowledge that in this domain, missing the bus on one occasion does not mean you can catch the next one; it means the next one has to be something more sophisticated than a bus for your efforts to mean anything. India had the wherewithal in the previous decade to help crack an important scientific mystery. But if JUNO helps surmount this challenge, India may not have the resources to take a shot at the next big mystery because it will be more specialised and need more sophisticated technologies. Then again, only a fool would bet against the ingenuity and resourcefulness of young scientists to come up with a way.

What grates more is the spectre of "resource constraints" – sometimes all too real, sometimes a bogeyman that administrators invoke to not fund research or, crucially, the skills and materials required to manage its consequences for local communities. Still, there is no room for the notion that India is not ready for a Big Science project. Both the large ground-based telescopes of astronomy and the protected areas of conservation constitute Big Science, and India has many. Perhaps the bigger lesson is that we should not attempt such a project solely by whether scientists alone are ready; we should also check whether the conditions beyond science and on the ground are ready as well.

Appointments that led to annoyance

The selection of District Congress Committee presidents exposes old tensions

STATE OF PLAY

R. Ravikanth Reddy
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Telangana
Congress figures, reacted strongly to the choice.

Similar ego and seniority issues are seen in other districts as well. Some appointments have angered the sitting MLAs who feel that those working against them were made DCC presidents.

Senior leaders argue that while the party may have intended a symbolic social engineering move by elevating leaders from various castes with little political experience, it should not have come at the expense of experience, internal harmony, and electoral strategy.

Senior party members have also questioned the disregard for organisational guidelines set earlier by the Congress high command. According to the norms, MLAs were not to be given DCC roles, former DCC presidents were not to be renominated, and leaders holding higher organisational responsibilities were to be excluded from these posts.

A major flashpoint arose with the appointment of Kailash Netha as DCC president of Nalgonda. Congress Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy gave a written complaint to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy demanding his removal. He reminded the party that Mr. Netha had abused him during the Munugode bypoll when the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) was in power.

Also, Nalgonda district, known for its long tradition of strong Reddy leadership and Scheduled Tribe population and historically significant

mar Goud were bypassed. Senior leaders feel that local political dynamics were not adequately considered. Given the fragile organisational balance in many districts, decisions perceived as externally imposed may create more issues.

Concerns extend to urban constituencies as well. For instance, Deepak John has been appointed for Secunderabad district and Mothe Rohit for Khairatabad district ahead of the GHMC elections. While Mr. Rohit is young and energetic, Mr. John is already chairman of a corporation. Questions are being raised about whether they can effectively lead the party in a city where senior leaders, established networks, and community-specific dynamics play a critical role. The worry is that inexperienced leaders may struggle to manage competing factions or build momentum among urban voters.

More broadly, these appointments highlight a recurring dilemma in Congress politics: the tension between promoting new faces and retaining seasoned leadership. While the party's attempt at social engineering is politically necessary, its execution seems to have disregarded ground realities in key districts.

At a time when the Congress government in Telangana is preparing for a series of electoral battles, internal coherence and organisational strength are crucial. Instead, the new appointments have led to another round of factionalism and public disagreements. Ultimately, the success of the DCC presidents will depend not just on their social background but on their ability to mobilise cadres, manage factions, and inspire confidence among senior leaders and grassroots workers.

Trade, defence tensions surge in Japan-China clash over Taiwan

The kerfuffle over Sanae Takaichi's remarks arrives just as Japan faces significant domestic headwinds

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi sparked a controversy when she said that a Chinese assault on Taiwan could be deemed a "survival-threatening situation" – a legal justification allowing Tokyo to exercise collective self-defence. China claims sovereignty over Taiwan, a position Taipei firmly rejects.

Ms. Takaichi's refusal to retract the statement caused bilateral ties to unravel at an alarming speed. The dispute has become the region's biggest crisis in recent years, characterised by Chinese military sorties, economic coercion against seafood imports, and a blanket freeze on cultural exchange. Having failed to force a retraction, Beijing has escalated the issue to the United Nations, framing Japan's stance as a threat to the post-war international order.

Japan's post-war Constitution forbids it from using force as a means of settling international disputes but a 2015 law, passed when Ms. Takaichi's mentor, Shinzo Abe, was Prime Minister, permits it to exercise collective self-defence in certain situations, even if it is not directly under attack.

The brouhaha over Ms. Takaichi's remarks comes just as Japan faces significant domestic headwinds. The world's fourth-largest economy is facing a slow economic growth (**Chart 1**) and persistent inflation. The Prime Minister is attempting to solve these issues with new stimulus measures. Further compounding these challenges is a long-term fertility crisis, with the country's population growth turning negative since 2011.

Against this backdrop, a prolonged rift with China could be problematic, given that Beijing is Japan's largest trading partner. China accounted for 20% of Ja-

pan's imports and exports each, between 2018 and 2024 (**Chart 2**). Bloomberg notes that Japanese manufacturers rely heavily on Chinese critical materials. Reuters reports that China provides 60% of Japan's rare earths – key components for cars and electronics. The power of this monopoly was demonstrated recently when China used its rare earth dominance to successfully pressure the U.S. into lowering tariffs. China has told tourists not to visit Japan, stopped approvals of new Japanese firms, and restricted Japanese seafood.

Ms. Takaichi's suggestion that Japan might intervene in a Taiwan Strait conflict underscores the importance of this maritime route to Tokyo. **Chart 3** illustrates the total trade volume by country passing through the Strait in 2022 (excluding China). Japan stands out significantly, with over \$440 billion in trade relying on this waterway.

Much of the trade between the two neighbours would be disrupted if tensions in the Strait rise. Taiwan is a vital trading partner for Japan, particularly for critical technology. In 2025 (till September), Japan sourced 60% of its integrated circuits and over 50% of its semiconductors from Taiwan, along with significant volumes of electrical machinery (**Chart 4**).

Tensions are also mounting over the military implications of Ms. Takaichi's remarks. In 2025, Japan's defence spending hit a 70-year high of 1.8% of GDP, a level not seen since the 1950s (**Chart 5**).

On Wednesday, Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said that his government is going to propose \$40 billion in additional defence spending in the coming years.

In 2024, Japan's forces 'scrambled' over 700 times in response to Chinese and Russian aircraft violations (**Chart 6**). A 'scramble' refers to the emergency dispatch of aircraft by the country's Air Self-Defence Force when an unidentified aircraft is suspected of violating Japanese airspace.

Souring relations

The data for the charts were sourced from the World Bank, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), UNCOMTRADE, SIPRI, Defense of Japan 2025, and e-Stat: a portal site for Japanese Government Statistics.

CHART 1: Japan's annual GDP growth (in %)

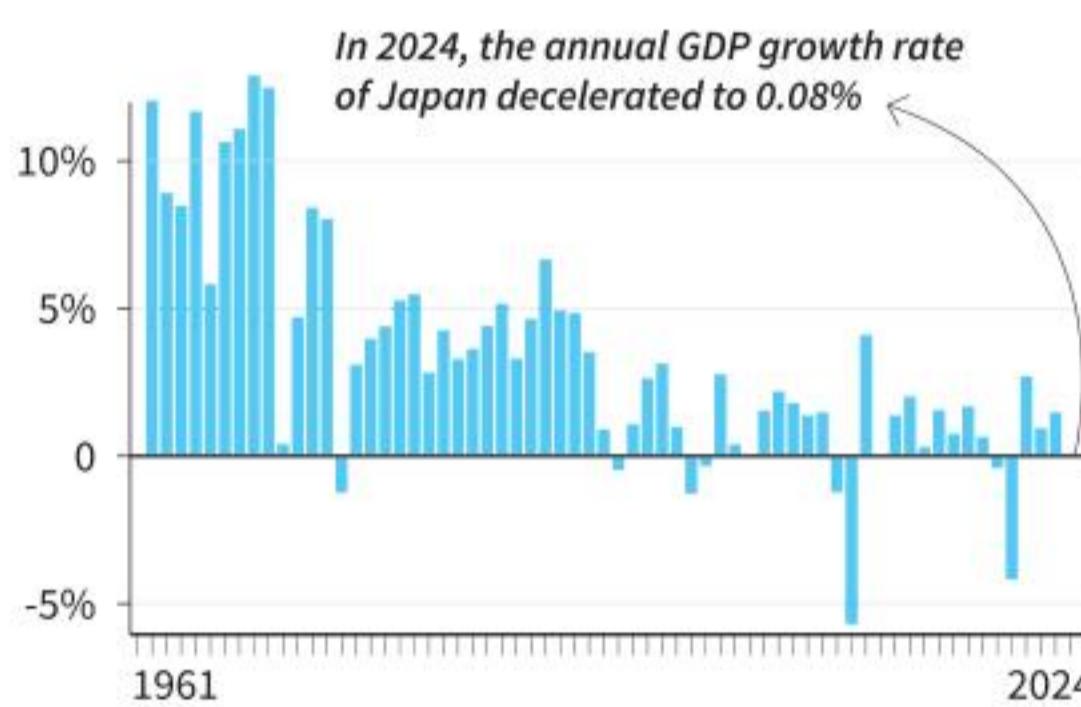


CHART 3: Value of trade transited via the Taiwan Strait in 2022 for select countries. (Figures in \$ billions)

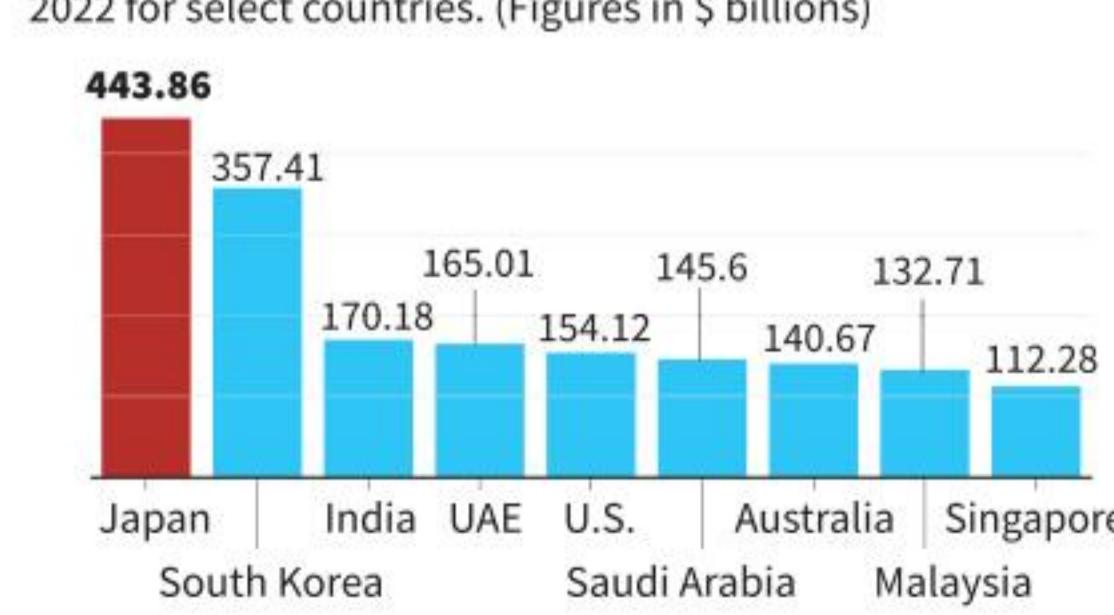


CHART 5: Japan's military expenditure as a share of its gross domestic product. Figures in %

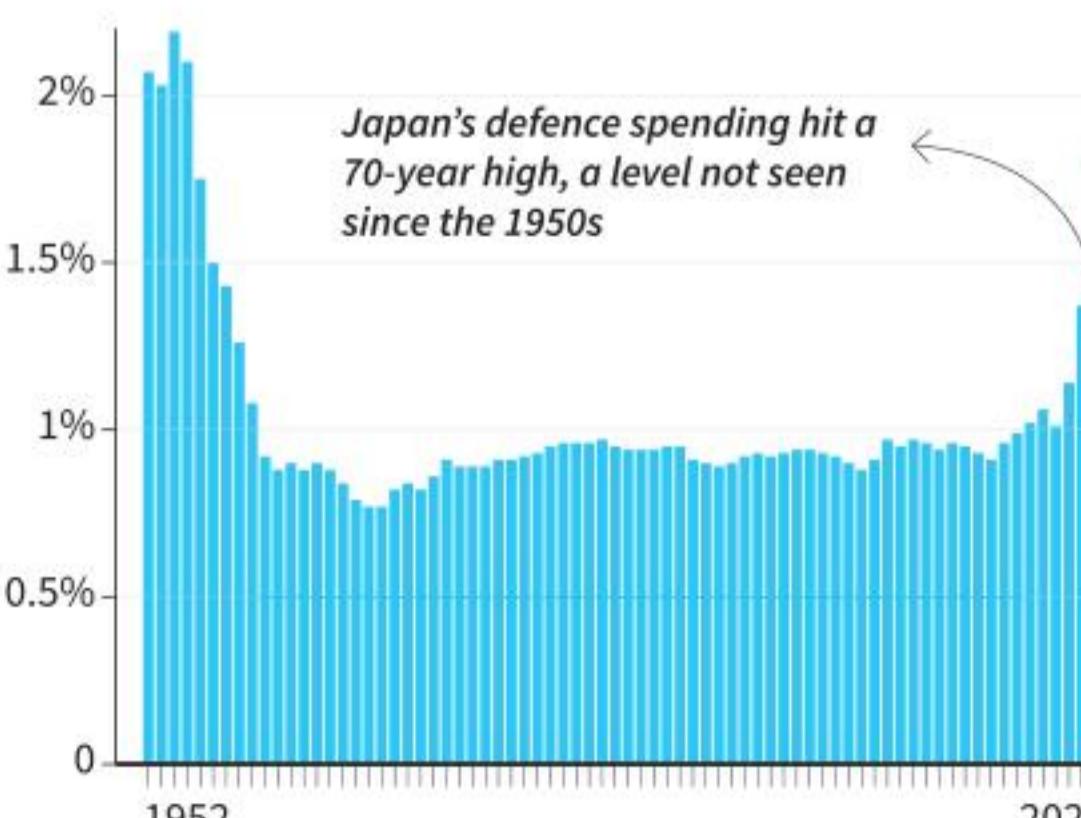


CHART 4: Taiwan's share in Japan's imports till September this year. Only top imports from Taiwan were considered.

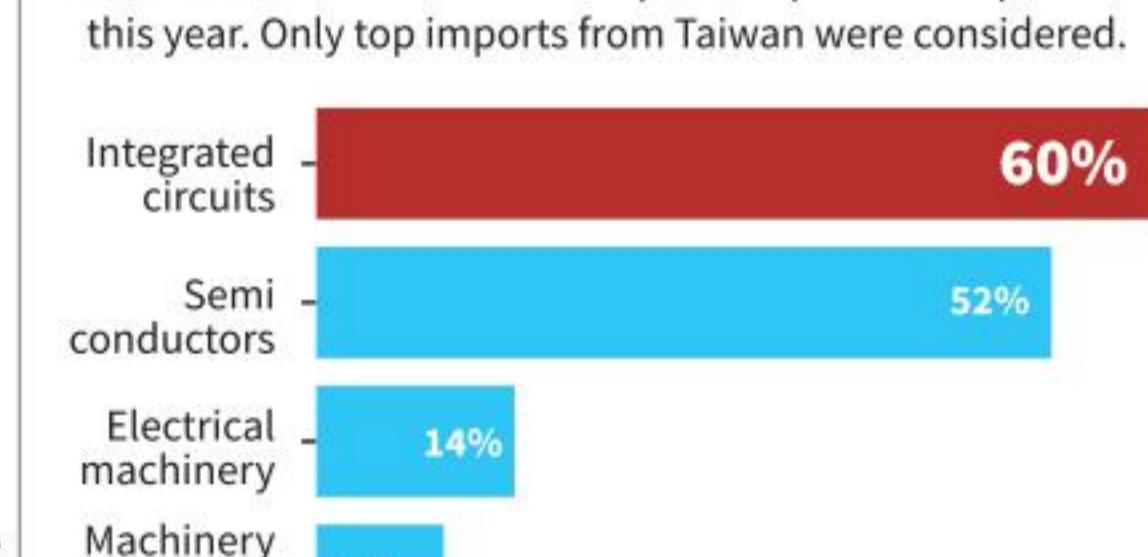
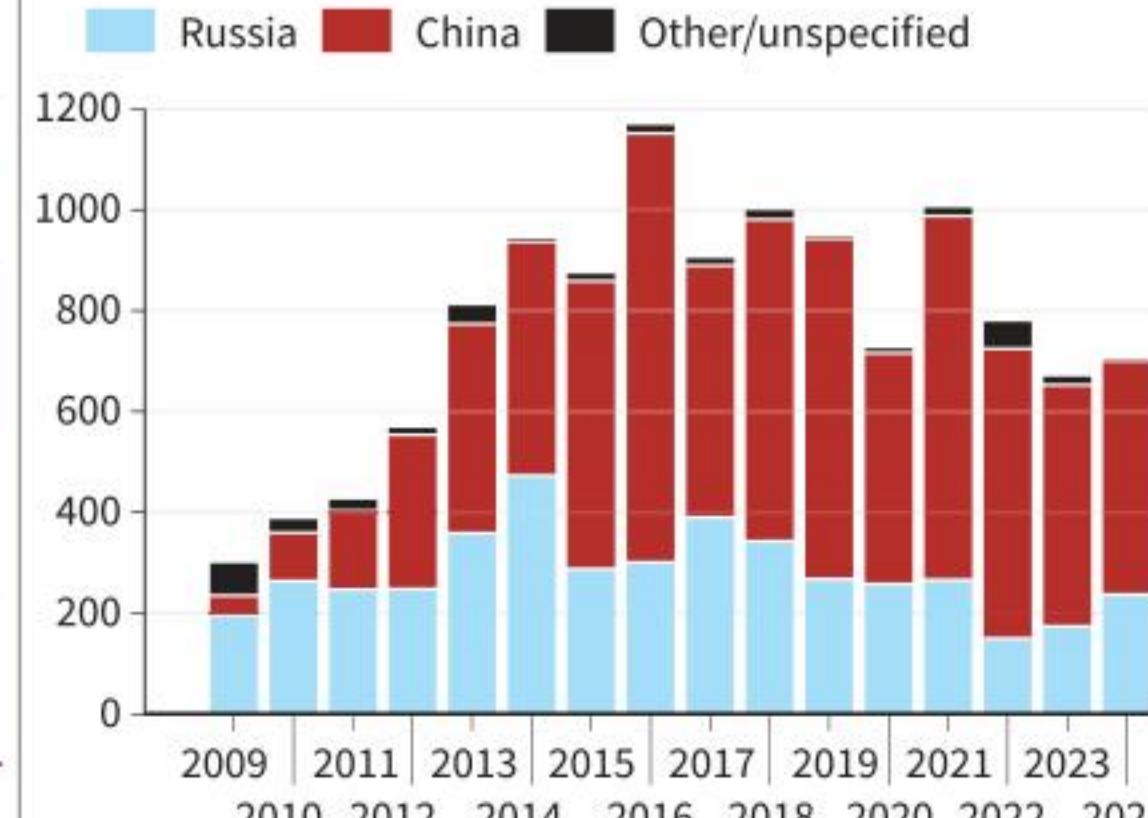


CHART 6: Total number of scrambles by Japan across years, broken down by the country involved



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 27, 1975

World Bank expert calls for expansion of coal and power

New Delhi, Nov. 26: A study of India's energy problem by a World Bank economist calls for strengthening the competitive position of substitute fuels, particularly coal and electricity, besides expansion of oil exploration "as far as practicable".

The study by Mr. P.D. Henderson says it will not be strictly correct to say that India is a victim of the "energy crisis" although the increases in the petroleum import bill has been "damaging" India's economic prospects.

A

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Cost approved for expanding the Pune metro under Phase-2

9,858 In crore. The Union Cabinet approved

expanding the Pune Metro network at a cost of ₹9,858 crore. The approval covers Line 4 and 4A under Phase-2, spanning 31.6 km with 28 elevated stations linking major IT hubs and residential clusters. PTI

The monthly aid promised to poor women in New Delhi

2,500 In ₹. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta

reiterated that her government will deliver all poll promises, including the ₹2,500 monthly assistance and LPG cylinders for ₹500 for poor women along with one free cylinder during Holi and Deepawali. PTI

Value of meth tablets seized near India-Myanmar border

13.33 In ₹ crore. Methamphetamine tablets worth

₹13.33 crore were seized near the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram's Champai district, the Assam Rifles said on Wednesday. Around 4.44 kg of banned meth tablets were recovered. PTI

The worth of the alleged Andhra Pradesh liquor scam

3,500 In ₹ crore. The Supreme Court on

Wednesday granted interim protection from surrender to three accused in the alleged ₹3,500 crore Andhra Pradesh liquor scam. The court questioned the need for custody given the lengthy witness list. PTI

Number of people killed in Thailand-Malaysia floods

34 Severe flooding across Thailand and Malaysia has killed at least 34 people and displaced tens of thousands. Thailand declared a state of emergency in Songkhla, where rains submerged homes, forcing over 10,000 residents to evacuate. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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How to navigate a complex global paradigm

In the tense relationship between the United States and China, Hong Kong emerges as a middle space – a vantage point from which to imagine a way forward. The city's unique position offers a metaphorical middle ground for dialogue, emphasising the need for new frameworks to navigate today's complex rivalries



A city of multitudes: The Hong Kong skyline in 2019. REUTERS

WORLD INSIGHT

Nirupama Rao

In November 17 and 18, 2025, Hong Kong hosted the sixth meeting of the China-United States Exchange Foundation (CUSEF), titled 'Circles for Peace'. Even though the U.S. and China remain locked in a tense, mistrustful relationship, they are also tied together more tightly than either side likes to admit. Here, Hong Kong, which has always lived between worlds, offers an uneasy middle space; a vantage point from which to imagine a way forward.

Complex rivalries

The discussions at the sixth U.S.-China Hong Kong Forum showed that trust had thinned, and that both the U.S. and China now operate as if expecting sudden shocks. Participants spoke with candour, and with a sense of fatigue. Old frameworks such as engagement, 'guardrails', and managed competition no longer felt adequate for today's complex rivalry.

A persistent theme was the shrinking room for nuance. Strategic anxieties that once belonged to specialists have entered the public sphere, shaping domestic politics and narrowing the range of acceptable positions. It has also seeped into the human dimension of the relationship. American student numbers in China are far below pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels, and Chinese student enrolments in the U.S., once well above three lakh, have also declined. The deeper loss is familiarity – younger generations are encountering each other through narratives shaped by fear rather than through lived experience. Even though Presidents of both the nations anchor the relationship, personality-driven diplomacy is not enough in today's world.

Further, technology, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) were the biggest topics of conversations. It was observed that AI now resembles an international public good – too consequential to be monopolised or monetised by any single country. A credible governance regime, participants said, must rest on equity, transparency and accountability. This, however, brought up broader concerns about the overlap between civilian innovation and defence applications, especially in parts of the private sector. There would be an eventual need for an international governance mechanism for AI, and possibly for space ("the galaxy") as well. For if competition moves beyond the earth, who determines the rules?

The wider diplomatic climate also featured in the discussions, with the Taiwan question being a key issue. China argued that the discussion had become overwhelmingly militarised, and warned that American policy appeared to be drifting towards what Beijing views as a "one China, one Taiwan" (a position which advocates for the independence of Taiwan) posture. New mechanisms and a new vocabulary are needed to deal with the issue before it hardens into confrontation by default. One question discussed was whether the U.S. and China are prepared for another EP-3 incident (in 2001) – an accidental collision at sea or in the air that could escalate before political systems can respond. The region needs a crisis-prevention mechanism insulated from political swings.

Singapore's former Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen offered the broadest frame. He described this period as a "dialectic moment", where competing pressures reshape the global order but outcomes remain uncertain. The U.S., Europe and China will inevitably influence the emerging structure, he said, but the rest of the world should not allow the global commons to become collateral damage in major-power rivalry. The world does not need another hegemon, it needs powers

Hong Kong's future depends on preserving its cosmopolitan function – its connectivity, and cultural hybridity that allow ideas to cross borders even when politics cannot

capable of co-organising the future.

Hong Kong's role

Throughout the forum, Hong Kong was in focus. While the city's liminal geography stands out as a metaphor for the wider planetary condition, it is also becoming more China-centric, even as it tries to remain globally fluent. Its future depends on preserving its cosmopolitan function – its transparency, connectivity, and cultural hybridity that allow ideas to cross borders even when politics cannot. Hong Kong reminds one that the world's middle spaces still matter, revealing pathways that pure geopolitics often miss.

People-to-people ties emerged as a gentle theme of hope in the meeting. Participants noted that official relations may be strained, but human contact remains the ballast that prevents larger relationships from capsizing.

Hong Kong, despite the pressures of recent years, continues to make such exchanges possible.

Lessons for India

The conversations in the forum were a reminder that great-power relations may determine the climate of the world, but the weather is shaped by everyone else. India cannot control the forces buffeting the U.S.-China relationship, but can decide how to navigate them, and how to ensure that its own future is not written by default. Rigid binaries are unsustainable. India's task is not to imitate U.S. rhetoric nor to accept Chinese narratives at face value. It is to build domestic strength – technological, economic and institutional – to navigate a

fractured world without losing strategic autonomy. The forum's emphasis on youth, cultural ties and the social contract around technology offered reminders that relationships are not made or unmade by summits alone. They are shaped by steady habits of engagement.

The shape of a new order

The clearest insight from the forum was that the U.S.-China relationship will be restored to its old shape. The political atmospherics will remain turbulent. But the alternative to managed rivalry is not victory; it is a world of cascading risks – climate stress, pandemics, fragile supply chains, and polarised societies.

One participant put it simply that this was "A story we have to write together". The phrasing carries weight. It shifts the conversation from competition to stewardship, from ideology to survival. The next order, if it emerges at all, will depend less on grand bargains and more on practical cooperation on energy, health, finance, and AI governance.

As the forum ended and one stepped out into the evening, the view from the conference venue stayed, of a South China Sea almost motionless, and meditative, in quiet contrast to the anxieties that shape the region – a reminder of how places, like people, survive by embracing complexity and allowing themselves room to rethink. The U.S. and China will continue to compete, sometimes fiercely. The future needs steady hands to shape it.

India has its own long arc with China, marked by caution and conviction. Yet, in this moment of global uncertainty, the challenge for all three countries is the same: to choose responsibility over reflex, and to widen the narrow spaces where dialogue is still possible.

Hong Kong, in its imperfect, resilient way, showed that those spaces still exist.

Nirupama Rao is Foreign Secretary (retired) and Founder-Trustee, The South Asian Symphony Foundation

THE GIST

The discussions at the sixth U.S.-China Hong Kong Forum showed that trust had thinned, and that both the U.S. and China now operate as if expecting sudden shocks.

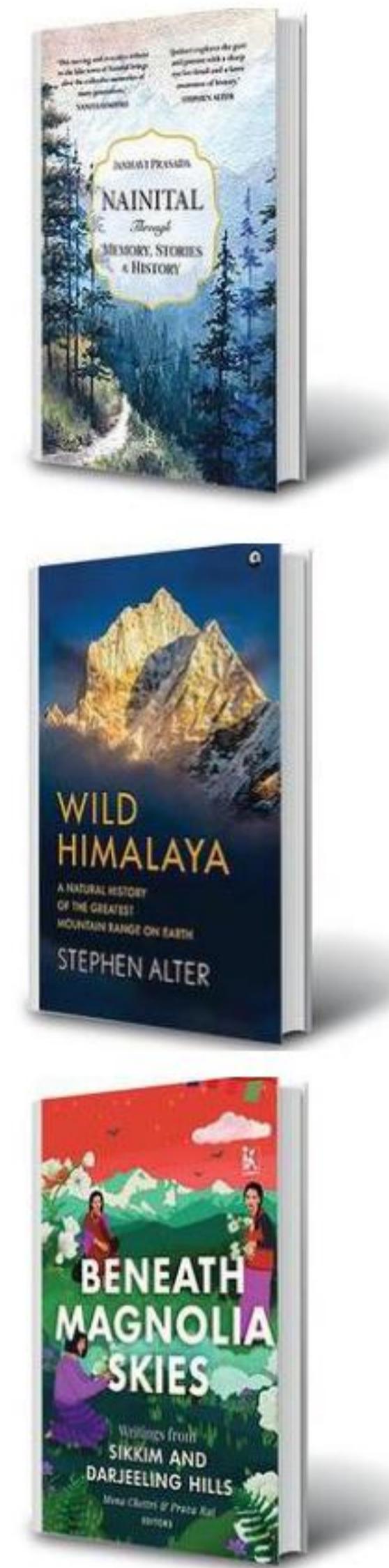
Hong Kong reminds one that the world's middle spaces still matter, revealing pathways that pure geopolitics often miss.

The clearest insight from the forum was that the U.S.-China relationship will not be restored to its old shape. The political atmospherics will remain turbulent.

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Clear contrast: A view of the snow covered Himalayas, as seen from Shimla, in 2022. PTI



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"Why the long face? Did your school lose yesterday?"

"Yes. It was so disappointing. We were so close to winning. In fact, we were neck to neck, but unfortunately, we..."

"... you were not 'neck to neck,' but 'neck and neck.' Do you know what the expression means?"

"I think I do. Doesn't it mean 'level' or something like that?"

"The expression is used when you are talking about a race or a contest of some kind. When you say that the two contestants are neck and neck, it means that neither has the advantage nor the lead. The two..."

"... have equal chances of winning."

"Exactly! Here's an example. It's difficult to say who will win the election. The two candidates are neck and neck with 400 votes each."

"Gopa and Sal were neck and neck."

"... ah Gopa! That boy can really run."

"Yes, he is really fast."

"But he is dead from the neck up."

"Dead from the neck up? How can anybody be dead from..."

"... when you say that somebody is dead from the neck up, it means that he/she is really stupid. It's an informal expression."

"I see. There are times when I think that some of my cousins are dead from the neck up. Can I say that?"

"I haven't met too many of your cousins. But I guess your example is O.K. I am sure that many of your friends think that you are dead from the neck up."

"They would have to be dead from the neck up to think that!"

"My! If your friends come to know what you think of them, you will get it in the neck."

"Get what in the neck?"

"The expression 'get it in the neck' means to receive punishment or criticism. For example, I got it in the neck for being late to office this morning."

"Meaning that your boss scolded you for being late?"

"That's right!"

"I got it in the neck for breaking the neighbour's window. Does it sound O.K.?"

"Sounds fine. Here's another example. Our Accounts Officer is likely to get it in the neck pretty soon."

"Why? What has he done?"

"He's been very irregular. He says his daughter is in hospital. But I don't..."

"... before I forgot, did you manage to meet Sujatha yesterday?"

"No, I didn't. But I did call her up this morning. She sounded terrible. She told me that her nose was gummed up."

"Her nose was gummed up? You mean that she applied gum to her nose?"

"No, no. When you say that your eyes and nose are gummed up, it means that your eyes and nose are full of mucus."

"... that sounds terrible. If your eyes are full of mucus, you will have problems opening your eyes."

"Exactly! And if your nose is 'gummed up,' you will have problems breathing. I didn't call my parents last week because my nose was gummed up."

"The child was breathing through his mouth because his nose was gummed up. Does that sound O.K.?"

"Sounds fine."

Published in *The Hindu* on October 19, 1998.

Why telling stories from the Himalaya is 'an argument against extinction'

Stephen Alter, who recently won the Himalayan Echoes Nature Prize, has often put the young, fold mountains at the centre of his writing. Other chroniclers, from Peter Matthiessen to Namita Gokhale, have written about the reality of living in a region which inspires both awe and fear

Sudipta Datta

Writer and naturalist Stephen Alter has been honoured with the inaugural Radisson Himalayan Echoes Nature Prize 2025 for his contribution to Himalayan literature and conservation. Alter has often put the Himalaya at the centre of his books, and it's the perfect time to read up on the world's tallest mountain range on earth, and why as Alter contends, the focus must not be on altitude alone.

In his *Wild Himalaya: A Natural History of the Greatest Mountain Range* (Aleph), he says that at times, "these mountains seem almost alive for they are always changing." The Himalaya, he notes, contains places of terrifying beauty, vertiginous terrain and extremes of weather that inspire both awe and fear. Alter maps the Himalaya, which spans a distance of roughly 2,500 kilometres in length and between 350 and 150 kilometres in breadth and stretches across five nations – China, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

Over eight sections, Alter goes through the origins of the range, its weather systems, flora and fauna, expeditions of other mountaineers and travellers, and myths and legends associated with the mountains. For him, the simple act of retelling these stories becomes an affirmation of nature's diversity and an argument against extinction.

Goat dung 'soft as a mattress'

In the section, 'Flora Himalensis', he "stalks" the carnivorous sundew or the Drosera peltata at the Jabarkhet Nature Reserve near Landour in Uttarakhand.

Drosera means "dew of the sun" and it gets this name, says Alter, because the mucilage on its leaves is similar to tiny drops of dew. The saliva-like substance traps insects, and after the victim is captured, the leaf closes around it and consumes the insects.

He writes about encountering a tiger barely 10 metres away on the banks of the Ram Ganga river in Corbett National Park and sleeping on a "layer of goat dung, 15 cm deep and soft as a foam mattress" at Shingo La in Ladakh while trekking through Zanskar Valley.

On the eastern flank of the mountain range, he spots blood pheasants in Kanchenjunga, the takin, an animal related to goat antelopes, in Bhutan, and black-necked migrating cranes at Phobjikha. Amid the treasure trove, are photographs, say of the magnolia blooming in Arunachal Pradesh and the Machapuchare at sunset, and the books trail he leaves, from George Schaller's *Tibet Wild*, Mahara K. Pandit's *Life in the Himalaya: An Ecosystem at Risk*, D.N. Wadia's *Geology of India, Asia ke Peeth Par* (On the Shoulders of Asia) by Shekhar Pathak and Uma Bhatt and many others.

Alter mentions Schaller's "special affinity" for snow leopards, the highest roaming of the big cats. Schaller had once come face-to-face with a snow leopard that left him with a "haunting sense of its elusive beauty and the way in which it seemed to dissolve into rocks and snow."

Elusive leopards

Leopards find place in Janhavi Prasad's wonderful new book, *Nainital Through Memory, Stories & History* (Roli Books). Walking in the scenic hillsides across the Himalaya region "calls for the alertness of

a leopard," she says. In the forest, keep talking – even if it means talking to yourself, she advises, because the murmur keeps lurking wild animals at bay. "Unlike the tiger which kills in daylight, leopards fear humans in the day, but after dark they prowl in search of prey." In the hills, not a day goes by without mentioning a leopard.

In 'Faces of Nainital: Past and Present', we run into Corbett, the Bakshis who came from Pakistan, four prominent Parsi families, Mrs. Bastien, the last Anglo-Indian in town, others from the Christian community, the women from the mountains, icons like Sundar Lal Bahuguna, and Shekhar Pathak who has "dedicated his life to understanding the past, present and future of the Himalaya." He is trekking the same trail for the third time to catalogue the river paths of the Himalaya, "an exercise done every decade to study the impact of climate change over the years." Digvijay Singh's illustrations add to this profile of a town's layered history and culture.

The many raconteurs of the Himalaya, from Peter Matthiessen, Bill Aitken, Ruskin Bond to Anuradha Roy, Namita Gokhale, Manjushree Thapa and Bulbul Sharma, have written about the reality of life in the mountains. In *Himalaya: Adventures, Meditations, Life (Speaking Tiger)*, edited by Bond and Gokhale, Bond writes in the Preface that living in the mountains is not a romance for everyone. "Even so, the mountains have become very personal to me, as they have to other writers who have made their homes here [in the Himalaya]." The Himalaya's foremost teaching? Bond says it's perhaps humility; "We know that just living, and helping our fellow creatures through life,

is enough; it is greater than any art."

Women of the hills

The last in the excellent Zubaan series on lives of women in the Northeast features writings from Sikkim and Darjeeling Hills. *Beneath Magnolia Skies*, edited by Mona Chettri and Prava Rai, includes the voices of homemakers, students, teachers, professionals, artists who ask pertinent questions, as articulated by the editors. "As Himalayan women move between tradition and modernity, how do culture, tradition, and patriarchy reconcile with their futures? What shapes and forms do inequality, violence, and prejudice take? How do culture, politics, and society make them invisible? How do women claim space, agency, and voice within a society that keeps them marginalised?"

Anshu Chettri wonders why we seldom see women loitering around alone, as she goes walking around the Himalayan town of Kalimpong. She relishes her freedom to walk at her own pace. The town made her aware of its struggles like the water scarcity in almost every household.

Talking to *The Hindu* about his book *Himalaya: Exploring the Roof of the World* (Bloomsbury), John Keay said the Himalaya region is a distinct eco-zone and must be protected. Alter is disturbed at seeing hundreds of greater adjutant storks perched on huge piles of burning rubbish on the outskirts of Guwahati. "...the grim birds look like creatures out of an apocalyptic image."

Learn from the mountains, urges Gokhale. "...what remains in the end is the sense of intimacy, the exhilaration, and yes, the desolation, of these rugged mountains, the 'self born mockers of man's enterprise'."

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on Indians who have had features on extraterrestrial bodies named after them

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

This week, the International Astronomical Union decided that a 3.5-billion-year-old crater on Mars will be named for the first Indian who served as the director of the Geological Survey of India. He was also the first director of the Indian School of Mines. Name him.

QUESTION 2

This Indian physicist from Hooghly district was known for his studies of light under C.V. Raman's guidance and on radiophysics with Camille Guitten. He was instrumental in including wireless science as a higher education subject in India, and has a crater on the moon's far side named for him. Who is he?

QUESTION 3

Homi Jehangir Bhabha has a 64-km-wide crater named for him on the moon's far

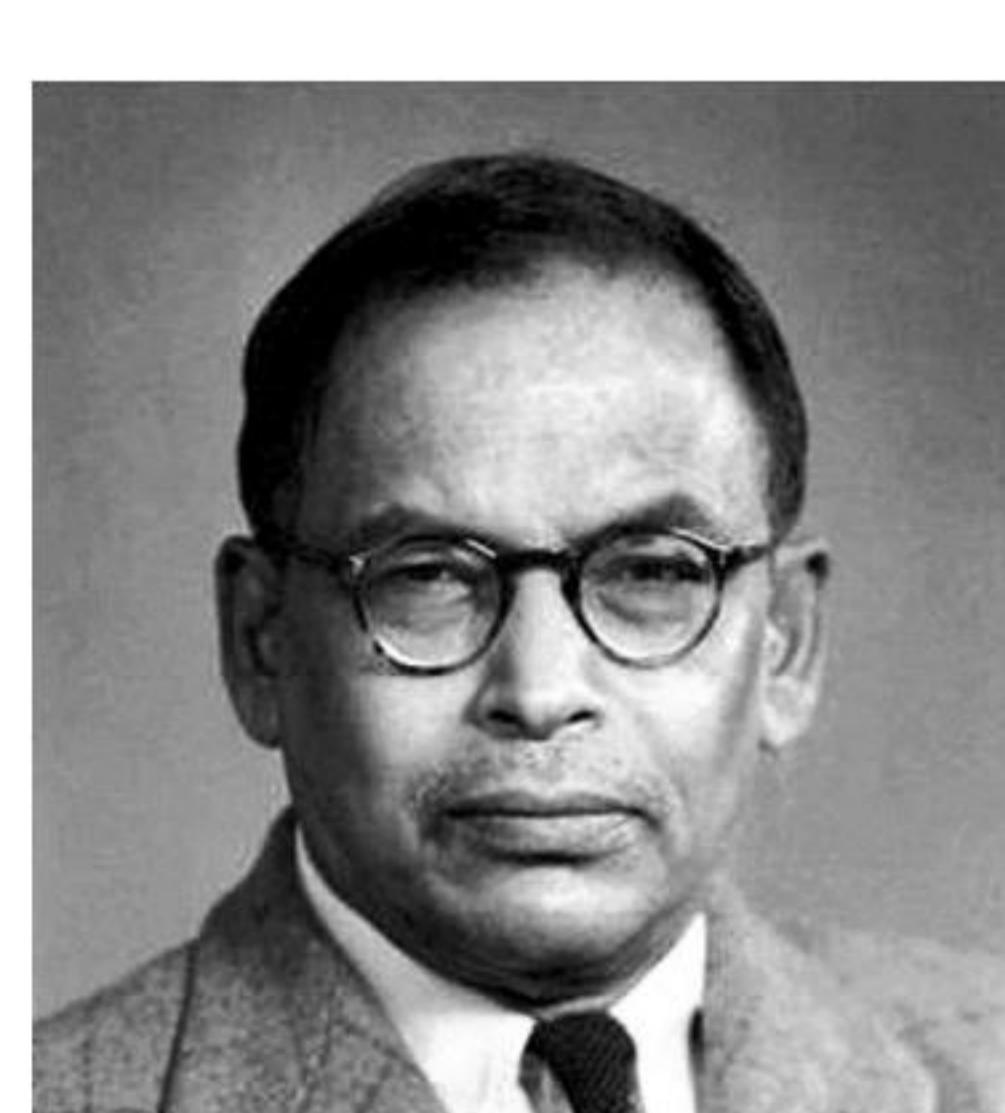
side. The crater is of scientific interest because the impact that formed it penetrated deep into the floor of the basin it located in. Name this famous basin.

QUESTION 4

This astronomer hailed from near present-day Patna in Bihar and is noted for estimating the value of pi with an accuracy high for his time; for his study of Diophantine equations; and for his studies of the epicycles of motion governing the planets, among others. For his efforts, he has both a (human-made) satellite and a lunar crater in the Mare Tranquillitatis. Name him.

QUESTION 5

This physicist born in Varanasi in 1929 was best known for founding and developing the field that uses isotopes produced by cosmic rays, for example, in rocks and ice, to trace rates of erosion, sediment transport, and other planetary processes over long periods. In 2024, a 65-km-wide crater on Mars was named in his honour. Name him.



Visual question:

Name this physicist; a crater named for him on the moon is one of the proposed locations of a future lunar radio telescope.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. The date on which the Constituent Assembly first met. **Ans: December 9, 1946**

2. The President of the Constituent Assembly when the Constitution was adopted. **Ans: Dr. Rajendra Prasad**

3. The number of members who signed the handwritten original of the Constitution of India. **Ans: 284 members**

4. The time taken for the Constituent Assembly to draft and adopt the Constitution. **Ans: 2 years, 11 months, and 18 days**

5. The reason why January 26, 1950 is significant in relation to the Constitution. **Ans: It was the date chosen for the Constitution's commencement, honouring the 1930 Purna Swaraj declaration**

Visual: Identify the image and its location in the original Constitution. **Ans: The zebu bull, a Mohenjodaro seal from the Indus Valley**

Civilisation, reproduced at the head of Part I of the Constitution, which deals with the Union and its territories

Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Mohan Lal Patell| Suchit Narottam| Erfanally Oosmany| Dodo Jayaditya

Word of the day

Esoteric:

confined to and understandable by only an enlightened inner circle

Usage: This is a compilation of esoteric philosophical theories.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/esotericpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /iːsəˈtərɪk/

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

From Page One

No problem in Kerala SIR, EC says in SC

The EC said a small section of people have been doing BLO duties successfully, and if need be, the State Election Commission would be allocated more from the EC's own staff.

The Communist Party of India (CPI), a partner in the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala, had separately moved the top court, seeking not only the deferment of the SIR but also a judicial direction to quash the revision process, which had spread to 12 States and Union Territories after Bihar.

Tamil Nadu argued that the EC had given "unrealistic timelines" to complete the SIR process in the State, noting that the forecast of a cyclone could also hinder the exercise.

One of the petitioners submitted that the EC had only digitised 50% enumeration forms in the past 22 days in Tamil Nadu, with the remaining forms to be completed in the eight days left before the end of enumeration stage on December 4.

Mr. Dwivedi assuaged fears by noting that once the enumerations were signed and submitted by citizens, it would be processed on time by the EC machinery.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal – leading the petitioner side which includes political parties, leaders, and State governments from Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala – said what was happening on the ground was very different from what was presented in court.

He said the EC allows booth level agents (BLOs) of political parties to upload 50 enumeration forms every day till December 4. However, they have been restricted to 10 forms daily after December 4, following the publication of the draft list. Mr. Sibal urged the court to remove the restriction.

SC pulls up Haryana govt. over felling 40 trees for access road to BJP office

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Terming it "pathetic", the Supreme Court pulled up the Haryana government on Wednesday for the uprooting of 40 trees to build an accessible road to a newly-constructed BJP office in Karnal, and sought a remedial action plan.

A bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K.V. Viswanathan was hearing a petition filed by a 1971-war veteran, challenging the arbitrary allocation of a plot in a residential area to the ruling BJP in Haryana and later, the construction of an access road for its office by uprooting 40 fully-grown trees situated in a green area.

India rejects Pak. remarks on flag raising at Ram temple

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

A day after Pakistan's Foreign Office expressed "deep concern" over the raising of a religious flag at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the Ministry of External Affairs rejected Islamabad's remarks with "contempt" and said Pakistan should look into its own record of "bigotry" and "repression".

"We have seen the reported remarks and reject them with the contempt that they deserve. Rather than delivering hypocritical homilies, Pakistan would do better to turn its gaze inwards and focus on its own abysmal human rights record," the Official Spokesperson of the MEA, Randhir Jaiswal, said on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had raised the flag at the Ayodhya Ram Temple on Tuesday, marking the final step in the construction of the Ram Temple.

Mr. Jaiswal said, "Pakistan has no moral standing to lecture others" as it has a "stained record of bigotry, repression and systemic mistreatment of its minorities." On Tuesday, the Pakistan government had said the flag-raising event "reflected a broader pattern of pressure on religious minorities in India and deliberate attempt at eroding Muslim cultural and religious heritage under the influence of majoritarian Hindutva ideology."



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee leads a protest march against SIR in North 24 Parganas district on Tuesday. ANI

Bengal CM urges BLOs not to take any extreme steps

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday urged booth-level officers (BLOs) not to resort to suicide and take to extreme steps amid the rising concerns of work pressure. This came after three BLOs died in the State amid the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) process.

"You should not die by suicide because life is very precious, yet they have no mercy and it took 48 hours just to meet the BLOs and listen to them," Ms. Banerjee said during a public address.

The Chief Minister cited the deaths of BLOs in other States, including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala. BLOs were dying everywhere, the Trinamool Congress chairperson claimed.

"Their demands are justified. They had to wait 48 hours just to get an au-

NIA arrests Faridabad man for harbouring Delhi blast accused

Soyab is the seventh person to be arrested in the case; Patiala House Court grants 10-day custody to NIA; probe agency also gets extended custody of Amir Rashid Ali in whose name the car used in explosion was registered; searches to continue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a Faridabad resident for allegedly harbouring the "terrorist" Umar-un-Nabi, who was at the wheel of the car that exploded near the Red Fort here on November 10.

The accused has been identified as Soyab of Dhauj in Faridabad, Haryana. This is the seventh arrest in the case so far.

The Patiala House Court in Delhi on Wednesday remanded Mr. Soyab to 10 days of NIA custody.

"NIA investigations have revealed that he had also provided logistical support to the terrorist Umar before the November 10 car bombing that killed several persons and injured many others outside the Red Fort in the national capital," the agency said.



An accused in the car bomb blast near Red Fort being brought to the Patiala House Court. PTI

"The agency continues to pursue various leads in connection with the suicide bombing, and has been conducting searches across States in coordination with the respective

police forces in a bid to identify and track others involved in the gruesome attack," the NIA said.

The NIA earlier arrested two accused persons, and took into custody four oth-

ers who were previously arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Among them were Amir Rashid Ali, in whose name the car used in the blast was registered; and Jasir Bi-

lal Wani alias Danish, who had allegedly provided technical aid to the terrorist involved in the deadly attack. They are currently in the NIA's custody. The Patiala House Court extended the NIA custody of Amir Rashid Ali on Wednesday.

Dr. Muzammil Shakeel Ganai of Pulwama in J&K; Dr. Adeel Ahmed Rather of Anantnag in J&K; Dr. Shaheen Saeed of Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh); and Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay of Shopian (J&K) were held by the J&K Police for allegedly being part of a "terror" module.

They had all played a key role in the terror attack that killed several persons and left many injured, as alleged by the NIA.

The police had seized about 2,900 kg of explosives, including ammonium nitrate, during the raids in Haryana's Faridabad.

41 Maoists surrender in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur: police

The Hindu Bureau
RAJAPUR

Forty-one Maoists, including 32 carrying a reward of ₹1.19 crore between them, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Wednesday, according to the police.

Among those who surrendered are members of the PLGA Battalion Number One, considered the strongest military formation of the Maoists. Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Yadav told journalists that the battalion was depleting due to the steady pressure mounted by security forces, adding that the killing of top Maoist military commander Madvi Hidma has further accelerated the process.

Since the beginning of the year, 528 have been arrested, 560 Maoists joined the mainstream and a total of 144 Maoists were killed in different encounters in Bijapur, a district of the Bastar region, a press note by the police said.

Arbitrary actions by China 'unhelpful' to ties: MEA

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Days after Chinese officials detained an Indian citizen from Arunachal Pradesh at Shanghai international airport, Randhir Jaiswal, Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, said, "arbitrary actions" by China are "most unhelpful" in nurturing "people-centric" initiatives.

Mr. Jaiswal further said that "peace and tranquility" on the India-China border is the "prerequisite" for the development of ties.

Mr. Jaiswal's remarks came a day after the MEA said a "strong demarche" was sent to the Chinese side soon after the detention of the Indian citizen, Pema Wang Thongdok, became known.

"Arbitrary actions by China as I referred to involving an Indian citizen from Arunachal Pradesh are most unhelpful towards efforts being made by both sides to build mutual trust and understand-

ing and gradually move towards normalisation of bilateral relations," said Mr. Jaiswal.

Mr. Jaiswal emphasised that Arunachal Pradesh is an "integral and inalienable part of India and this is a fact that is self evident. No amount of denial by the Chinese side will change this indisputable reality."

On Wednesday Mr. Jaiswal said, "Maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border regions is a prerequisite for the continued and overall development of India-China bilateral relations. Our position in this regard has always been very clear and consistent. Since October 2024, both sides have worked closely to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border regions."

China Eastern Airlines started its Shanghai-Delhi service on November 9, 2025, after the Indian and Chinese leadership met on August 31, 2025 on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's summit in Tianjin. This led to the reviving of air connectivity after a gap of five years. The two sides have taken a number of people-centric initiatives since Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India from August 18 to 19 when the two sides resolved to start border trade through the mountain passes.

EC writes to Kolkata Police over 'breach of security'

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Election Commission sent a letter to the Kolkata Police Commissioner on Wednesday expressing concern about the safety of its staff in West Bengal.

This action followed an incident in which booth-level officers (BLOs) protested outside the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) office in Kolkata two days earlier. During the unrest, the BLOs clashed with the police, broke through barricades, and entered the CEO's office. The CEO was locked inside his office until around midnight as the BLOs demanded an audience to make their grievances heard.

"I am directed to state that it has come to the notice of the Election Commission of India that on 24.11.2025 a serious security breach has occurred at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal... existing security in the office of the CEO appeared to be inadequate," Sujeet Kumar Mishra, Secretary at the EC's office, Delhi, said.

The letter, addressed to the Commissioner of Police, Manoj Kumar Verma, stated that the EC had taken a "serious view" of the security breach and asked them to provide better security to the election commission staff as the elections approach. They are to be given security to and from their office, said the EC.

Should a 'foreigner' be allowed to use Aadhaar to become a voter, asks SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday tested the role of Aadhaar in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, asking whether a foreigner, who has already managed to use the document to access welfare benefits such as subsidised ration, should be further allowed to exploit it to gain automatic entry into the electoral roll.

The question was posed despite the court having ordered Aadhaar to be included as a "12th document" during the Bihar SIR hearings.

"Aadhaar is the creation of a statute. Nobody can dispute the use of Aadhaar card to avail welfare benefits. But suppose a person comes from a neighbouring country to India, works as a labourer or a rickshaw puller, he accesses Aadhaar to provide subsidised ration for his children – that is our constitutional ethos and morality, but does it mean that since he has got Aadhaar, he should be made a voter also?" Chief Justice of India Surya Kant asked senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioners.

The query from the Bench came shortly after Mr. Sibal opened arguments challenging the very constitutionality of the SIR exercise undertaken by the Election Commission (EC). Mr. Sibal said the view, if



Supreme Court of India

necessary, might be true in the case of some border States, but it could not be true for States like Kerala and Bihar. After Bihar, the second phase of SIR covers 51 crore people in 12 States and union territories, including Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala and Puducherry.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, the Associate Judge on the Bench, observed that EC has an inherent jurisdiction to verify and vet entries in electoral rolls which are of "doubtful integrity". Enumeration forms are part of that enquiry by the EC to check voters' credibility.

"Any exclusionary step or attempt taken by the EC is against the constitutional scheme. Asking the elector to fill up and submit an enumeration form is an exclusionary measure. Don't you think there are millions of illiterate women in this country? Will they not be excluded from the voter list? Any exclusion of a name from the electoral roll must follow a reasonable

Assam has deported 1,416 people since 2021'

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam Accord Implementation Minister Atul Bora said that 1,416 non-citizens staying illegally in the State have been deported since January 2021.

The deported were among 32,207 people identified as foreigners who entered Assam illegally between 2021 and October 2025, he told the State Assembly on Wednesday.

In a written reply to a question from Congress MLA Abdur Rahim Ahmed, the Minister provided a year wise break up of detection and deportation of "illegal immigrants".

According to the data, the number of such foreigners increased from 6,304 in 2021 to 8,790 in 2022 before decreasing consistently to 4,290 in 2025 so far. "Under legal provisions, only the Foreigners' Tribunals can officially declare a person as a foreigner in Assam, after which higher courts may be approached if the verdict is contested," Mr. Bora said. The deportation of 1,416 individuals followed due process, he said.

Mr. Bora said the Assam Accord of 1985 warrants that all foreigners who entered the State illegally on or after March 25, 1971, are to be detected and deported.

He further said that 228.54 km out of the 267.5 km India-Bangladesh border has been fenced with barbed wire.

Modi urges Indians to prioritise their duties to the nation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In an open letter to Indians on the occasion of Constitution Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged all citizens to prioritise their duties to the nation, underscored their responsibility towards democracy through voting, and suggested that educational institutions celebrate Constitution Day by recognising first-time voters who are turning 18.

It was on November 26, 1949 that India adopted its Constitution.

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. Modi emphasised that rights arose from duties, adding that the fulfilment of duties was the path towards social harmony, economic growth, and national unity. He urged citizens to internalise duty as a guiding value in both personal and national development.

He recalled that in 2015, the Government of India officially declared November 26 as Constitution Day, emphasising how the Constitution had played a pivotal role in enabling common citizens to rise to positions of immense responsibility. "It is the power

of our Constitution that enabled a person like me, coming from a humble and economically disadvantaged family, to serve as the Head of government continuously for over 24 years. I still remember the moment in 2014, when I came to Parliament for the first time and bowed, touching the steps of the greatest temple of democracy... This Constitution has given countless others, like me, the power to dream and the strength to work towards realising those dreams," he wrote.

He paid rich tributes to the architects of the Constitution, including the first President of India Rajendra Prasad and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Calling this year's Constitution Day especially meaningful, Mr. Modi noted that it aligned with the 150th birth anniversaries of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Bhagwan Birsa Munda; the 150th anniversary of *Vande Mataram*; and the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. These moments reminded citizens of the fundamental place of duties in national life – a principle enshrined in Article 51A of the Constitution, he said.

"Women, youth, the poor, farmers, members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, people from disadvantaged sections, the middle class, and the neo-middle class are strengthening our democratic system from the Pan-

Constitution is document of our national pride: Murmu

It will help shed the colonial mindset, says President; the success of the Constitution's faith in public wisdom, as shown by the provision of adult franchise, is lauded in many countries, she adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Constitution is the document of our national pride and a guiding text for taking the country forward with nationalist mindset by abandoning the colonial mindset, President Droupadi Murmu said on Wednesday. It is a text of our national identity, she said.

Addressing the Constitution Day event at the Central Hall of the Old Parliament building, now called Samvidhan Sadan, Ms. Murmu said the Indian Parliament, which expresses the public aspirations, served as an example for many democracies around the world. She said the success of the Constitution's faith in public wisdom, as shown by the provision of adult franchise, was lauded in several countries.

"Women, youth, the poor, farmers, members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, people from disadvantaged sections, the middle class, and the neo-middle class are strengthening our democratic system from the Pan-



President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

chayat to Parliament. Our inclusive democracy encourages public participation," she said.

Support to citizens

By moving forward in accordance with the constitutional system, the President said the executive, legislature, and the judiciary had strengthened the development of the country and given stability and support to the lives of citizens. "The members of both Houses of Parliament have not only taken our country forward but have also developed a healthy tradition of deep political thinking. In the coming

eras, when comparative studies of various democracies and constitutions will be conducted, Indian democracy and Constitution will be described in golden letters," Ms. Murmu said.

Stating that the MPs were the bearers, creators, and witnesses of the glorious tradition of the Constitution and democracy, the President expressed confidence that under the guidance of Parliament, the resolve to make India a developed nation would definitely be fulfilled.

She said the ideals that expressed the soul of the Constitution were social,

economic, and political justice; liberty; equality; and fraternity. On all these dimensions, the MPs had actualised the visions of the makers of the Constitution, she added.

The President said that the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandana Act would usher in women-led development and mentioned the three important laws related to the criminal justice system.

Besides Ms. Murmu, those on the dais included Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Opposition leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, Union Ministers J. P. Nadda and Kiren Rijiju, and Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh.

Mr. Radhakrishnan, who addressed the event before the President, said,

"The soul of our Constitution has proved that Bharat is one and will be one forever".

India will become a developed country by 2047 if the Constitution is followed in letter and spirit," Mr. Birla said.

CJI calls for national judicial policy to reduce divergence

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Wednesday pushed for a uniform and national judicial policy to reinforce predictability in judicial approach among the Supreme Court and the State High Courts.

"It is high time we minimise unpredictability and avoidable divergence that may arise simply because there are 25 High Courts or multiple Benches of the Supreme Court. Justice cannot resemble a set of instruments producing harmonious notes in isolation but discordant sounds when played together. Instead, we must strive for a judicial symphony – one rhythm, expressed in many voices and languages, but guided by a common constitutional score," Chief Justice Kant said in his Constitution Day address at the Supreme Court.

The CJI said a uniform judicial policy would encourage coherence across jurisdictions and bring more clarity and consistency in the decisions of the various constitutional courts on seminal questions of law.

Chief Justice Kant said a



CJI Surya Kant

close look at the functioning of the justice delivery system still showed a "disquieting gap" between the constitutional vision and the experiences of the multitude, particularly the marginalised sections of society, for whom access to justice remains elusive due to exorbitant cost, language, distance, and delay.

"These barriers weaken the very overarching goal we seek to protect and, in doing so, magnify existing inequalities... First step to access to justice: the first step in that direction must be through the augmentation of judicial infrastructure in aid of effective justice delivery," the CJI said.

The CJI highlighted the modern dispute resolution process of mediation as a cost-effective, participatory, and deeply humane alternative.

India-Canada uranium deal possible because of 2008 pact with U.S.'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Responding to reports that India and Canada were close to finalising a deal involving the supply of uranium, the Congress on Wednesday asserted that such a development was possible because of the 2008 Indo-U.S. civil nuclear agreement under the leadership of then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh despite the opposition from the BJP.

"This deal has been made possible entirely because of the Indo-U.S. nuclear agreement of 2008 masterminded by Dr. Manmohan Singh in the face of opposition by the BJP," Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X, underscoring the agreement's strategic legacy.

BJP, RSS subverting constitutional principles, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Mi-

nister Amit Shah of "subverting Constitutional principles in a calculated manner" and undermining the very document they now claim to revere.

Marking Constitution Day as "Samvidhan Bachao Divas", the party said the ruling dispensation was damaging institutions and

eroding foundational values.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a video statement, said the government's homage to the Constitution was "pure pretence", asserting that those who "never contributed to its making" were now seeking political mileage from

it. He accused the BJP-RSS of showing respect for the Constitution only out of "political expediency", and said principles such as justice, equality, freedom, secularism, and socialism were under strain today.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi called the Con-

(the RSS's) role after the Constitution was adopted was to attack and undermine it, a role taken forward by the present PM and HM (Home Minister) who have been subverting Constitutional principles, provisions, and practices in a calculated manner," he said in a post on X.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh stressed that the RSS "had no role whatsoever" in drafting the Constitution. "In fact its

TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT
AUCTION NOTICE
Ref. No. SF1/7009/2025 Dated : 25-11-2025

The e-auction for sale of Karuvel / Seemai Karuvel Social Forestry Plantations of Tamil Nadu Forest Department will be conducted through MSTC Portal from second week to third week of December 2025 in the districts of Tirunelveli SF/Tenkasi / Thoothukudi / Krishnagiri SF & Extention / Trichy / Pudukkotai / Ariyalur / Perambalur / Thiruvarur / Vellore / Tiruvannamalai / Kanchipuram / Villupuram / Cuddalore / Kallakurichi / Madurai / Theni / Sivagangai / Virudhunagar SF / Ramanathapuram. For further details visit website of MSTC "www.mstcecommerce.com"

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force)
DIPR / 1405 / Display / 2025

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavana, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.
INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders in Two Cover System from Eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender
		EMD Amount
1.	Construction of Centralized Water and Meter Testing Laboratory at CJF premises, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.	₹ 3,91,08,234/- ₹ 5,87,000/-
2.	Construction of Marriage Hall (Ambedkar Samudaya Bhavana) at T K Halli.	₹ 3,80,34,663/- ₹ 5,71,000/-

Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on 11.12.2025 upto 16:00 hrs. The Technical Bids will be opened on 12.12.2025 at 16:00 hrs.

The details regarding participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kpp.karnataka.gov.in>. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Assurance)
DIPR/CP/4024/CCL/2025-26

आरतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भोपाल

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal
Bhopal Bypass Road, Bhauri, Bhopal-462 066

Date: 24.11.2025

The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal, an Institute of National Importance, established by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India is committed to foster quality Education and Research. The Institute is looking for dedicated and committed citizens of India to fill up the following advertisements of the various Non-Teaching Positions on Direct Recruitment and Deputation basis (including short term contract basis) through online mode.

Details of vacancies:

[A] Advt. No. NT-01/2025 on Direct Recruitment:

S. No.	Name of the Post(s)	Pay Level	Group	No. of Vacancies					PwBD#
				SC	ST	OBC (NCL)	UR	EWS	
1.	Junior Technical Assistant	5	C	-	-	-	1	-	1
2.	Junior Assistant (MS)	3	C	-	-	1	3	1	5
3.	Lab Assistant	3	C	1	1	1	6	-	9
Total:				1	1	2	10	1	15

#PwBD: The candidature of PwBD will be considered as per the rules. However, preference will be given to PwBD candidates falling under SC/ST/OBC (NCL)/EWS/UR categories.

[B] Advt. No. NT-02/2025 on Deputation (Including short term contract basis)

S. No.	Name of the post(s)	Pay Level	Group	Total Vacancy
1.	Executive Engineer (Civil/Electrical)	11	A	1
2.	Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil/Electrical)	10	A	1
3.	Medical Officer	10	A	1
4.	Physical Education Instructor	7	B	1
5.	Counselling Superintendent	7	B	1
Total:				5

For full advertisement with details of qualifications, experience etc. as per Uniform Recruitment Rules of IISERs (Part-A), General Terms and Conditions (Part-B) and submission of application through online mode, please visit the Institute's website (Recruitment portal) http://iisrb.ac.in/join_iisrb.

Important Dates:

Opening date for submission of online application:	Date: 24.11.2025
Last Date & Time of closing of Registration and submission of online application	Date: 23.12.2025 (11:59 P.M.)
Last date of receipt of application(s) at IISER, Bhopal (Hard Copy)	Date: 30.12.2025 (5:00 P.M.)
The crucial date for determining age/qualification/experience	Date: 23.12.2025

Note: Any corrigendum/changes/updates shall be made available only on the Institute's website (Recruitment portal) http://iisrb.ac.in/join_iisrb. The candidates are advised to check the website on a regular basis for updates, if any.

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IN BRIEF



Cabinet approves Phase 2 of Pune Metro Rail project

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved Phase 2 of the Pune Metro Rail project, at a total estimated cost of ₹9,857.85 crore. In this phase, (Kharadi-Hadapsar-Swargate-Khadakwasla) Line 4 and Line 4A (Nal Stop-Warje-Manik Baug) would be completed. Together spanning 31.636 km with 28 elevated stations, Line 4 and 4A will connect IT hubs, commercial zones, educational institutions, and residential clusters across East, South, and West Pune. The project will be implemented by Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited (Maha-Metro), which will carry out all civil, electrical, mechanical, and systems works. The work for Phase 2 is expected to be completed within five years.

Notice to Railways for serving 'only halal-processed meat'

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) recently issued a notice to the Indian Railways over a complaint alleging that "only halal-processed meat" is being served on trains, which affects 'freedom of choice and religion' for others and creates "unfair discrimination". The notice was issued on November 24, 2025, by the Bench of NHRC member Priyank Kanoongo while taking cognisance of the complaint filed by Sunil Ahirwar from Bhopal. In his complaint, Mr. Ahirwar said only halal-processed meat under non-vegetarian meals was being served on trains, which created unfair discrimination and caused human rights violations.

Delhi HC seeks Centre's reply to British academic's plea

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Centre to respond to a plea filed by Indian-born British academic Nitasha Kaul, challenging the decision to blacklist her from entering India and cancelling her Overseas Citizen of India status. Justice Sachin Datta issued notice on the application filed by Ms. Kaul, who is a Professor of International Relations at the University of Westminster, seeking interim relief to travel to India for three weeks to tend to her aged and ailing mother. In her petition, Ms. Kaul said she had been repeatedly targeted for her critical academic writings and public engagement.

Four killed as truck rams road roller on Gujarat highway

Three contractual workers and an engineer were killed when a speeding truck crashed into a road roller on a highway overbridge in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat shortly after midnight on Wednesday, the police said. According to officials, the truck rammed into a road roller that had been deployed for repair work on the Udaipur-Ahmedabad National Highway. Asim Majumdar, from West Bengal, and workers Bhemabhai Nayak, Somabhai Nayak, and Raghubhai Nayak, all residents of Gujarat's Mahisagar district, died on the spot. The police have booked the truck driver under relevant sections of the BNS. A probe is under way.

SC panel suggests creation of Goa Tiger Reserve in phases

Panel proposes that 468.6 sq. km area, which contains 102 households, be notified as 'core' and buffer areas of the reserve in the first phase; another 208 sq. km with 612 households, can be considered later

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court-appointed committee has recommended the creation of a tiger reserve in Goa, but in a phased manner, so as to first incorporate areas with a lower human presence.

The top court is expected to consider the report of its Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in the next hearing of the case that involves the Goa government and the Goa Foundation, a non-government organisation.

The CEC came into the picture after the Goa government challenged a Bombay High Court order of July 2023, which directed the State to notify five protected areas – the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhagwan Mahavir National Park, Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary, and Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, collectively referred to as the "Mhadei WLS and Other Areas" – as a tiger reserve, within a period of three months.

The High Court had also directed the State Govern-



The Goa government has adopted contradictory positions regarding the "resident" status of tigers in the State. FILE PHOTO

ment to prepare a Tiger Conservation Plan and to determine and settle the rights and claims of Scheduled Tribes and other forest dwellers.

The Goa government was reluctant to have the areas be declared as a tiger reserve on the grounds that nearly "one lakh people" would be affected, though it later conceded in its own affidavit that there are only about 1,274 households in the 33 villages within the five protected areas, translating to approximately 5,000 to 6,000 individuals. It also claimed that there are no "resident" tigers in Goa, arguing that the handful that pass through Goan forests are a "transient" population. *The Hindu* reported earlier this week

that the Goa government has adopted contradictory positions regarding the "resident" status of tigers in the State.

In its report, the CEC said there was "apprehension" among forest dwellers that they would be displaced. It was incumbent upon the State government to allay their fears, the CEC said.

Core and buffer zones
The committee recommended that Goan parks and sanctuaries "directly contiguous" to the Kali Tiger Reserve in adjoining Karnataka, which is known to host a permanent tiger presence, form the "core" part of the Goa reserve. Those areas adjoining the buffer zone of the Kali Tiger Reserve

can be considered for designation as the "buffer zone" of the proposed Goa reserve, it added.

"Such a phased approach is likely to minimise disturbance to local communities, while ensuring that the most ecologically sensitive and least inhabited areas are brought under enhanced protection at the earliest stage," it said.

"The total area proposed for notification as the Goa Tiger Reserve is 468.60 sq. km. This area is fully contiguous with the 1,345 sq. km core and buffer of the Kali Tiger Reserve, and together they form an integrated protected landscape of approximately 1,814 sq. km. This contiguity is expected to significantly strengthen landscape-level connectivity and ecological functionality," the report noted.

The Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary, spanning 208 sq. km and containing 612 households, shares only a "limited stretch of boundary" with the buffer of the Kali Tiger Reserve. "These areas may, therefore, be considered, if necessary, at a later stage, after adequate consultation," it said.

Govt. justifies move to impose ban on online money games

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

the country," the Centre submitted. Right to trade and profession is a fundamental freedom under Article 19 of the Constitution.

The government said "systemic legal violations" linked to online money gaming (OMG) platforms include large-scale tax evasion, money laundering, cross border illicit fund flows and "vulnerabilities" relating to potential terror financing and other economic offences.

The government said "money mule accounts" had been identified by banks in which customer identities were found linked to OMG websites. "OMG displayed an increased popularity after COVID and it coincides with an uptick in fraud cases involving online gambling, gambling and illegal loan apps," the government pointed out.

Gaming-related suspicious transactions overlap with cyber crime and fraud, the affidavit said. It said identity theft and personal data compromise was a real danger on many OMG platforms.

"There can be no right to profession or trade at the cost of human lives, which online money gaming is known to take, month after month, across

Trade unions, farmers body protest against new labour codes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A joint forum of 10 Central trade unions, farmers' body Samyukt Kisan Morcha, and members of the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) held nationwide protests on Wednesday against the four labour codes recently notified by the government.

The government notified all four Labour Codes on November 21, disregarding objections from labour unions. Passed by Parliament in 2019 and 2020, the government claims these codes introduce major reforms, including universal social security for gig workers, mandatory appointment letters for all employees, statutory minimum wages, and timely payment across sectors.

In a memorandum to President Droupadi Murmu, the joint forum said the

codes "negate our right to strike, make union registration problematic, ease de-recognition of unions, and make conciliation and adjudication difficult by winding up labour courts and introducing tribunals for workers, while granting registrars overriding powers to de-register unions".

The memorandum demanded the immediate repeal of the labour codes. AI-TUC general secretary Amarjeet Kaur said protests were held in over 500 districts, with participation from workers across sectors. AIPEF chairman Shailendra Dubey said many power sector workers joined the protest against the labour codes and the Electricity Amendment Bill, which he said promotes privatisation by allowing multiple distribution licensees to use government discom networks.

Police personnel from various stations arrived on the campus at night and

Students vandalise private varsity in Bhopal over food and water quality

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Hundreds of students waited outside the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) University near Bhopal on Wednesday to leave for their homes, a day after they protested against allegedly contaminated water and unhygienic food on the campus, torching multiple vehicles and vandalising campus property.

According to the police, more than 3,000 students protested on the campus in Sehore district on Tuesday night after several students fell ill with jaundice, allegedly due to poor-quality food and water. Students set fire to an ambulance, a bus, and at least three cars, and vandalised hostels, the Chancellor's residence, and various other parts of the campus.

Police personnel from various stations arrived on the campus at night and



Students leave VIT Campus after protest turns violent as 33 students fell ill due to contaminated food and water. A.M.FARUQUI

brought the situation under control, Akash Amalkar, Sub-Divisional Police Officer of Ashta, said.

"The students have been assured that their issues will be addressed and necessary action will be taken," Mr. Amalkar said.

He said that a first information report (FIR) had been lodged against a warden, Prashant Kumar Pandey, and five other staff members, on charges of assault, based on a complaint

from a student. The FIR has been lodged under Sections 190(2), 296 A, 115 (2), 351(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita.

"We also received a video in which Mr. Pandey and some security staff members are seen beating up some students. We have initiated legal action and will question them based on further investigation," he said.

After the violent protests, the university administration

declared holiday till December 8, prompting students to leave in a hurry.

VIT Bhopal Registrar K. K. Nair, however, said that vacating the campus was not compulsory and that only the classes had been suspended. "We have more than 12,000 students from across the country. So, if anybody wants to stay back on the campus, they are free to do so," he said, adding that the situation was now peaceful.

Mr. Nair said at least 33 students had fallen ill with jaundice in the past month and had been treated at the Chirayu Medical College and Hospital in Bhopal. Some students have alleged that they have been complaining about poor-quality food and water for over a month, but the university administration did not address their concerns, forcing them to resort to protest.

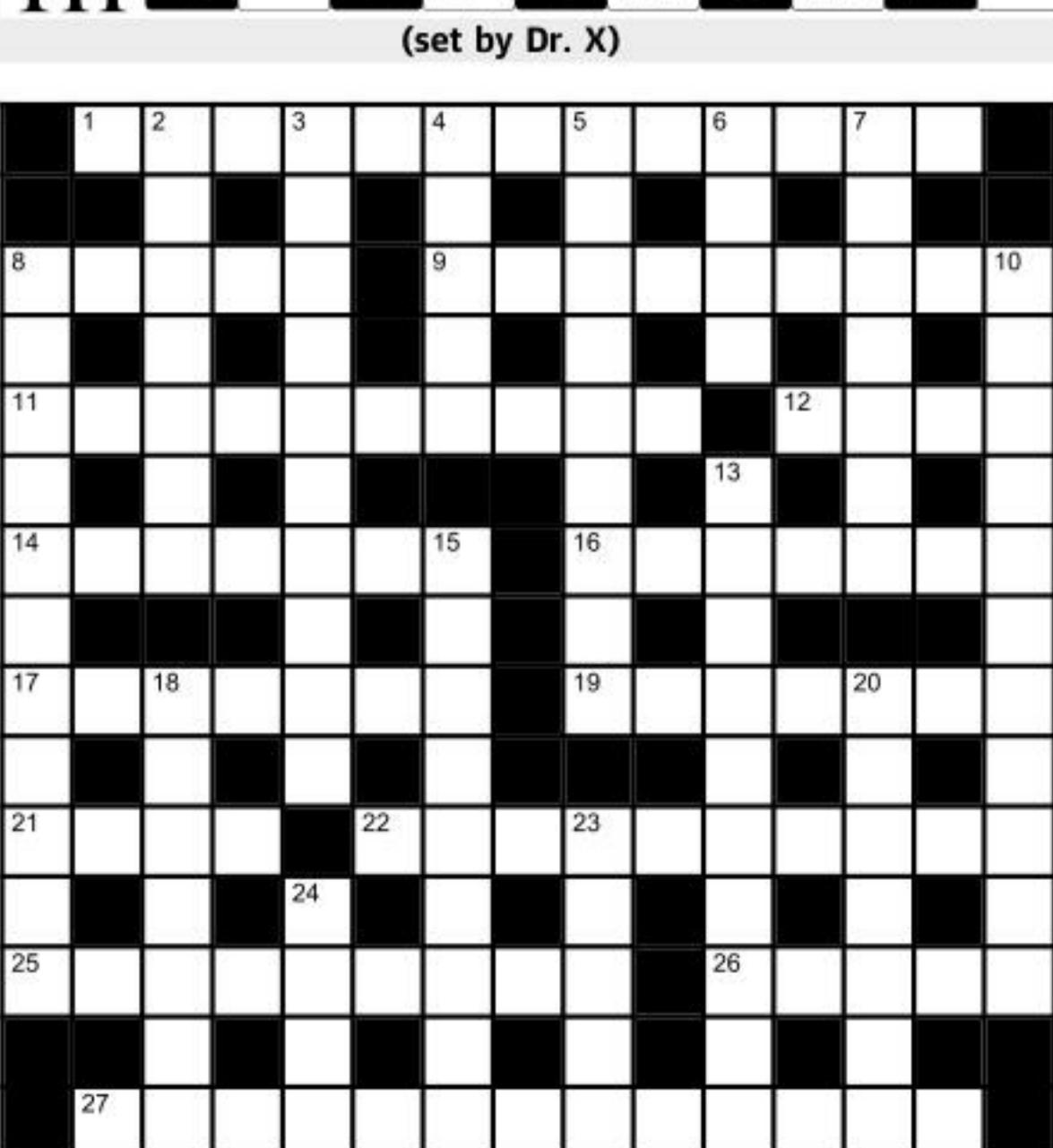
FAITH

Muruga likes daana, bhakti

The mind is responsible for joys and sorrows. If we control the mind, then the result is joy. But if we allow the mind to lead us, misery is the result. Arunagirinatha emphasises this in his Kandar Anubhuti, said So. So. Meenakshisundaram in a discourse. Arunagirinatha says it is very easy for the mind to develop an attachment to worldly possessions. But it is very difficult for it to focus on the right things. So Arunagirinatha addresses his mind, and says there are two things that must be done, if he is to be saved from the cycle of births and deaths. The first thing to do is to give unstintingly. One should not give reluctantly, or give because we want to impress people with our generosity. We must give wholeheartedly. Often when someone asks us for help, we pretend that we are not financially sound. We should give joyfully, and never take pride in our acts of charity. We should always give in the name of Murugan, for it is He who has blessed us with wealth. If we do this, and keep the mind focused on Murugan, liberation is guaranteed.

Not everyone has the same capacity to give. Some may simply not have enough funds to donate to a good cause. The rich can give from their wealth. If it is possible to help others through some kind of selfless service, this too is good, for it paves the way for detachment. Initially, giving brings us joy, and in the long run it brings the even greater joy of being in God's company, for *daana* and *bhakti* gladden Muruga's heart. Arunagirinatha uses the word *vidavaai* (give up) twice in this verse, to show that doing good deeds, without any expectations, will destroy the effect of past karmas, and of future karmas.

TH CROSSWORD + 14650



Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at <https://crossword.thehindu.com>



Across

- Model married hot, hep bisexual (13)
- Fine hotel in spot alongside river (5)
- Features trains leaving France for capital of Turkey (9)
- Facing a very difficult situation, miner exits frantically (2,8)
- Japanese seasoning picked up by mom is outstanding (4)
- Fine white linen of maiden in taxi, most expensive (7)

(set by Dr. X)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

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

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	85,610	1.21
US Dollar	89.22	0.00
Gold	1,30,100	0.93
Brent oil	62.31	0.59

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2315.00	-17.90
Adani Ports	1506.20	22.30
Apollo Hosp	739.30	62.50
Asian Paints	2874.00	-1.80
Axis Bank	1290.20	23.90
Bajaj Auto	9164.00	116.00
Bajaj Finserv	2085.10	54.90
Bharti Finance	1010.70	24.50
Bharat Elec.	415.30	5.05
Bharti Airtel	2126.80	-34.80
Cipla	1523.80	16.30
Coal India	377.35	7.30
Dr Reddy's Lab	1248.00	11.90
Eicher Motors	7198.50	-20.00
Entain Ltd.	306.85	4.55
Giasin Ind	2744.00	57.20
HCL Tech	1617.90	16.80
HDFC Bank	1003.90	14.10
HDFC Life	787.55	21.00
Hindalco	808.00	11.45
Hind Unilever	2425.20	11.10
ICICI Bank	1375.00	17.20
IntGlobeAvi	5913.00	138.00
Infosys	1557.90	27.30
ITC	402.30	1.50
Jio Financial Servic-		
es Ltd.	308.00	7.20
JSW Steel	1154.40	42.40
Kotak Bank	2103.80	33.90
L&T	4062.00	65.30
M&M	3686.40	17.10
Maruti Suzuki	16156.00	267.00
Max Healthcare	1162.60	4.50
NestleIndia	1276.80	13.60
NTPC	326.10	2.40
ONGC	247.70	2.35
PowerGrid Corp	275.05	1.60
Reliance Ind	1569.90	30.20
SBI Life	2029.10	-1.90
State Bank	983.90	0.30
Shriram Finance	856.60	18.35
Sun Pharma	1804.90	28.10
TataConsumerPro-		
duct	1185.30	7.60
Tata Steel	169.67	3.34
TCS	3162.90	43.70
Tech Mahindra	1520.40	25.70
Titan	3897.70	42.60
Tata Motors PV	359.25	6.80
Trent Ltd.	429.40	48.50
UltraTech Cement	11759.00	179.00
Wipro	250.19	4.55

M&M sells ₹8,000 cr. worth EVs in H1 FY26

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M) said it had achieved electric vehicle (EV) sales worth over ₹8,000 crore in H1 FY26, making it the number one player in India in terms of half year revenue generated from electric vehicle sales.

Cabinet approves ₹7,280 cr. scheme for rare earth magnets

The first-of-its-kind initiative aims to establish 6,000 MTPA of integrated rare earth permanent magnet manufacturing in India, govt. says

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In yet another push to secure India's supplies of rare earth magnets, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a new "first-of-its-kind" scheme, with a financial outlay of ₹7,280 crore, to manufacture Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM) in India.

The approval of this scheme, named the 'Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets', comes two days after Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal specifically noted that one of the areas in which India and Canada have "tremendous potential" to cooperate was in critical minerals.

This was in the context of the two countries restarting talks on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

"This first-of-its-kind initiative aims to establish 6,000 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) of integrated Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) manufacturing in India, thereby enhancing self-reliance and positioning India as a key player in the global REPM market," the government said in a release.

REPMs are vital components that have applications in EVs, renewable energy, electronics, aerospace, and defence sectors.



Shifting gear: The auto industry, in particular, has welcomed the decision, saying it is a pivotal step towards self-reliance. REUTERS

According to the government, the scheme will support the creation of integrated REPM manufacturing facilities, involving the conversion of rare earth oxides to metals, metals to alloys, and alloys to finished REPMs. The total financial outlay of the scheme of ₹7,280 crore, will comprise a sales-linked incentives of ₹6,450 crore on REPMs for five years and a capital subsidy of ₹750 crore for the setting up of an aggregate of 6,000 MTPA of REPM manufacturing facilities.

The plan is to allocate the total capacity of 6,000 MTPA to five beneficiaries through a global competitive bidding process with each beneficiary being allotted up to 1,200 MTPA.

The total duration of the scheme is to be seven years from the date of award, including a 2-year gestation period for setting up an integrated REPM manufac-

turing facility, and 5 years for incentive disbursement on the sale of REPM.

The auto industry, in particular, has welcomed the decision, saying it is a pivotal step towards self-reliance.

"This initiative is a significant step toward building a resilient and stable supply chain, particularly for components and sub-assemblies essential for the production of electrified vehicles," Shailendra Chandra, President of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said.

"This initiative will not only reduce import dependence but also provide long-term resilience to the automotive supply chain, encourage investments in advanced materials, and position India strongly in global value chains for EVs and clean energy," Vikrampati Singhanai, President of the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) said.

Officers of all insurers.

Insurers were advised to develop a clear and standardised operating procedure for classifying consumer references into complaints and service requests.

Mr. Seth emphasised the centrality of trust in insurance and the critical role played by compliance and grievance redressal functions in upholding the trust, the insurance regulator said in a release.

IRDAI concerned over rising customer complaints: Chairman

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Expressing concern over rising customer complaints, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) chairman Ajay Seth on Wednesday underscored the need for the insurance companies to significantly improve the quality and timeliness of resolutions.

The insurers were urged to adopt a more proactive, policyholder-centric approach and strengthen their internal systems to ensure strict compliance with prescribed timelines, IRDAI said after Mr. Seth chaired a meeting with Chief Compliance Officers and Grievance Redressal

The insurers were urged to strengthen their internal systems to ensure strict compliance with timelines

youth alike paving the way for sustained growth, innovation, and competitiveness on a global scale, the government said.

The MoU marks the latest big-ticket investment in the data centre and electronics manufacturing space – two major focus points for the Union government – that has come in States with National Democratic Alliance (NDA) governments. Visakhapatnam will also host Google's AI Hub, a data centre repre-

senting the tech giant's largest investment in India, of ₹87,520 crore. Opposition leaders have accused the Centre of redirecting investments originally planned for States governed by non-NDA governments.

The proposed complex would be built to global standards and feature high-density AI-ready racks.

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The investment by Reliance and its global partners strengthens A.P.'s long-term vision of transforming the State into a national hub for AI, cloud infrastructure, and technology-driven growth. It reinforces the government's commitment to building a future-ready digital economy that empowers investors, industries, and the

MoSPI) to explain the changes in the new CPI base revision, here on Wednesday.

The Deputy Governor's comments came in the backdrop of economists criticising the RBI for having an overstated CPI forecast and hence a hawkish "bias" in monetary policy, and that a rate cut was warranted. Prices increased at a rate of 0.25% in October 2025, making it the slowest pace ever.

Ms. Gupta also spoke about initiatives brought in by the RBI to disseminate data. The Deputy Governor said that the balance of payments (BoP) data is soon expected to be released on a monthly basis.

No bias in RBI's inflation forecast'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

There is no systemic bias in the central bank's inflation forecast, Deputy Governor Poornam Gupta clarified, adding that reducing forecasting error was important.

"While minimising the forecast errors is equally important, there is no systematic bias in the forecast. It is not that the RBI's forecast is biased in any particular way. As far as the growth is concerned, again we use a variety of approaches and models," she said while speaking at an event organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

(MoSPI) to explain the changes in the new CPI base revision, here on Wednesday.

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PM Modi opens Safran's MRO for LEAP engines in Hyderabad

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday virtually inaugurated the largest maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility, France's Safran has established globally for LEAP engines in Hyderabad. Mr. Modi urged the firm to explore possibilities of aircraft engine and component design in India. A LEAP engine is a modern, fuel-efficient engine that powers several narrow-body aircraft.

Stating that the country is keen on promoting 'Design in India' on a large scale across every sector, the Prime Minister said India's vast Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) network and its young talent pool will provide significant support for such efforts.

Safran Aerospace, which works extensively in aerospace propulsion systems, should also leverage India's talent and opportunities for propulsion design and manufacturing, he said, participating through video conferencing in the function, which was attended by Telangana's Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Union Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu, and the top leadership of Safran among others.

India is "dreaming big, doing bigger and delivering best" on the back of some of the biggest reforms the country has un-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during the virtual inauguration of the facility.

dertaken since independence to attract global investment and industries, Mr. Modi said.

"Today in most sectors, 100% foreign direct investment is possible through automatic routes. Even in sectors like defence, where earlier the private sector had no space, 74% FDI has now been opened through automatic routes. [Likewise] A major approach has also been adopted in the space sector," Mr. Modi said, adding such steps have sent a clear message to the world that India welcomes investments and innovation.

The government's production linked incentive (PLI) schemes have attracted global manufacturers towards 'Make in India', he added.

With the opening of the 45,000 sq.m Safran facility, set up with an initial investment ₹1,300 crore, at the GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park in Hyderabad, India's aviation sector is taking a new flight.

IN BRIEF



Nifty jumps 1.24%, its fastest pace since June this year

Benchmark NSE Nifty 50 jumped 1.24% to 26,205.30 points on Wednesday, recording the highest single day increase since June 2025. While the BSE Sensex increased 1.21% to 85,609.51 points. "The rally was driven by growing confidence in potential rate cuts from both U.S. Federal Reserve and the RBI in its upcoming MPC meeting," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Research, Wealth Management, at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

Bajaj Auto enters e-rickshaw segment with two variants

Bajaj Auto on Wednesday announced its entry into the e-rickshaw category with the unveiling of Bajaj Riki. The company is introducing two models: Riki P4005 passenger variant, priced at ₹1,90,890 (ex-showroom) and the Riki C4005 cargo model at ₹2,00,876 (ex-showroom). The P4005 features a 5.4 kWh battery offering a certified range of 149 km, while the cargo variant provides 164 km range, the company said.

Tesla Centre at Gurugram to open on Thursday

Tesla announced its first Tesla Center in Gurugram will open on Thursday. The outlet will provide services such as retail, after-sales, delivery and charging at one location. Since its market launch in July, Tesla India has set up Experience Centers in Mumbai and Delhi, and three charging sites in these locations. With the upcoming commissioning at One Horizon in Gurugram soon, Tesla will operate four charging stations across India, equipped with 16 superchargers and 10 destination chargers.

CSIR-CENTRAL GLASS & CERAMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
196, Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Kolkata - 700 032

Advt. No. 01/2025 Date : 26.11.2025

CSIR-Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR-CGCR), Kolkata is a premier Institute under the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) involved in multidisciplinary R&D programs of both basic and applied nature across scientific disciplines for economic, environmental and societal benefits for the people of India.

Applications are invited online from the citizens of India for filling up of the positions of Scientist at CSIR-CGCR, Kolkata (West Bengal) and its extension centers having M.E./M.Tech/Ph.D (Submitted) in Science/Engineering/Technology in different disciplines.

The details of posts and other particulars are given below : Name of the Post : Scientist; Total Posts : 28; Pay Level/Pay Matrix : Level

DHAKA

Massive fire tears through Dhaka's Korail slum, leaves many homeless



A massive fire tore through Dhaka's Korail slum, destroying about 1,500 shanties and leaving thousands homeless, authorities said on Wednesday. The blaze began Tuesday evening and was extinguished after 16 hours. No casualties were reported. According to official data, about 60,000 families lived in the slum. AP

ANKARA

Turkish journalist jailed for four years for 'threatening Erdogan'



A Turkish court on Wednesday sentenced journalist Fatih Altayli to four years and two months in prison for allegedly threatening President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Mr. Altayli, 63, denied the charge and plans to appeal, his lawyers said. His conviction drew criticism as part of efforts to silence dissenting journalists. AP

BANGKOK

Myanmar election will not be free or credible: Thai Foreign Minister



Military-ruled Myanmar's election starting next month will be neither free nor credible, Thailand's Foreign Minister Sisahak Phuangketkeow said, calling for the release of detained democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Myanmar's military ousted the Nobel laureate's elected government and seized power in a 2021 coup. AP

HONG KONG

Fire engulfs Hong Kong residential blocks, killing at least 13, injuring 15



A massive blaze ripped through Hong Kong's Wang Fuk Court estate in Tai Po on Wednesday, killing at least 13 and injuring 15. Flames erupted from bamboo scaffolding, engulfing several high-rise blocks. Officers said that they were unable to confirm whether there were still residents stuck in the buildings by nightfall. AP

Kremlin confirms U.S. envoy's visit as talks on truce gain momentum

Russian officials say they have not yet received or seen the U.S. peace proposal in detail; Trump defends negotiations led by Witkoff, describing his approach as 'standard dealmaking'; Peskov warns against exaggerating significance of leaked calls

Associated Press

KYIV

A senior Kremlin official confirmed on Wednesday that U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff is set to visit Moscow next week as efforts to find a consensus on ending the nearly four-year war between Russia and Ukraine pick up speed.

But Yuri Ushakov, Russian President Vladimir Putin's foreign affairs adviser, insisted that Kremlin officials still haven't seen a U.S. peace proposal, even though representatives of the United States, Russia and Ukraine held talks earlier this week in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

"Contact is ongoing, including via telephone, but no one has yet sat down at a round-table and dis-



Diplomatic manoeuvre: Yuri Ushakov, left, and Dmitry Peskov attend a meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Wednesday. AP

cussed this point by point. That hasn't happened," Mr. Ushakov told Russian state media.

Ukrainian officials did not confirm whether U.S. Army Secretary Dan Driscoll, who in recent weeks has played a high-profile role in the peace efforts, would be in Kyiv in the

coming days, as U.S. President Donald Trump indicated on Tuesday.

Mr. Trump's plan for ending the war became public last week, setting off a spate of diplomatic manoeuvring. The initial version appeared heavily slanted toward Russian demands for halting Mos-

cow's invasion of its neighbour.

After weekend talks in Geneva between U.S. and Ukrainian officials, President Volodymyr Zelensky said the plan could be "workable," although key points remain unresolved. A Ukrainian official said that Mr. Zelensky hoped to meet with Mr. Trump in the coming days.

Mr. Witkoff's role in the peace efforts came under a renewed spotlight on Tuesday when a report indicated that he coached Mr. Ushakov, the Putin aide, on how Russia's leader should pitch Mr. Trump on the Ukraine peace plan.

Mr. Trump described Mr. Witkoff's reported approach to the Russians in the call as "standard" negotiating procedure.

"He's got to sell this to

Ukraine. He's got to sell Ukraine to Russia," Mr. Trump told presspersons aboard Air Force One as he flew to his home in Florida on Tuesday night. "That's what a dealmaker does."

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that he "wouldn't exaggerate [the] significance" of the leaked call, Russian state news outlet Tass reported.

However, "it's clear that there will be a very large number of people in various countries, including the United States, who will try to disrupt these efforts toward peace," Mr. Peskov said from Kyrgyzstan, where Mr. Putin travelled this week.

Asked whether a peace agreement had never been closer, Mr. Peskov said, "It's a little too early to say that," according to Tass.

With a view to addressing child poverty, Ms.

U.K. Budget increases child welfare allowance, taxes

Sriram Lakshman

LONDON

The weeks of anticipation ahead of U.K. Chancellor Rachel Reeves's Budget dissipated prematurely after the independent fiscal watchdog, the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR), released its analysis of the Budget some 40 minutes before the Chancellor rose to speak in the House of Commons at around 1230 pm local time.

The OBR apologised for the "technical error" and Ms. Reeves distanced herself from the early release of the document, emphasising it was an OBR issue.

Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons Nus Ghani said a "disappointing trend" across successive governments of officials briefing the media ahead of Parliament had reached "unprecedented levels".

With a view to addressing child poverty, Ms.



Reeves, on Wednesday, ended the two-child benefit cap from April next year. The cap meant that parents could claim certain types of tax and welfare credits for only their first two children. Some 30% or 4.3 million British children were living in relative poverty as per the Institute of Fiscal Studies.

The government had already announced an increase in the minimum wage on Tuesday.

Ms. Reeves had indicated weeks earlier than she was considering breaking Labour's manifesto pro-

mise to not raise income tax, Value Added Tax and a social security tax called 'National Insurance' but backtracked, presumably owing to falling popularity of the Keir Starmer government and recent movements within the Labour Party to replace the Prime Minister.

The Budget avoided increasing the rates of the three main taxes but still outlined an increase in a medley of taxes totalling £26 million by the end of Parliament (2029-30).

This would include a freezing of income tax thresholds – called a 'stealth tax' because with rising wages and inflation more taxes are paid – until 2031, a tax on salary-sacrificed pension contributions above a threshold, and an increase in tax on properties, savings and dividends.

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Bangladesh seizes gold from Hasina's lockers

Agence France-Presse

DHAKA

Anti-corruption authorities in Bangladesh have seized about 10 kg of gold worth about \$1.3 million from bank lockers belonging to ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, officials said on Wednesday.

Officials from the Central Intelligence Cell (CIC) of the National Board of Revenue said the discovery was made after opening lockers that had been

seized in September.

"Following a court order, we opened the lockers and found about 9.7 kg of gold belonging to the former Prime Minister," a senior CIC official said, requesting anonymity.

The haul included gold coins, bars and jewellery.

Investigators said Ms. Hasina had failed to deposit some of the gifts she received while in office at the state treasury, known as "Toshakhana", as required by law.

Gaza's economy collapsed in 2024: UNCTAD

The Hindu Bureau

Gaza's economy suffered an unprecedented collapse, shrinking by 83% in 2024 and pushing every one of its 2.3 million residents into poverty, according to a new assessment by the Trade and Development agency (UNCTAD).

Gaza's GDP fell to just \$362 million in 2024, with cumulative losses across 2023 and 2024 reaching 87%. GDP per capita has plunged to \$161 among the lowest worldwide dropping to just 6.4% of its 2005

peak. The inflation enclave soared to 238%, while unemployment reached 80%. "All 2.3 million people are now below the poverty line," the report notes.

By April 2025, roughly 70% of all structures in Gaza had been damaged or destroyed, including factories, homes, hospitals, schools, banks, and key infrastructure for energy, water, telecommunications, and agriculture. Satellite analysis shows nighttime luminosity across Gaza, an indicator of economic activity, fell 73%

between October 2023 and May 2025.

The devastation extends across the occupied Palestinian Territory. The West Bank is experiencing its sharpest economic downturn on record, driven by movement restrictions, insecurity, and loss of productive capacity. By the end of 2024, Palestinian GDP had fallen to 70% of its 2022 level, sliding back to 2010 levels.

GDP per capita has regressed to 2003 levels. The national Human Development Index is projected to fall from 0.716 to 0.643, erasing nearly 25 years of progress.

Fiscal pressures have intensified. Between 2019 and April 2025, Israel withheld or deducted \$1.76 billion in fiscal transfers – equivalent to 12.8% of Palestinian GDP in 2024. Public debt and arrears rose to around \$4.2 billion.

UNCTAD estimates that rebuilding Gaza will require more than \$70 billion and calls for a durable ceasefire, urgent humanitarian access and sustained international financing.

Bolsonaro begins his 27-year jail sentence

Associated Press

BRASILIA

Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Tuesday started his 27-year prison sentence for leading a coup attempt, to the surprise of many in the South American nation who doubted he would ever end up behind bars.

Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who has overseen the case, ruled Mr. Bolsonaro will remain in custody after being

preemptively arrested on Saturday.

The far-right leader had been under house arrest since August and was taken in on Saturday after trying to break his ankle monitor. Mr. Bolsonaro blamed "hallucinations".

The court determined on Tuesday that Mr. Bolsonaro had exhausted all appeals of his conviction. His lawyers disagree and promise to keep filing requests for house arrest due to the former leader's health.

Sport

Sindarov edges out Wei to win the title

CHESS WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar

ARPORA (GOA)

Life is a great leveller. Ask Wei Yi.

He came back from the dead in the Chess World Cup semifinal against Andrey Esipenko. It was a terrible blunder from the Russian that saved him, and put him in the final, and also in the Candidates.

Luck seemed to continue to favour the seventh seed from China in the final on Wednesday against Javokhir Sindarov. But not for long: Wei's blunder gave the 19-year-old Uzbek a win in the second tie-break game and the World Cup. He is the youngest champion in World Cup history.



Right moves: Sindarov capitalised on Wei's blunder to win the tie-break. FIDE

ter. "I thought if I got a chance like in the second, I would make use of it."

He did.

In that second game, an Italian one, Wei blundered with his rook on the 51st move, and Sindarov pounced on it. Such a blunder under time pressure – with something like 20 seconds remaining – is not uncommon and it wouldn't have been easy to find the right sequence of moves, involving a rook sacrifice, to get equality.

And this was Wei's first defeat in the tournament; he had remained unbeaten in 27 games. And Sindarov had offered him a draw, which he had refused. Life is like that, of course.

The result (final, tie-breaks): Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) bt Wei Yi (Chn) 1.5-0.5.

Srikanth, Prannoy sail into the second round

BADMINTON

Uthra Ganeshan

LUCKNOW

It took K. Srikanth 31 minutes to wrap up his opening round match at the Syed Modi India International 2025 here on Wednesday as the former World No. 1 continued on the tough road back to the top.

H.S. Prannoy crossed the first hurdle with ease in his 37-minute 21-15, 21-10 win against Shashwat Dalal and the two veterans of Indian badminton proved they still had it in them, despite all the injuries over the past year.

Srikanth, currently 38th, had little trouble against compatriot Kavin Thangam in his 21-13, 21-17,



win that saw him set up a second-round match against Saneeth Dayanand. With a mix of drop shots and soft volleys with the occasional smash, Srikanth relied more on his experience than raw power. Priyanshu Rajawat overcame Meiraba Maisnam 21-18, 21-14 while Kiran George breezed past Israel's Daniil Dubovenko 21-17, 21-9. In women's draw, former world champion Nozomi Okuhara survived a scare against qualifier Adita Rao to win 22-20, 21-14. Adita raced to a 9-1 lead in the opening game with an attacking play that caught a jittery Nozomi by surprise. At 15-6, an upset was on the cards but that was before Nozomi shifted gears. She gradually pushed

back, mixing her shots and using the sidelines brilliantly to gain crucial points but Adita still had three game points at 20-17. But Nozomi reeled off five straight points to take the game against all odds.

World junior championship runner-up Tanvi Sharma overcame Ashmita Chalihha 21-15, 21-19.

Top results: Men: Singles: K. Srikanth bt Kavin Thangam 21-13, 21-10; Jia Heng Jason Teh (Sgp) bt R.S. Sathish Kumar 21-19, 21-17; Kiran George bt Daniil Dubovenko (Isr) 21-17, 21-9; H.S. Prannoy bt Shashwat Dalal 21-15, 21-19; **Women:** Singles: Unnati Hooda bt Akash Kashyap 21-13, 21-18; Hina Akshehi (Jpn) bt Anmol Kharb 21-8, 21-10; Tanvi Sharma bt Ashmita Chalihha 21-15, 21-19; Nozomi Okuhara (Jpn) bt Adita Rao 22-20, 21-14; Shuo Yun Sung (Tpe) bt Ishika Jaiswal (USA) 21-16, 17-21, 21-17.

A CA-CAE

CM YK

NO BREAK

We need better scheduling ahead of the Tests: Gambhir



Gautam Gambhir called for better scheduling ahead of the Test series. "Three days before the start of the first Test, we were in Australia. Suddenly, you come back from there, and have to join a Test team. You have got two days to plan. I am not going to give that excuse. Sometimes we can probably prioritise this better."

WHAT A FEELING!

It's pretty special and quite surreal to win 2-0 in India, says Harmer



Never in a million years did I think that I would have another shot at international cricket. Never in a million years did I think that I would come to India again. To be here, to win 2-0, to be player of the series, it's pretty special and quite surreal — Simon Harmer on playing for South Africa after giving up Test cricket for Kolpak deal.

BIG BLOW

India slips to fifth in WTC rankings after series loss to South Africa



India's chances of reaching the WTC finals took a major hit as it slipped to the fifth spot in the standings following the 0-2 series reverse against the Proteas at home. South Africa, the defending WTC champion, currently occupies the second position behind leader Australia, with 36 points from four Tests.

IN SAFE HANDS

Markram scripts history, becomes fielder with most catches in a Test



South Africa's Aiden Markram scripted history by becoming the fielder with most catches in a Test match. Markram grabbed nine catches in the second Test against India, which is more than any fielder in Test history, surpassing the tally of Ajinkya Rahane with eight catches to his name.

India undone: home fortress crumbles again

South Africa, thanks to Harmer's brilliant six-for, claims a 408-run win after bundling out the hosts for 140; the World Test champion completes a 2-0 sweep, matching the feat it achieved 25 years ago

SA IN INDIA**S. Dipak Ragav**

GUWAHATI

If there is one lesson to be gleaned from history, it is that empires always crumble, at one point or another, in one way or another.

It is only a question of whether it happens gradually or quickly, and unfortunately, in the case of the Indian Test cricket team, it might be edging towards the latter.

A team that lost only four Tests between February 2013 and September 2024 at home has now suffered five defeats in the last 13 months in its backyard.

The latest came on Wednesday, against South Africa at the ACA Stadium here, and it was perhaps the most crushing of all.

The Proteas needed just under two sessions on the final day of the second and final Test to hand India a 408-run thrashing. It was India's biggest margin of defeat — in terms of runs — in its 93-year Test history.

The reigning World Test champion also completed a 2-0 sweep in India, matching the feat it achieved 25 years ago.

Temba Bavuma's men



Final nail: Jadeja's valiant half-century could only delay the inevitable as the Indian Test team sank to a new low with yet another series reverse at home. RITU RAJ KONWAR

produced one of the most clinical performances by a visiting team, dominating nearly every session and outplaying India in every facet.

The hosts began the final day at 27 for two, needing 522 runs to win. It was always going to be an onerous task on a day-five red-soil pitch that had started to hiss. Rishabh Pant men folded for 140.

The conditions were

ideal for Simon Harmer, and the off-spinner ran through a brittle Indian line-up, returning figures of 23-6-37-6.

Harmer, who had already struck late on the fourth day by removing K.L. Rahul, quickly got into the brass tacks of completing the formalities.

The 36-year-old was unplayable, getting sharp turn and bounce, and the Indian batters had no

answers. In the ninth over of the day, Harmer delivered a double-strike. He pegged back Kuldeep Yadav's middle-stump with a quicker delivery that scooted low and then had Dhruv Jurel caught at slip.

An interesting subplot in the series was how Harmer had kept Rishabh Pant, one of India's finest players of spin, under a leash. He did so again, removing the India skipper

with a delivery that turned and kicked before going off the bat into Aiden Markram's hands.

Harmer bowled unchanged in a marathon spell in the first session (15.1-5-22-3) to leave India tottering at 90 for five.

After missing out on a five-for narrowly on both occasions in the first Test in Kolkata, Harmer ticked that box as well when he forced Washington Sundar

to edge to slip.

Ravindra Jadeja put up a valiant resistance, stroking his way to a half-century.

However, he was only successful in delaying the inevitable.

Keshav Maharaj applied the finishing touches for the touring party, taking the last two wickets, including that of Jadeja.

While the day belonged to Harmer, the game was set up by Marco Jansen's

SCOREBOARD**SOUTH AFRICA — 1ST INNINGS**

489 in 151.1 overs

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS

201 in 83.5 overs

SOUTH AFRICA — 2ND INNINGS

260/5 decl. in 78.3 overs

INDIA — 2ND INNINGS

Target: 549

Yashav Jaiswal c Verreyne b Jansen 13 (20b, 1x4, 1x6), K.L. Rahul b Harmer 6 (29b), B. Sai Sudharsan c Markram 14 (139b, 1x4), Kuldeep Yadav b Harmer 5 (38b, 1x4), Dhruv Jurel c Markram b Harmer 2 (3b), Rishabh Pant c Markram b Harmer 13 (16b, 1x4, 1x6), Ravindra Jadeja st. Verreyne b Maharaj 54 (87b, 4x4, 2x6), Washington Sundar c Markram b Harmer 16 (44b, 2x4), Nitish Kumar c Verreyne b Harmer 0 (3b), Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 1 (2b), Mohammed Siraj c Jansen b Maharaj 0 (4b); Extras (b-5, lb-9, nb-2); 16; Total (in 63.5 overs): 140.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-17 (Jaiswal, 6.1 overs), 2-21 (Rahul, 9.2), 3-40 (Kuldeep, 23.3), 4-42 (Jurel, 23.6), 5-58 (Pant, 31.2), 6-95 (Sai Sudharsan, 47.5), 7-130 (Washington, 60.4), 8-138 (Nitish, 62.1), 9-140 (Jadeja, 63.1).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Jansen 15-7-23-1, Mulder 4-1-6-0, Harmer 23-6-37-6, Maharaj 12.5-1-37-2, Markram 2-0-2, Muthusamy 7-1-21-1.

PoM: Jansen; **BoS:** Harmer.

South Africa won by 408 runs and clinched the two-match series 2-0.

Next match: First ODI: Nov. 30, Ranchi, 1.30 p.m.



Not on: Gambhir said India's batting collapse in the first innings was unacceptable. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Indian cricket is important, I'm not: coach Gambhir

S. Dipak Ragav

GUWAHATI

India coach Gautam Gambhir has now presided over two Test series defeats at home since he took over last year.

After losing to New Zealand 0-3 in 2024, India went down to South Africa 0-2 with a massive 408-run defeat in the second Test at the ACA Stadium here on Wednesday.

When asked if he was the right man for the job, at least for the longer format, Gambhir put the ball in the BCCI's court but was quick to point to his successes.

"It is up to the BCCI to decide. I have said it during my first press conference when I took over as the head coach that Indian cricket is important, I'm

not important. And I sit here and say the same thing," said Gambhir, under whom India has lost 10 out of 19 Tests.

"People can keep forgetting, but I'm the same guy who got results in England (2-2 Test series draw), with a young team. I'm sure you guys will forget very soon because a lot of people keep talking about New Zealand. I'm the same guy, under whom [we] won the Champions Trophy and Asia Cup as well," he added.

He also explained that the team was undergoing a transition in both batting and bowling departments and called for patience.

"We have seen these collapses in the past as well. Someone needs to put their hand up and say that I am going to stop this [collapse]," he emphasised.

happening in the spin bowling and batting department.

"So all of us need to give them time. I am sure they have got the skill, talent and ability. Consistency will come with experience. When they play in difficult situations, eventually they will deliver."

Commenting on the defeat, Gambhir termed the batting collapse in the first innings as unacceptable.

"We need to apply [ourselves] better. At one stage, we were 95 for one. From there to 122 for seven, it is not acceptable," said Gambhir.

"We have seen these collapses in the past as well. Someone needs to put their hand up and say that I am going to stop this [collapse]," he emphasised.

An incredible achievement for this group, says Bavuma



Take a bow! South Africa played a brand of cricket worthy of a World Test champion to dominate India in India. RITU RAJ KONWAR

S. Dipak Ragav

GUWAHATI

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma hailed his team's 2-0 series triumph over India, adding that it was not something he expected before the start of the tour.

"Coming to India is always a tough prospect. What makes it sweeter is the fact that we have been on the other side of the result, and we know how dark it can be," Bavuma said on Wednesday.

"I would have never thought 2-0 would be the result at the end of the series... we've gone on to etch ourselves in history

there," said Bavuma.

"Within the team, we have a lot of leaders. I think it's about understanding where certain guys provide value within the team and allowing them to flourish in that space."

able moments."

The 408-run win at the ACA Stadium extended Bavuma's unbeaten record as the Test captain of the Rainbow Nation (11 wins from 12 games).

The 35-year-old, who led South Africa to the World Test Championship title earlier this year, said he has grown into the role.

"For me, it's really a process of discovery. I think now I'm probably a lot more assured of myself as a person, as a captain, and of what I'm trying to do out

"Within the team, we have a lot of leaders. I think it's about understanding where certain guys provide value within the team and allowing them to flourish in that space."

In the first Test in Kolkata, it was Bavuma's vital 55 in the second innings that proved crucial in the 30-run win, and the skipper spoke about compartmentalising his two roles.

"I have learned over the last couple of years to be able to separate the captain and the batter."

"It's important that you perform your primary skill as well as you can. I always try to ensure that, from a batting point of view, I'm contributing as much as I can to the team," said Bavuma.

Ahmedabad formally named 2030 CWG host

Sports Bureau

KOLKATA

The Commonwealth Games will return to India after a gap of 20 years, with Ahmedabad hosting the 2030 centenary edition.

Commonwealth Sport (CS) on Wednesday made the announcement from Glasgow through a physical-cum-virtual press conference after its General Assembly ratified the Executive Board's October 15 proposal in favour of Ahmedabad ahead of the Nigerian capital city of Abuja.

Boost

The opportunity would give a boost to India's ambition to bid for the 2036 Olympics.

CS president Dr. Donald Rukare said the decision followed a "robust evaluation process."

The Indian delegation, including Gujarat Sports Minister Harsh Sanghavi and Indian Olympic Association president P.T. Usha, underlined that the Games would be athlete-centric and sustainable "which can be taken for next 100 years."

Acknowledging the challenges related to Delhi hosting the 2010 Games, which was mired in controversies due to delayed projects and allegations of cor-

ruption, Gujarat Sports Department principal secretary Ashwini Kumar said the Games could be staged with existing infrastructure.

But with the city having aspirations of becoming the sports capital of the country, new venues would be added.

"This time we are well-prepared. The organising committee is going to be established within a month or so. Our fundamentals are very strong," said Ashwini, adding lessons could be learnt from the past editions to avoid over-committment on infrastructure.

He said infrastructure would be built at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave and Gujarat Police Academy, which would include an athletics stadium and a shooting range.

The construction is likely to begin by April 2026, and we will be completing by the end of 2028 or early 2029," he said, adding Ahmedabad would also host the 2029 World Police and Fire Games.

Ashwini said October, coinciding with the festive season of Navratri and Diwali, would be the preferred month to host the Games.

IN BRIEF



India edges Malaysia in Azlan Shah Cup hockey

The Indian men's hockey team eked out a narrow 4-3 victory against hosts Malaysia at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Ipoh (Malaysia) on Wednesday. India will next play New Zealand on Thursday.

The result: India 4 (Selvam Karthi 7, Sukhjeet Singh 21, Amit Rohidas 39, Sanjay 53) bt Malaysia 3 (Faizal Saari 13, Fitril Saari 36, Marhan Jalil 45).

Nissanka's explosive knock earns Sri Lanka its first win

Opener Pathum Nissanka hit an unbeaten 98 off 58 balls as Sri Lanka hammered Zimbabwe by nine wickets in Rawalpindi on Tuesday for its first win in the T20 tri-series. Nissanka's knock, which featured four sixes and 11 boundaries, propelled Sri Lanka to 148 for one with 22 balls to spare on a wicket where Zimbabwe batters struggled to reach 146 for five.

The scores: Zimbabwe 146/5 in 20 overs (Sikandar Raza 37) lost to Sri Lanka 148/1 in 16.2 overs (Pathum Nissanka 98 n.o.). **Toss:** Zimbabwe; **PoM:** Nissanka.

LIVE TELECAST

SMAT: JioHotstar, 9, 11.30 a.m. 1.30, 4.30 p.m.
WPL Auction: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.
Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 5 & LIV, 11.15 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)
Conference League: Sony Sports Ten 3 & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Friday)



Urvi... a smashing time.

Lessons learnt during CSK stint helping me perform well: Urvil

Anirudh Velamuri

HYDERABAD

The T20 format always brings the best out of Urvil Patel, and Services was the latest team at the receiving end of his wrath. His 31-ball century, the second fastest by an Indian in T20s, helped Gujarat wrap up a 183-run chase with eight wickets in hand and 81 balls to spare in a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy match.

Urvi also holds the record for the joint-fastest T20 hundred (in 28 balls) by an Indian with Abhishek Sharma.

In a chat with *The Hindu*, Urvi credited his short but impactful stint with Chennai Super Kings last season, where he got the opportunity to pick M.S. Dhoni's brains, for his current returns with the willow.

WPL's mega auction: ODI World Cup stars in the spotlight

Vivek Krishnan

NEW DELHI

On November 2, women's cricket in India had its red-letter day when the national team defeated South Africa to win the ODI World Cup for the first time. Before November draws to a close, an opportunity to build on the warmth of that joyous occasion and propel many more of India's women cricketers into the lime-light is in store.

It will all transpire on Thursday afternoon when the Women's Premier League's mega auction, ahead of the fourth edition in 2026, is held at the JW Marriott Hotel in Aerocity here.

For an action-packed season to unfold, the auction exercise on Thursday – the first major revamp of the five teams since the league's initiation in 2023

– will hold the key as 277 players (194 Indians and 83 overseas) go under the hammer for a maximum of 73 slots. The highest base price bracket of ₹50 lakh features 19 players, among which six – Deepti Sharma, Harleen Deol, Kranti Goud, Uma Chetry, Pratika Rawal and Pooja Vastrakar – are Indian. Of this lot, only Vastrakar wasn't part of India's World Cup-winning squad.

Among the five franchises, UP Warriorz and Gujarat Giants are set to be the busiest. Having retained just the uncapped Shweta Sehrawat for ₹50 lakh, Warriorz have the highest purse of ₹14.5 crore going into the auction. Giants, which retained the Australian pair of Ashleigh Gardner and Beth Mooney, have ₹9 crore in their kitty.

Two-time champion Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals, runner-up in all

three seasons, have retained five players each. Royal Challengers Bangalore, which won the title in 2024, has also kept its core group of Smriti Mandhana, Richa Ghosh, Elyse Perry and Shreyanka Patil.

With recency bias tending to be a factor at auctions, the leading performers of the ODI World Cup, although a different white-ball format, are likely to be in high demand. The event will kick off with the marquee set of Deepti, Renuka Singh, Sophie Devine, Sophie Ecclestone, Alyssa Healy, Amelia Kerr, Meg Lanning and Laura Wolvaardt. Besides these high-profile names who will attract bidding wars, it will be worth watching out for left-arm spinner N. Sree Charani (₹30 lakh) and Australian opener Phoebe Litchfield (₹50 lakh).

Auction time: 3.30 p.m. onwards.

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In the under-19 boys' team final, Japan beat India 3-0 while South Korea

blanked India 3-0 in the girls' under-15 team semifinals.

The results:
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TABLE TENNIS

Sports Bureau

India's young paddlers made a strong debut at the ITTF World youth table tennis championships 2025 at Cluj Napoca (Romania), returning with a historic silver medal in the under-19 boys' team event and a bronze in the under-15 girls' team event.

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Focus is on the Asian Games, want to give it my best shot

Antim, the two-time former World under-20 champion, is keen to improve her mat work and conditioning ahead of a busy calendar in the run-up to the 2028 Olympics

INTERVIEW

ANTIM PANGHAL

Y.B. Sarangi

Having bounced back in 2025 by winning her second consecutive bronze medal in the World championships in Zagreb, Croatia, wrestler Antim Panghal (53kg) has managed to leave behind her forgettable outing in the Paris Olympics last year and make a new start.

With a busy calendar awaiting her in 2026, the 21-year-old, a former two-time World under-20 champion and an Asian Games bronze medallist, is keen to raise her game and improve the colour of her medals in the future. She is also keen to carry on her good work and realise her potential by medalling in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Antim spoke to *The Hindu* about her rare Worlds medal and the upcoming challenges. Excerpts:

How was the time after the Paris Olympics (which was not a good outing for you)? How did you recover and make a comeback?

After the Olympics, I had a knee injury. My physiotherapist got it treated for a month and a half. After that, he got me on the mat. He said, first you have to get the injury treated. After getting it treated, I got a full rehab done. Everyone supported me a lot.

Tell us about your coaching staff now?

After Paris, my coaching set-up has evolved. I now train primarily with the coaches at Sports Authority of India (SAI) Hisar. When I am called for national training camps, my programme continues without interruption – the national coaches cooperate closely and ensure alignment.

Of course, it can be challenging at times because every coach has their own style and area of expertise. But we maintain regular communication between the SAI coaches and the national camp staff, which really helps in keeping my training consistent and effective.

We saw your performance in the World championships. How do you rate it because you had already won a bronze medal earlier?



2024 didn't go so well for me. After that, I wanted to win a medal in the World championships. I prepared a lot, trained a lot.

Everyone supported me. My parents, my siblings, JSW and my manager supported me a lot.

Which was the most difficult medal in the two World championships?

It was difficult to medal in both World championships. It was not easy. I had to work hard in both. When I fought for the first time (in 2023), I didn't have a medal in the World championships. I had not even competed in the Worlds before that. This time, I had a little experience.

Vinesh won two bronze medals in the World championships. And now you, too, have two. You are the only two Indian women to do so. How do you feel about it?

Vinesh was a very good wrestler. She struggled a lot. She has two medals. I also have two medals. If I train a lot, I will get more medals.



All the top wrestlers in India will take part in the PWL. Some will come from abroad. It is a good chance to fight with everyone at the start of the year.

The National championship is happening in Ahmedabad in December. It is generally seen that well known wrestlers don't compete in the National championships. What is the reason for that? Are you taking part this year?

Yes, I am competing. There is nothing like well-known wrestlers skipping the event. Senior nationals is the biggest event in India. Sometimes, someone gets injured after the competition. So, they can't take part.

What is your target for next year? There will be World championships, Asian Games and Asian Championships. How are you

planning for these?

My focus is on the Asian Games. I want to give my 100 per cent in that. There is also a World championship before that. I have to prepare well for that. There will be a lot of competitions. There are three major competitions. People who support me make plans for me. They tell me what I have to do. I do everything according to that.

Los Angeles 2028 is two and a half years away. What are your plans for that?

I am preparing for everything, including the Olympics. For every wrestler, the main competition is the Olympics. We don't get that many medals in the Olympics. We get one or two medals in wrestling. So, I want to get more medals.

How much body weight do you maintain? Are you planning to change your body weight?

No, my weight is fine. Everyone stays two-three kg higher than their weight

category. So, my weight is fine (for my 53kg category).

How has JSW's support helped?

They gave me a job, a manager. They take care of everything. JSW conducts camps and they are beneficial. I attended an international training camp at Shigakkan University in Japan, organised jointly by JSW and the Wrestling Federation of India. We also travelled to a few other universities to train with different groups of wrestlers. It was a great experience – I got to train with some of the top Japanese wrestlers and the environment was very supportive. I even reviewed my semifinal bout with their coaches, who helped me understand new technical details and the areas where I needed to improve. Overall, the camp was a major learning experience for me, especially with the focus on preparing for the 2026 season including the Asian Games.

The PWL will be relaunched sooner than later. How big an opportunity is that?

All the top wrestlers in India will take part. Some will come from abroad. It is a good chance to fight with everyone at the start of the year. It will be a good competition for everyone.

When you will be in a team with foreign wrestlers, how will it help your game and overall personality?

When I went out for training, I got to know how the wrestlers over there train before a bout. If I will be in a PWL team, I will get to know more about different wrestlers in my team. I will get to know the way they eat and prepare. It will be very beneficial for me.

In which areas of your game do you need to improve?

I will have to focus on my mat work, conditioning. I will have to see who is doing what, where I am lacking. My coaches tell me where I have to attack, where I have to defend. We watch videos of the bouts to understand where to attack and where to defend.

Women's wrestling has become very competitive in our country. How good is it for India?

If there is a lot of competition here, everyone gives her best and prepares well. It helps in fighting well abroad and winning medals.



I am preparing for everything, including the Olympics. For every wrestler, that's the main competition as we don't get many medals there

Groundbreaking brain atlases capture development in motion

New brain atlases combine several advanced mapping methods to trace how neurons and glia form, migrate, and diversify across time and species, turning static brain charts into a dynamic developmental reference; the brain is portrayed as a living continuum, a time-lapse of genetic patterns

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

Imagine watching the brain not as a finished organ but as a city under construction, where every neuron is a worker changing jobs as the skyline rises.

A series of papers in *Nature* published on November 5 has captured exactly that. Led by researchers at the Allen Institute for Brain Science in the U.S., together with partners across the US BRAIN Initiative, scientists have charted how the brain's main cells – neurons and their supporting glia – form, migrate, and specialise across species from mouse to human.

Instead of treating the brain as a fixed catalogue of parts, the new maps portray it as a living continuum, a time-lapse of genetic patterns flickering on and off as cells mature, connect, and build networks.

For the first time these studies offer a unified view of brain development across time and species. Previous efforts were hard to compare because labs used different methods, sampled different stages or focused on separate regions. The BRAIN Initiative teams solved this by standardising protocols, building new sequencing and imaging tools, and creating shared computational pipelines to align data from mouse, marmoset, and human tissue. Together, they now provide a common reference for how neurons and glia emerge and assemble into circuits.

Hongkui Zeng, director of the Allen Institute, described it as ushering in a "new era of developmental neuroscience," one that unifies data across space, time, and species. The six coordinated studies offer what she calls a "common reference" for how genes assemble the brain's intricate circuitry, a guide likely to steer neuroscience for years to come.

Where old maps fell short

For decades, brain atlases treated neurons as if they came in fixed categories. The new datasets have overturned this view by showing that developing cells move through gradual transitions, with gene-activity patterns that change step by step rather than in sharp jumps.

In one of Dr. Zeng's studies, her team found that as the mouse brain matured, young neurons passed through intermediate stages where they showed a mix of features from both earlier and forthcoming cell types.

"The boundaries are never clear-cut," Dr. Zeng said.

Tomasz Nowakowski, an associate professor at the University of California, San Francisco, showed in his human lineage atlas that human brain development followed a similar path. By tracing the descendants of individual stem cells in cultured human foetal brain tissue, his team found that radial glia, the brain's builder cells, first produced neurons that activate signals, then those that quiet them.

This gradual shift – which previous single-timepoint maps couldn't see – confirmed that neurons don't acquire their adult identity all at once.

Specifically, the two studies together showed that developing neurons don't hold a single, stable identity. Their gene activity shifts gradually as they mature, passing through intermediate stages rather than jumping from one defined type to another.

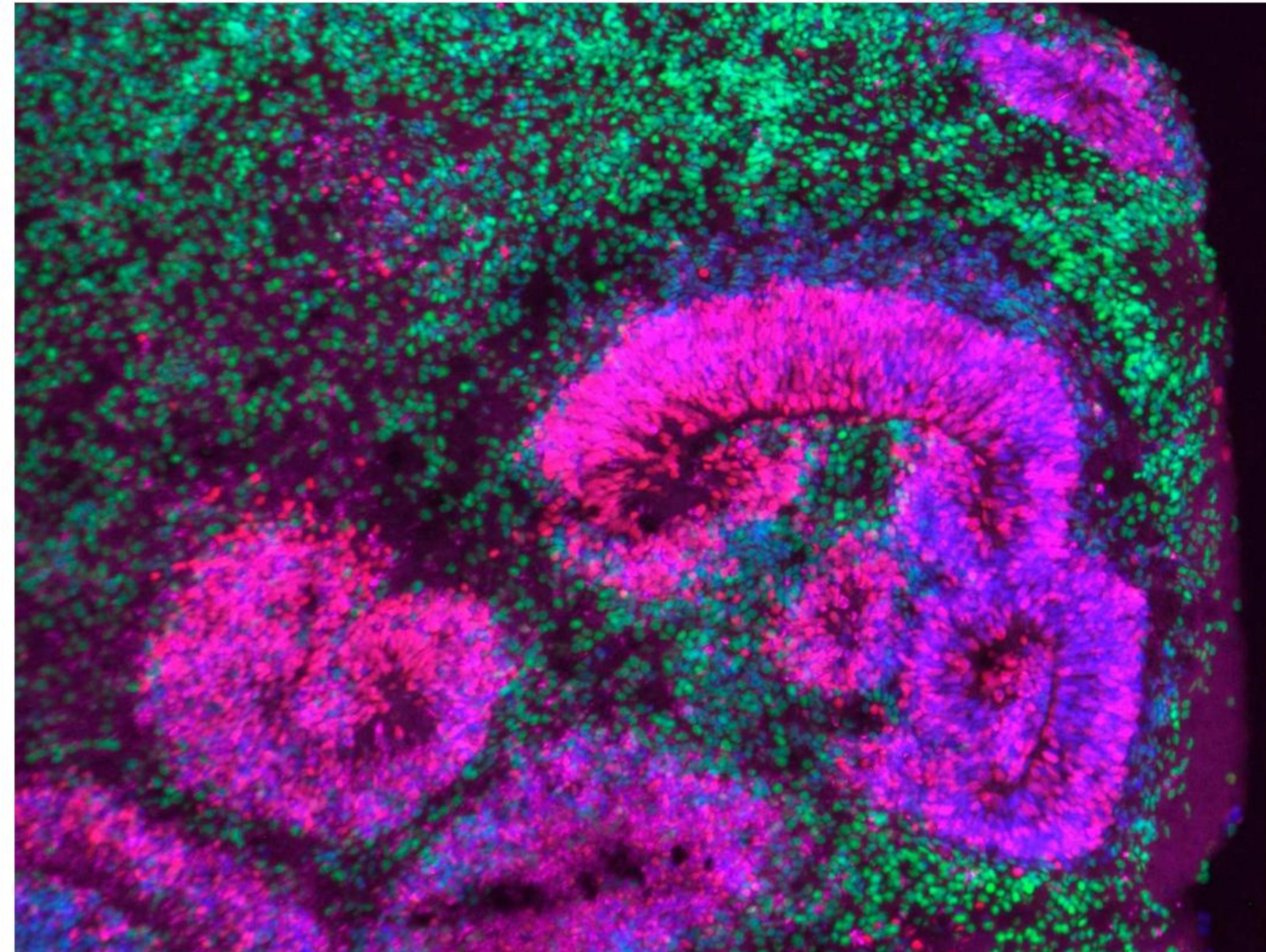
Cells' journeys

Dr. Nowakowski used viral barcoding to trace cell lineages in cultured human foetal brain tissue. The technique relies on harmless viruses that tag each stem cell with a unique genetic label, allowing researchers to follow all of its descendants.

His team then applied single-cell RNA sequencing to measure which genes were active in each developing neuron.

The team also used spatial profiling to place those gene readouts back into their exact locations within the tissue, almost like returning pins to a 3D map. Together, these methods created a time-resolved record showing how individual cells divided, differentiated and settled into their developmental paths.

Each of these steps began to show how one cell becomes many. Dr. Nowakowski said DNA analyses from postmortem human brains showed the same developmental shift his team observed in the culture, confirming that the pattern was not an artefact of the laboratory system. Dr. Zeng's computational atlas added a way to define developmental transitions more precisely. Her team used algorithms to detect when a neuron's



An eight-week human cortical organoid with rosette structures (in pink and blue) surrounded by neuronal populations (green). JOSE SOTO FROM UCLA; NANO ET AL., NATURE NEUROSCIENCE (CC BY)

gene-activity profile had changed enough to qualify as a different cell stage, replacing earlier subjective judgments with quantitative criteria.

Finally, Yale University professor Rong Fan's team added the missing dimension: place. In their spatial tri-omics atlas, the researchers measured three kinds of molecular information in thin, preserved slices of developing brain tissue: which genes were active, how accessible the surrounding DNA was, and which proteins each cell produced. Then they linked each measurement to the exact location of the cell within the tissue. This made it possible to see where different molecular patterns appeared and how neighbouring cells changed together over time. Taken together, these approaches allowed the researchers to follow developing cells across both time and space, rather than capturing them at isolated moments.

Reading the new atlas

Together, these atlases have opened the door to understanding how billions of individual cell decisions shape the brain's extraordinary diversity.

Cindy van Velthoven, an investigator at the Allen Institute, was part of a mouse study that tracked how inhibitory neurons, the cells that calm or balance brain activity, diversify and migrate as the forebrain forms. The team found inhibitory lineages that diversified at different times, some appeared later and were distributed across several regions, suggesting late-acting roles.

Building on his work, Dr. Nowakowski's human atlas traced the complementary side of this circuitry: excitatory neurons, which increase neural activity. Read together, the two studies reveal how the brain's opposing systems of excitation and inhibition take shape through continuous, overlapping pathways of gene expression.

Those same molecular networks also appear to have deep evolutionary roots, an idea explored by Alex Pollen, an associate professor at University of



Prenatal mouse brain spatial multiomics maps highlighting cortical layer neuron maturation and oligodendrocyte differentiation and myelination. DI ZHANG FROM YALE UNIVERSITY; ZHANG ET AL., NATURE (CC BY)



Extending our work to the whole brain, including both the cortex, the brain's outer layer, and the deeper subcortical regions that coordinate movement and emotion, would be the first step

HONGKUI ZENG

DIRECTOR OF THE ALLEN INSTITUTE

California, San Francisco.

In a cross-species analysis, Dr. Pollen and his colleagues compared gene activity across mammals and found that a neuron type once thought unique to primates, the TAC3 interneuron, which helps regulate emotion and hormonal signalling, is present across many mammalian lineages, though its abundance and molecular profile vary.

"The strongest evidence for shared ancestry came from looking broadly, from marsupials to primates," Dr. Pollen said.

All these findings show that evolution tends to modify existing neuron types rather than create entirely new ones. In humans, similar developmental pathways are present but progress over a longer time, giving cells more time to diversify and form complex circuits.

Across species, the underlying pattern is consistent: developmental programmes are reused and adjusted, not replaced, to build the brain's wiring.

Bringing it all together

With the individual atlases in place, the consortium took one final step. In the meta-atlas project led by Dr. Nowakowski, Dr. Zeng, and training programme mentor Aparna Bhaduri at the University of California, Los Angeles, the researchers aligned developmental data from mouse, marmoset, and human brains to create a shared reference that allows cell states to be compared across species.

Dr. Zeng acknowledged that "a lack of brain tissue, especially human samples from key stages of development, may be the biggest limitation for now."

She said overcoming such gaps means constantly improving both the data and the tools used to analyse it: "We should not treat taxonomies rigidly, but continue to refine them as we gain new knowledge."

For Dr. Bhaduri, the goal is to build a shared resource the entire field can use.

"Having this reference data is a fantastic opportunity for the field," she said. "It will empower us to have common gene signatures, cell names, and analytical tools to move the field forward."

Their project treats brain mapping as a collective, ongoing effort rather than as a finished product. As Dr. Zeng put it, the aim isn't to finish the map but to ensure everyone is using the same coordinates.

From maps to medicine

For neuroscientists, these maps offer a clearer view of how early development sets the conditions for later brain

function. They show when key genetic pathways switch on or off during gestation and how those shifts guide cells into specific roles.

The atlases highlight periods of development in which many genes associated with neurodevelopmental disorders are highly active, which could help researchers pinpoint when small disruptions are most likely to have long-term effects. Conditions such as autism or epilepsy are thought to involve changes in early developmental timing rather than damage that occurs later in life.

Dr. Nowakowski said the next step is to test whether the developmental switches his team observed also occur in other systems. Non-human primates, he noted, "may be the closest *in-vivo* model" while "organoids are another emerging model," and he said he looks forward to seeing if the results align.

Beyond genetics and timing, the surrounding tissue environment also affects how cells mature. In the spatial atlas prepared by Fan et al., the team compared maps of gene and protein activity and found that cells in regions with stronger developmental signalling matured sooner while those in quieter regions developed more slowly. When they examined injured tissue, the brain activated patterns of gene activity similar to those seen during early development, suggesting shared mechanisms between growth and repair.

Researchers increasingly believe many neurological conditions arise when developmental events occur at the wrong time or in the wrong place, such as cells arriving too early, maturing too quickly or settling in an unusual location. The new atlases make these vulnerable periods easier to identify, pointing to specific stages in which small disruptions may have long-term consequences.

Work still ahead

Some neuron types appear only briefly or only switch on their defining genes in specific conditions, such as after recent activity or during particular behavioural states. Dr. Van Velthoven said such fleeting or condition-specific neurons "likely remain unseen" in today's datasets.

Dr. Zeng agreed the journey is far from over: "Extending our work to the whole brain, including both the cortex, the brain's outer layer, and the deeper subcortical regions that coordinate movement and emotion, would be the first step."

"We need more timepoints and brain regions to construct a much more detailed framework for how the brain ultimately emerges," Dr. Bhaduri said.

Together, these gaps define the next steps for the field: broader brain regions, more developmental stages, and denser sampling to capture cell types that current methods miss.

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Channel state information from WiFi signals can be used to identify people in a room but is harder to obtain and needs specialised hardware and firmware. PAUL HANAOKA/UNPLASH

WiFi signals can quietly surveil you, says study

Vasudevan Mukunth

Modern WiFi standards have a feature called beamforming that helps routers push signals more efficiently towards connected devices. To do this, phones and laptops regularly broadcast short reports describing how they "see" the wireless channel. These reports are unencrypted and can be picked up by any other device in range.

Are these reports rich enough for someone to recognise who is moving through a room just from how their body disturbs the WiFi field? A new study by researchers at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany has found the answer is "yes."

Previous work had already shown that channel state information (CSI) from WiFi signals can be used to identify people in a room but CSI is harder to obtain and needs specialised hardware and firmware. Beamforming feedback information (BFI) is however, available on off-the-shelf hardware. The authors thus treated BFI as a potentially more serious privacy risk and measured how far an attacker could go with it in a realistic setting.

They built a WiFi setup with two access points and four "listening" perspectives, all operating in the 6 GHz band. They asked 197 volunteers to walk back and forth through the WiFi field normally, briskly, through a turnstile, and while carrying a backpack or a crate. The system recorded both BFI and CSI traces, which the team then fed into a relatively simple neural network that could learn patterns directly from the raw data.

Thus they found that BFI alone was strongly identifying. When the model was trained and tested on normal walks, it recognised more than 160 individuals with 99.5% accuracy. CSI, which has higher time resolution but is harder to obtain in practice, was less accurate on the same dataset.

The model also transferred reasonably well across walking styles: BFI could still identify people when they wore a backpack, carried a crate, walked faster or passed through a turnstile, although the performance dipped somewhat for more unusual motions. It also outperformed CSI.

BFI recognised 160 individuals with 99.5% accuracy. CSI, which has a higher time resolution, was less accurate on the same dataset

According to the researchers, the results change how we should think about the privacy consequences of everyday WiFi use. They've shown that inferring one's identity doesn't necessarily require hacking firmware or networks but only a device within listening range. They don't even need the WiFi password.

The ability is doubly insidious because BFI is produced by normal WiFi networks and, unlike CCTV cameras, doesn't advertise its role in surveillance. People who might avoid visible cameras might still ignore access points mounted in ceilings or corners. In this sense, WiFi-based tracking can create an "inverse panopticon" where individuals behave as if unobserved while being silently profiled.

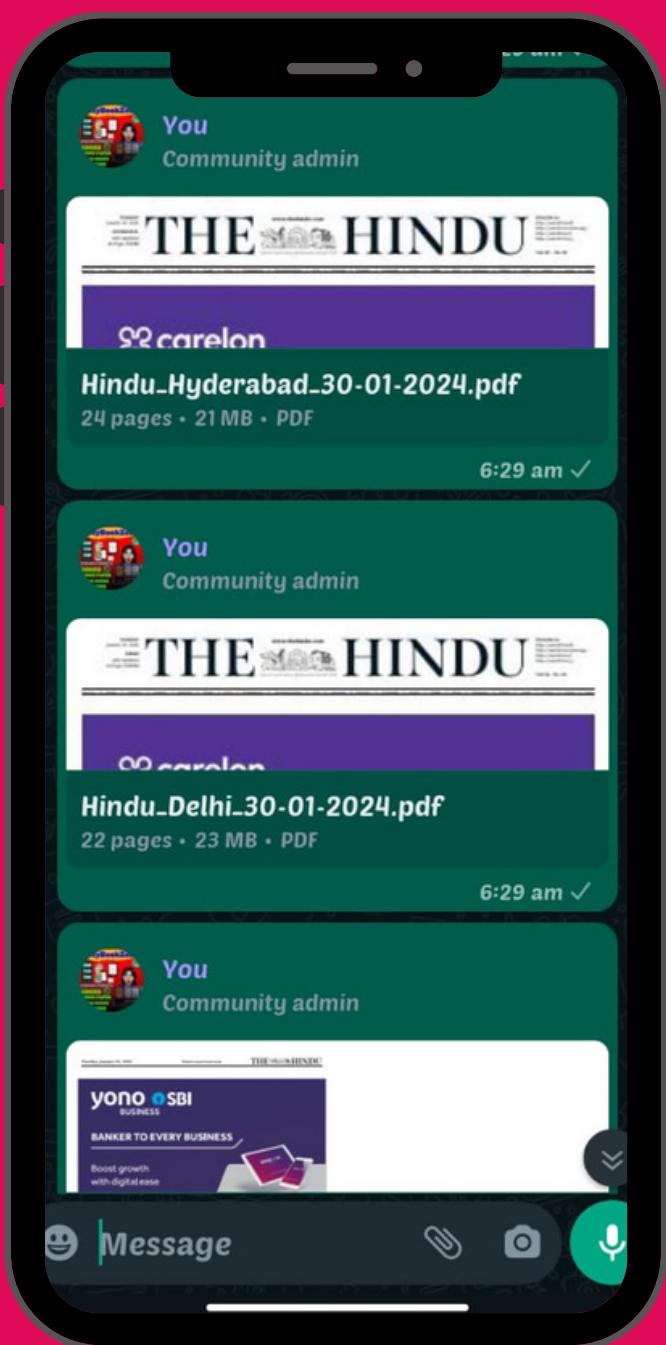
Once a system can stably recognise individuals from their gait, any other WiFi-based task, such as recognising activities or estimating occupancy, can be linked to those identities. This makes the harm cumulative because activity and movement logs can be tied to the same person over time, even if their real-world name is not immediately known.

Finally, the researchers noted that current mitigation ideas like adding noise to training fields are immature, often require special hardware, and mainly target CSI instead of BFI.

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