



**CASTE CENSUS REPORT**  
Differences emerge in Karnataka govt.

STATES » PAGE 4

LOGGED IN

Kerala to be declared fully digital literate

STATES » PAGE 4



**'DELIBERATE ATTACK'**  
Russia targeted Indian firm's warehouse: Kyiv

NEWS » PAGE 10

DATA POINT

**Stagnant incomes, rising prices**

City residents struggle to meet expenses

OPINION » PAGE 7



**CONTRASTING WINS**  
MI pips DC in thriller, RCB eases past RR

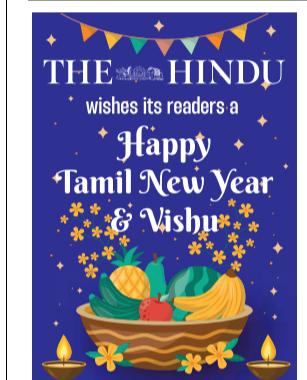
SPORT » PAGE 15

## IN BRIEF



**Amid 'Signalgate', U.S. NSA Waltz puts off India visit**

**NEW DELHI**  
Amid turmoil in Washington over communication security breaches by the National Security Council, including his office, U.S. National Security Adviser Michael Waltz has put off his visit to India. » Page 11



EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 5

## Kerala seeks to have pending Bills deemed as passed

**K.S. Sudhi**  
KOCHI

Armed with the Supreme Court's landmark judgment on Bills kept pending by the Governors and the President, Kerala is set to contend in the top court that all the Bills pending with the President be deemed as passed.

The Supreme Court last week deemed Bills kept pending by Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi to have received assent. Kerala will approach the Supreme Court next month seeking similar relief.

The Supreme Court had ruled that the prolonged refusal of Mr. Ravi to give assent to the Bills was "illegal" and "erroneous in law".

Kerala had earlier approached the top court against similar acts of former Governor Arif Mohammad Khan. It had also

**The State is set to contend in the top court that the action of former Governor on some Bills was 'erroneous in law'**

moved the court against President Droupadi Murmu's act of withholding assent to a few Bills.

Kerala will contend that the Bills pending with Ms. Murmu, including those for which she had withheld assent, be deemed as passed since the very act of the Governor sitting on them and later referring them to the President was "erroneous in law".

The State will also highlight the fact that the President had assigned no reasons for withholding consent for the Bills.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 10

Director-General of Police, West Bengal, Rajeev Kumar held meetings with senior police officials in Murshidabad. He said the situation was "very much under control".

Ananda Roy, Superintendent of Police, Jangipur,



**On alert:** BSF personnel near the wreckage caused during the violence in Murshidabad on Sunday. ANI

appealed to people not to believe in rumours and approach the police in case they need any clarifications. The SP said 155 persons had been arrested so far in connection with the violence.

A total of 23 high-ranking officers from the State police and other agencies have been deployed in the violence-affected district.

Karni Singh Shekhawat, Inspector-General of Police, Border Security Force,

was among those present in the district. Nine companies of the BSF have been moved to the strife-torn areas.

Eighteen police personnel were injured in the violence.

Isha Khan Chowdhury, Congress MP for the Malda Dakshin constituency under which the violence-affected areas of Murshidabad district fall, said that he and Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury had called for an all-party meeting on the violence.

### BJP protests

Almost the entire leadership of the State BJP unit took to the streets in Kolkata on Sunday in protest against the violence. BJP MP Jyotirmoy Singh Mahato wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah urging the Centre to declare select border districts of West Bengal "disturbed areas".

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 10  
EDITORIAL  
» PAGE 6

## Baisakhi cheers



**Buoyant hope:** Devotees at the Golden Temple in Amritsar to mark the harvest festival Baisakhi on Sunday. Wheat is being harvested in Punjab and Haryana, and the output is expected to be higher than that in the past year in the two States. AFP (REPORT ON PAGE 12)

## Kerala temple opens sacred space to all sections

Previously restricted to specific communities, the inner quarter of the centuries-old Pilicode Rayaramangalam temple in Kasaragod district has been opened to all communities for the first time following a reformist campaign ahead of Vishu

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KASARAGOD

In a landmark move, devotees from all communities entered the *nambalam* – the sacred inner quarter – of the centuries-old Pilicode Rayaramangalam temple in Kasaragod of Kerala for the first time, ending restrictions based on caste.

Previously restricted to specific communities, the sacred space in the temple managed by the Malabar Devaswom Board was opened to all communities following a campaign led by a reformist organisation.



**Evolving norms:** Devotees come out of the centuries-old Pilicode Rayaramangalam temple in Kasaragod. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

communities were allowed to enter the space earlier. Maniyani, Nair, Vaniya and a few other communities were allowed entry during the festival period.

He said the initiative spearheaded by the reformist body Pilicode *Ninav Purush Swayamsahaya Sangham*, a men's self-help group, gained momentum with its resolution advocating for universal entry rights. This was followed by the formation of the *Janakiya Samithi*, a people's committee comprising socio-cultural and political organisations, which petitioned the *Tantri* (head priest), State Devaswom

Minister V.N. Vasavan, and the temple administrative committee. While the *Tantri* had responded that worshippers could pray near the inner quarter without affecting rituals, access into it came after the festival ceremonies concluded, he added.

The *Janakiya Samithi* confirmed that the inner quarter will remain open to all devotees in the coming days, reinforcing that the change was not symbolic, but permanent. Sunday's event is being hailed as a moral and cultural victory, a sign that age-old rituals must evolve with time to reflect equality and inclusion.

## T.N. Governor triggers row with 'Jai Sri Ram' chant at college event; educationists call for his ouster

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MADRASI

The State Platform for Common School System-Tamil Nadu (SPCSS-TN) has condemned Governor R.N. Ravi for chanting "Jai Sri Ram" and asking people to follow suit at a college event in Madurai on Saturday. The SPCSS-TN, a body of educationists, said Mr. Ravi violated his oath of office and should be removed from his post.

In a press release, it said Mr. Ravi was invited as chief guest in his capacity as the Governor. He was not invited as a preacher of a particular religion and not asked to give a religious sermon, the forum said.

"Due to his ignorance and arrogance, he continues to propagate wrong ideas that, in effect, are aimed at disturbing peace and instigating a group of people against another. In Tamil Nadu, both at schools and colleges, poetry and prose of all reli-

gions are a part of the syllabus...," the statement said.

Without any basic knowledge on how students learn religious texts in a secular environment, Mr. Ravi is making "misguiding statements", it added.

**'Saffronisation'**  
A.T. Senthamarai Kannan, general secretary of MUTA (Madurai Kamaraj, Manonmaniam Sundaranar, Mother Teresa, Alagappa, Tamilnadu Teachers Education and Anna University Teachers' Association) said the Governor's remarks amounted to "saffronisation" of educational institutions. He also said the Governor should resign.



R.N. Ravi

sermon, the forum said.

"Due to his ignorance and arrogance, he continues to propagate wrong ideas that, in effect, are aimed at disturbing peace and instigating a group of people against another. In Tamil Nadu, both at schools and colleges, poetry and prose of all reli-

## After decade of losses, DDA scripts a turnaround

**Satvika Mahajan**  
NEW DELHI

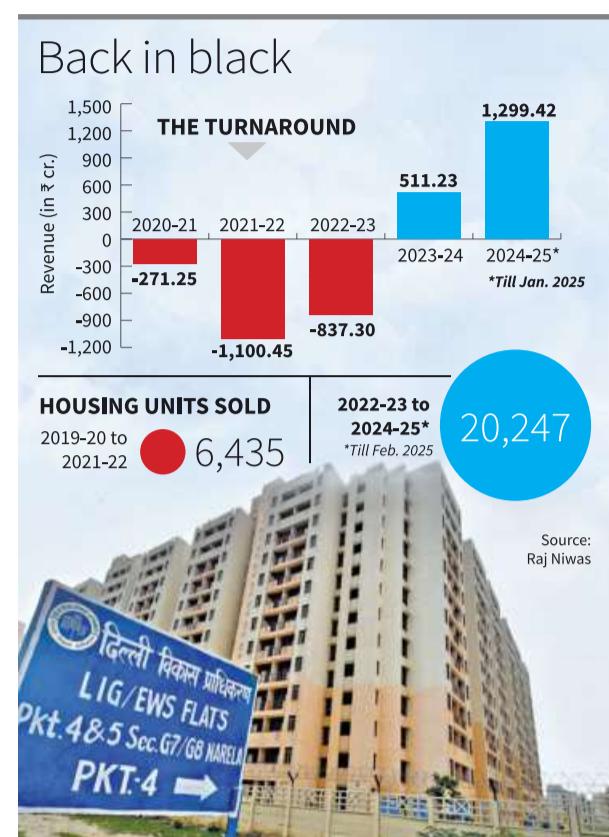
Delhi's largest landowner, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), which had been incurring losses since 2013-14, has made a turnaround and become profitable over the last two years.

The agency sold 215% more units between 2023-24 and 2024-25 (till January) than it did over the previous three years. In 2023-24, it reported a profit of ₹511.23 crore for the first time in a decade. From February 2024 to January this year, the gains had grown by well over 200% compared to the previous year.

### Losing flab

Officials in DDA attribute the profitability to changes in the housing policy and new marketing campaigns.

Raj Niwas, the office of the agency's chairperson, Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena, shared last month on X a post about the DDA's transformation:



"Who would have imagined that a phenomenal turnaround would happen so soon! From perennially being a revenue-deficit en-

tity to becoming revenue-surplus in the last two consecutive financial years, it has been a story rewritten by the DDA."

According to a senior DDA official, the authority came out with multiple schemes over the past two years. These include Sasta Ghar Housing Scheme, Madhyam Vargiya Housing Scheme, Sabka Ghar Awaas Yojana, and Diwali Special Housing Scheme. Through these programmes, the agency offered flats at a discount to construction workers, widows, former armed forces personnel, persons with disabilities, and persons from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The DDA also created awareness through campaigns on radio, newspapers, television, and social media platforms.

The agency relaxed conditions in its housing policy to expand the customer base. A key policy change was to remove the restrictions on repeat buyers. Earlier, those who already owned a DDA flat could not apply for more. "This instantly increased the buyers' pool," said the official.

Another policy the DDA modified was to scrap the lottery system. Now, buyers can choose the flat they want, for which they have to pay 10% of the property cost upfront, ensuring that only serious buyers take part, the official said, adding that earlier, a buyer could hold on to a property by paying a one-time booking amount of ₹2,000.

### Expert's view

For the first time since it was established in 1957, the DDA roped in a consultancy firm in 2024 to understand buyers' expectations. "The firm's role was to point out DDA's shortcomings," an official explained. According to a source, the firm cited high prices and lack of connectivity to houses in Rohini and Narela as the reasons for decline in purchase.

Over the past few years, the DDA solely focused on developing civic amenities for its existing inventory instead of coming up with new projects.

## Ambedkar Jayanti: parties scramble to stake claim to legacy of the Dalit icon

CM says Delhi will mark 135th birth anniversary with fortnight-long celebrations; AAP, Congress to offer tributes at respective party offices

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI



CM Rekha Gupta pays tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar during a walkathon on Sunday. PTI

ment offices.

Earlier, Mayor Mahesh Kumar Khichi of AAP had announced that the municipal corporation will hold a special event on April 14 to mark the birth anniversary of Ambedkar.

Meanwhile, the three major political parties in the Capital have lined up a series of commemorative events. BJP national president J.P. Nadda, along with Ms. Gupta and Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva, will offer floral tributes at Ambedkar Memorial.

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal will pay tributes to the Dalit icon at the party headquarters.

Delhi Congress chief Deven Yadav will host an event in honour of Ambedkar at the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee office.

## Will make Delhi a hub of medical tourism: Gupta

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Government understands the ground reality and is working for betterment of the health sector in the Capital.

### New mission

"Institutions that treat health care as a mission, not just as a service, are crucial and the government is committed to providing all possible support to such institutions at the level of policy, resources and structure," she added.

Ms. Gupta stated that a "healthy Delhi is the foundation of a self-reliant India". "In this year's budget, we [BJP govt.] have allocated ₹12,893 crore to improve health services, of which ₹2,144 crore has been allocated for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Yojana," she said.

## Row over CM's husband: BJP says it wasn't official meet

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) continued to attack the ruling BJP on Sunday over Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's husband allegedly attending a government officials' meeting.

The BJP clarified that Ms. Gupta's husband, Manish Gupta, attended a "party meeting", not a "government meeting".

On Saturday, Leader of the Opposition Atishi posted a photo of Mr. Gupta al-

legedly attending a government officials' meeting. The BJP called it "insulting" and demanded an apology from the former Chief Minister.

### AAP allegation

AAP Delhi president Sauroabh Bharadwaj on Sunday said, "This photo shows that the CM is merely a rubber stamp."

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said it is normal for family members of elected representatives to meet party workers.

## SSCBS felicitates notable alumni at grand event

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Delhi University's Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies (SSCBS) felicitated 34 alumni on Sunday for their leadership roles.

According to the college, the alumni were associated with companies such as McKinsey, PwC, L'Oréal, BCG, Deloitte, EY, and Accenture.

During the event, SSCBS principal Prof. Poonam Verma released a diary featuring the profiles of the distinguished alumni.

Ms. Verma said the col-



The college released a diary of profiles of distinguished alumni. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

lege has been playing the role of a launchpad for global leadership.

**Nation Remembers**  
**The Architect of the Indian Constitution**  
**Babasaheb**  
**Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar ji**  
**on his Birth Anniversary**

**April 14, 2025**

"हम संविधान निर्माता और सामाजिक न्याय के प्रतीक  
डॉ. बाबासाहेब अंबेडकर को नमन करते हैं।  
समानता और मानवीय गरिमा के लिए डॉ. अंबेडकर का  
अथक संघर्ष पीढ़ियों को प्रेरित करता रहेगा।"  
— नरेन्द्र मोदी



Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

[www.prharyana.gov.in](http://www.prharyana.gov.in) | Follow us on





Contact Us : 8468022022, 9019066066  
Visit our Website : [www.visionias.in](http://www.visionias.in)

79 in TOP 100 selections in CSE 2023 from various programs of VisionIAS

## GENERAL STUDIES FOUNDATION COURSE



PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2026 & 27

Innovative Classroom Program Pre Foundation Classes are also Available

ENGLISH MEDIUM

KAROL BAGH, DELHI

10 APR, 8 AM | 17 APR, 5 PM | 22 APR, 11 AM | 29 APR, 2 PM

GTB NAGAR, DELHI

17 APR, 6 PM | 30 APR, 8 AM

AHMEDABAD  
4 JANUARY

BENGALURU  
1 APRIL

BHOPAL  
25 MARCH

CHANDIGARH  
18 JUNE

HYDERABAD  
2 APR

JAIPUR  
5 APRIL

JODHPUR  
15 APRIL

LUCKNOW  
9 APRIL

PUNE  
8 APRIL

हिन्दी मार्गम्

दिल्ली  
10 APR, 8 AM | 22 APR, 11 AM

जगुरु  
10 APR

जोधपुर  
15 APR

### OPTIONAL SUBJECT CLASSES

- » Geography   » Sociology   **20 JUNE, 2 PM**
- » Political Science and International Relations
- » Physics   **15 JULY**
- » Public Administration
- » Anthropology   » Hindi Literature   **STARTING SOON**



Scan to know more

## ABHYAAS 2025 ALL INDIA PRELIMS (GS+CSAT) MOCK TEST SERIES

SIMULATE UPSC PRELIMS EXPERIENCE



### TEST DATES

TEST 1 | TEST 2 | TEST 3  
**6 APRIL | 27 APRIL | 11 MAY**

- » Complete coverage of UPSC Prelims syllabus
- » Attempted by every 1 in 3 selected candidate in top 50
- » All India Ranking
- » VisionIAS Post Test Analysis
- » Live Test Discussion
- » Available in English/हिन्दी



REGISTER AT:  
[WWW.VISIONIAS.IN/ABHYAAS](http://WWW.VISIONIAS.IN/ABHYAAS)

OFFLINE IN  
100+ CITIES

Agartala | Agra | Ahmedabad | Aizawl | Ajmer | Aligarh | Amritsar | Ayodhya | Bareilly | Bathinda | Bengaluru | Bhilai | Bhopal | Bhubaneswar | Bikaner | Bilaspur | Chandigarh | Chennai | Chhatarpur | Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar | Coimbatore | Cuttack | Dehradun | Delhi | Dhanbad | Dharamshala | Dharwad | Durgapur | Faridabad | Gangtok | Gaya | Ghaziabad | Gorakhpur | Gurugram | Guwahati | Gwalior | Haldwani | Hardibagh | Hazaribagh | Hisar | Hyderbad | Imphal | Indore | Itanagar | Jabalpur | Jaipur | Jalandhar | Jammu | Jamshedpur | Jhansi | Jodhpur | Kanpur | Kochi | Kohima | Kolkata | Kota | Kozhikode | Kurukshetra | Leh | Lucknow | Ludhiana | Madurai | Mandi | Meerut | Moradabad | Mumbai | Muzaffarpur | Mysuru | Nagpur | Nashik | Navi Mumbai | Noida | Orai | Panaji | Panipat | Patiala | Patna | Prayagraj | Puducherry | Pune | Raipur | Rajkot | Ranchi | Rohtak | Roopkund | Shillong | Shimla | Siliguri | Srinagar | Surat | Thane | Thiruvananthapuram | Tiruchirappalli | Tirupati | Udaipur | Vadodara | Varanasi | Vijayawada | Visakhapatnam | Warangal



KAROL BAGH GMMR 33, Pusa Road, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station, Opposite Pillar No. 113, Delhi – 110005

+91 8468022022, +91 9019066066

MUKHERJEE NAGAR

Vision IAS Classroom, Test centre & Enquiry office, metro gate no 2, above GTB Nagar Metro Station, Delhi – 110009

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

OUR CENTERS: AHMEDABAD | BENGALURU | BHOPAL | CHANDIGARH | GUWAHATI | HYDERABAD | JAIPUR | JODHPUR | LUCKNOW | PRAYAGRAJ | PUNE | RANCHI



सांस्कृतिक अभ्युदय से समृद्धि पथ पर अग्रसर मध्यप्रदेश

विक्रम संवत् के प्रवर्तक

# सम्माट विक्रमादित्य

महानाट्य का  
महामंचन

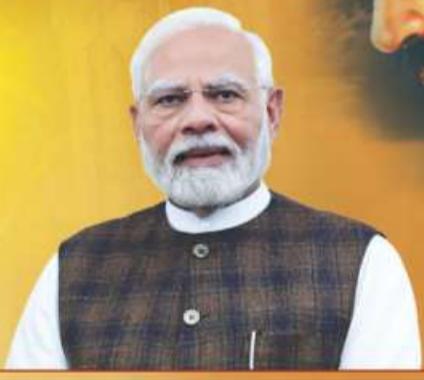
14  
अप्रैल 2025

सायं 7:00 से 9:00 बजे तक  
माधव दास पार्क, लाल किला, दिल्ली

मुख्य अतिथि

अमित शाह  
केन्द्रीय मंत्री

गृह एवं सहकारिता, भारत सरकार



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

Shri. Mahesh Yarav

मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

श्रीमती रेखा गुप्ता, मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली  
स्वागताध्यक्ष

<https://telegram.me/MagazineEpaper>

विशेष  
प्रदर्शनी

- आर्थ भारत • विक्रमादित्यकालीन मुद्रा-मुद्रांक
- मध्यप्रदेश में पर्यटन • मध्यप्रदेश का विकास एवं उपलब्धियाँ
- मध्यप्रदेश में ग्लोबल इन्वेस्टर्स समिट • फूड कोर्ट



महाराजा विक्रमादित्य शोधपीठ

स्वरूप जनसंस्कृत विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन द्वारा  
श्री विश्वामीति साम्प्रदायिक एवं लोककला समिति, ऊर्जल के सहयोग से आयोजित



आप सादर आमंत्रित हैं।

## IN BRIEF



## 8 killed in blast at firecracker unit in A.P.; CM orders probe

Eight persons were killed and as many injured in an explosion at a firecracker unit at Kailasapatnam of Anakapalli district in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. The condition of two of the injured is said to be critical. As per the district police, the blast occurred 45 minutes past noon. Sixteen workers were present on the unit's premises at the time, as per preliminary enquiries. The accident site is located about 2 km from the village, and residents rushed there on hearing the blast. Later, the police, along with emergency services and fire tenders, rushed to the spot and doused the fire. Meanwhile, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has asked the District Collector to conduct an inquiry into the incident and submit a report.

## Court rejects 'fake' doctor's bail plea, extends custody by 4 days

A court in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district on Sunday rejected the bail petition of alleged fake cardiologist Narendra Vikramaditya Yadav alias Narendra John Camm and extended his police custody by four days. The accused was arrested on April 7 over allegations of impersonating United Kingdom-based cardiologist Professor John Camm and performing crucial surgeries at the Mission Hospital in Damoh.

## BSP chief takes back nephew Anand into party after apology

**Mayank Kumar**  
LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati offered "one more chance" to her nephew Akash Anand to work for the party on Sunday, hours after the expelled leader issued a public apology to her.

"I consider the national president of BSP, four-time Chief Minister of U.P. and many-time Member of Parliament of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, respected Mayawati ji, as my only political guru and ideal. To-



Akash Anand

day, I take this vow that for the benefit of the party, I will not let my relations and especially my in-laws become an obstacle. Not only this, I also apologise for my tweet made a few days ago, due to which respected Behanji [Mayawati]

has expelled me from the party," wrote Mr. Anand in his post on X.

In response, Ms. Mayawati said on X, "I have taken the decision to give another opportunity to Mr. Anand in response to him publicly admitting mistakes in his posts on X, giving full respect to the seniors, not giving in to his father-in-law's words, and dedicating his life to the BSP party and movement."

The BSP chief, however, added that there is no question of appointing someone as her successor.

## SC sub-categorisation to come into force in Telangana from today

**The Hindu Bureau**  
HYDERABAD

Categorisation of the Scheduled Caste communities into three groups will come into effect in Telangana from Monday, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

A Cabinet sub-committee, headed by Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and co-chaired by Health

had gone with the prefix 'Hindu' and that they had not prefixed their castes with 'Lingayat'.

His Cabinet colleague G. Parameshwara, however, said since Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said 95% of the population has been covered, it is more likely that the Cabinet will agree to the survey. "The data is already in public and is more or less true."

Deputy Chief Minister and State Congress chief D.K. Shivakumar, a Vokkalgala leader, said it is the right of leaders to protect their communities and that the government will not take any hasty decision.

**BJP meeting today**  
The BJP urged the Chief Minister to conduct a fresh survey in a scientific and authentic manner. The party also decided to hold a meeting of its leaders on Monday to discuss the implications of the report.

## Some refused to give details or didn't know their caste

**Sharath S. Srivatsa**  
BENGALURU

Amid the clamour over the caste-wise population, a small percentage of the population either refused to provide caste details during the census or did not know their caste to provide the details.

A total of 73,399 families or about 0.425% of the population of Karnataka that came under the survey refused to identify their caste during the enumeration, as per data available in the report.

As many as 35,845 families stated that they do not belong to any caste or are 'caste-free'. Their population is pegged at 1.34 lakh.

## W.B. teachers allege intimidation by TMC workers, end strike

**Press Trust of India**  
KOLKATA

Three schoolteachers in West Bengal, who were among the 25,753 staff whose appointments were recently invalidated by the Supreme Court due to irregularities in their recruitment, withdrew their indefinite fast on Sunday, alleging that they were being intimidated by Trinamool Congress workers.

However, the ruling party rejected the allegation and maintained that it had extended support to their cause and was in favour of all deserving teachers getting back their jobs.

"We are withdrawing our fast in the face of covert intimidation and threats by TMC activists roaming in the area. Though the police are present here, we don't feel safe to sit in the open for hours," Suman Biswas, who was a teacher at Nakashipara High School in Nadia district, said.

Refuting the allegations, Trinamool Chhatra Parishad chief Trinankur Bhattacharya said, "The party or its wings are not involved in intimidating or threatening the agitating teachers. It is to be seen if they are acting at the behest of the CPI (M) or the BJP."



Teachers staging a protest at Salt Lake in Kolkata. FILE PHOTO

in intimidating or threatening the agitating teachers. It is to be seen if they are acting at the behest of the CPI (M) or the BJP."

The Supreme Court had on April 3 invalidated the appointments of 25,753 teachers and other non-teaching staff in State-run and -aided schools, terming their selection process "vitiated and tainted".

Mr. Biswas, along with Pankaj Roy and Pratap Kumar Saha, had started their fast outside the office of the West Bengal School Service Commission in Salt Lake on April 10.

The teachers ended their fast with coconut water, which was offered to them by a rights activist.

## Buddhist monks protest against 75-year-old law that administers sacred site of Bodh Gaya

## SPOTLIGHT

## Amarnath Tewary

There is barely anyone at the site of the peepal tree on the banks of the now-dry Niranjana river, where Siddhartha Gautama became the Buddha, after he is believed to have attained *sammasambodhi* (perfect enlightenment). The tree is located at the Mahabodhi temple complex in Bodh Gaya, 115 km south of Patna, Bihar's capital. Within the temple, too, visitors are sparse.

A couple of kilometres away, about 300 male monks are sitting in protest, interspersed with a few women in white, in front of a gold Buddha statue.

The Buddhist monks, under the banner of the All India Buddhist Forum (AIBF), have been protesting in the temple town since February 12 demanding the repeal of the Bodh Gaya Temple Act (BT), 1949, which was enacted to regulate the temple's management and resolve disputes between Hindus and Buddhists.

"We want full control of the temple management committee. Why should there be members from other religions to run our temple management?" says Akash Lama, the monk spearheading the protest. He says the demand is not new, but now, the Buddhist community is determined to



Buddhist monks along with members of the Bhim Army staging a silent protest, in Bihar's Bodh Gaya, demanding the repealing of the Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949; (right) the Mahabodhi Temple complex, where the Buddha is believed to have attained enlightenment. R.V. MOORTHY



join FREE Telegram Channel <https://t.me/Bu7senHpQdhlODg1> and an assault on the freedom of religion," Akash says.

In the 1990s, the then government under Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav had drafted the Bodh Gaya Mahavihara Bill to replace the BT Act, allegedly to hand over the management of the temple to the Buddhist community. The Bill had prohibited idol immersion near the temple and Hindu marriages inside, but it was never passed.

In 2015, the AIBF was formed in Siliguri, West Bengal, and since then the group, along with several other Buddhist organisations, have been demanding the repeal of the BT Act. In November 2023, Buddhist monks had held a rally in Gaya and submitted a memorandum to the Central and State governments to ask for this, but when it did not have the desired result, the monks again held a rally in Patna in 2024. They began the indefinite protest on February 12. It has been two months now, and their numbers are growing.

The Buddhist-Hindu debate reached Parliament in April this year, during the debates on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which sought to include non-Muslims on boards governing Waqf property, and also put District Collectors in charge of disputes in their areas. Upendra Kushwaha, currently an MP in the Rajya

ways seen pilgrims from across the world visit it, including Chinese travellers Fa-hien and Hiuen Tsang, who visited the area in the 5th and 7th centuries A.D., and left accounts of the pilgrimage spots, among other aspects.

In the early 13th century, however, Bakhtiyar Khilji, a Turk-Afghan general of the Ghurid ruler Mohammad of Ghor, led the Muslim conquests of the eastern Indian regions of Bengal and Bihar. Buddhism saw a decline, and in 1590, a Hindu monk, Ghamandi Giri, established the Bodh Gaya mutt, a Shaivite monastery.

The Shaivites believe that Buddha was the ninth incarnation of the Hindu Lord Vishnu, hence they have a claim over the temple. Hindu priests began to manage the temple thereafter. In the complex of over 11 acres stands a temple of the Hin-

du deity Jagannath.

In the 19th century, a Buddhist monk, Hevavirana Dharmapala, called Anagarika, or one who gives up worldly possessions, travelled to India. In 1895, as the honorary general secretary of the Mahabodhi Society in then Ceylon, he took over not allowing him to place an image of Buddha in the temple.

The contentious issue was raised at the Gaya session of the Congress in 1922 and a committee under Dr. Rajendra Prasad was constituted for the resolution of the conflict between Hindus and Buddhists for control over the temple site.

After Independence, the Bihar government brought in the BT Act, which stipulated that all Buddhists and Hindus had the right to worship at the temple. "The ve-

ry Act is illegal, unconstitu-

tional.

He says the delegation

to the temple site.

amarnath.tewary@the-hindu.co.in

**LINK TO THE FULL STORY**

» <https://bit.ly/3RReXVi>

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	37	20
Safdarjung	37	20
Palam	36	21

**Delhi Palam Today**  
35°C The dry weather to continue. Day will be warm and uneasy. Night will be pleasant.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
37°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be very warm with uneasy afternoon. Night also will be pleasant.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2025  
All rights reserved.

Timings	DELHI
MONDAY, APR. 14	
RISE 05:57	SET 18:46
RISE 20:07	SET 06:22
TUESDAY, APR. 15	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:47
RISE 21:03	SET 06:54
WEDNESDAY, APR. 16	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:48
RISE 22:01	SET 07:31

## Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number  
**1800 102 1878**  
Or write to us at  
**customercare@thehindu.co.in**



THE HINDU [thehindu.businessline.com](http://thehindu.businessline.com)  
FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR YOUNG WORLD THE HINDU

## CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT  
[www.thehinduads.com](http://www.thehinduads.com)

CALL: 011-43579738 • 011-43579797  
or Contact your nearest Authorised space sellers

### EDUCATIONAL GENERAL

# ANTHRO 2026

**Batch Starts: May 6**

**Admissions Open**

**37 VAIDS' Students have Qualified Mains 2024**

No Institute declares Mains' Optionals' Results... Yet show many more Final Selections... How? THINK!

**TARGET IAS 2025**

Vaid Sir's Enrichment & Mentorship Programme  
Exclusive for candidates to appear in Mains 2025

to know more visit [www.vaidics.com](http://www.vaidics.com) or call 953 800 1600



### EDUCATIONAL

### GENERAL

**AMBITION LAW INSTITUTE**

Last Opportunity to Join at Lowest Fee (Now or Never)

<b>JUDICIARY</b>	<b>न्यायिक सेवा (नियंत्रण विभाग)</b>
ONLINE ₹ 1,25,000/-	ONLINE ₹ 50,000/-
OFFLINE ₹ 1,50,000/-	OFFLINE ₹ 60,000/-
HYBRID ₹ 2,00,000/-	HYBRID ₹ 70,000/-
8800660301	

<b>IAS-LAW (OPTIONAL)</b>	<b>CLAT / L.L.B. / CUET-UG / PG</b>
ONLINE ₹ 35,000/-	1 Year ₹ 35,000/-
OFFLINE ₹ 40,000/-	2 Years ₹ 55,000/-
HYBRID ₹ 45,000/-	HYBRID ₹ 55,000/-
8800662140	

GST Extra | One-time Payment | Non-Negotiable Fees | Limited Offer  
Book your seat immediately to avoid disappointment.

B-10, 1st Floor, Opposite Meenut Sweets, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-9  
[ambitionlawinstitute.com](http://ambitionlawinstitute.com) | Ambition Law Institute |

**AMBITION PUBLICATIONS**

Both English & Hindi  
Bar Acts (including New Criminal laws).  
All state judicial PYQ with answers & Explanation.  
Case Laws books & other books.

[ambitionpublications.com](http://ambitionpublications.com) +91-8506050204

### EDUCATIONAL

### GENERAL

**AMBITION PUBLICATIONS**

Both English & Hindi  
Bar Acts (including New Criminal laws).  
All state judicial PYQ with answers & Explanation.  
Case Laws books & other books.

[ambitionpublications.com](http://ambitionpublications.com) +91-8506050204

**THE HINDU**  
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

## OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

### BIRTH CENTENARY

#### 100th Birthday Remembrance



**V. BALASUBRAMANIAN**

(Retd. The Hindu)

Born : 14.04.1925 Died : 13.01.2021

Wife : B.Neelambari

Daughter : B.Geetha

Son : B.Vedanarayanan

(Retd. The Hindu)

DIL : Bhagirathi Vedanarayanan

Son : B.Ramesh

9940081750, 9445390160, 6383573068

For enquiries on announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following number between 10.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.

New Delhi : 011-43579797

Rate for New Delhi :

(Minimum Rs. 335/- 2 Lines

Extra Line - Rs. 170/-)

(B/W Display) : Rs. 65/- Per Sq.cm

(C/L Display) : Rs. 75/- Per Sq.cm

For Placing

Advertisements Online

log on to

[www.thehinduads.com](http://www.thehinduads.com)

## TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

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

THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

## WESTERN RAILWAY

### MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

### VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/20/2025 Date 09.04.2025

Tender Notice No & Name of the work: Tender No.- "29-GKP-MWS-2024-25-1" "Interior and exterior coach painting with lettering, underframe scrapping, cleaning and painting along with complete cleaning of MEMU coaches in Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur". Estimated cost (in ₹) : ₹ 38,21,702.68, Earnest Money (in ₹) : ₹ 76,400.00, Last date of tender submission: Upto 11.00, Date: 05.05.2025, Cost of the Tender forms (in ₹): Zero, Period of Contract: 08 Months, Note: The details of above tender are also available on Indian Railway website <http://www.irps.gov.in>.

0038, Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](#) • Follow us on: [X.com/WesternRly](#)

"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

## NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

### E-Tender Notice

By CME/Works, for Chief Workshop Manager N.E., Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur-for and on behalf of President of India invites Open tender through on line (E-Tendering) for the following work-E-Tender Notice No & Name of the work: Tender No.- "29-GKP-MWS-2024-25-1" "Interior and exterior coach painting with lettering, underframe scrapping, cleaning and painting along with complete cleaning of MEMU coaches in Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur". Estimated cost (in ₹) : ₹ 38,21,702.68, Earnest Money (in ₹) : ₹ 76,400.00, Last date of tender submission: Upto 11.00, Date: 05.05.2025, Cost of the Tender forms (in ₹): Zero, Period of Contract: 08 Months, Note: The details of above tender are also available on Indian Railway website <http://www.irps.gov.in>".

By CME/Works, Mechanical Workshop CP/Ro/Mech-08, Gorakhpur

"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"



THE HINDU GROUP

**SPORTSTAR  
INDIAN  
POSTER  
LEAGUE**

Play now & start winning!

1. Which English professional football team is nicknamed 'The Red Devils' for its distinctive red jerseys?
2. Which national football team is famously nicknamed 'The Three Lions' because of their crest featuring three lions and ten red roses?
3. Which English footballer became the first to win league titles in four different countries—England, Spain, the United States, and France?



Scan QR code or visit [newsth.live/SSIPLPA](http://newsth.live/SSIPLPA) to take the quiz. Get all three answers right and unlock a legendary Sportstar poster.

Top 3 winners\* every day win gift vouchers.

Yesterday's poster:  
Agassi

Yesterday's Winners:

1. Aadhith Jinish, Palakkad | 2. Abhijeet Ranjan, Patna | 3. Aftab Alam, New Delhi

THE HINDU

# EDUCATION PLUS

GET THE EDGE Follow us [facebook.com/thehindu](http://facebook.com/thehindu) [twitter.com/the\\_hindu](http://twitter.com/the_hindu) [instagram.com/the\\_hindu](http://instagram.com/the_hindu)

## Re-crafting thinking patterns

Understanding their own needs and development as adult learners can help teachers relate better to their students

**T.T. Srinath**

**D**uring a conversation with teachers, which revolved around needs being met or not met by the institution, many 'teachers' expressed unhappiness with some of their fundamental needs being unmet. These included aspects that Abraham Maslow, a psychologist in the 1950s, defined as "Hierarchy of Needs". Maslow's theory postulates that human needs operate at five levels in the form of a pyramid. At the bottom are basic or physiological needs, such as food and clothing. From here, an individual rises through four other layers to the top where one 'self-actualises' and realises one's purpose in life.'

### How we view things

Many teachers were stuck at Level 3: the need for love and belonging. To help them understand the way they think and how that could impact the way they behave and teach, I use a model developed by Robert Kegan, an American developmental psychologist. He explained that developing as an adult was not about learning new things but about transforming the way we view things. In Kegan's model, which also follows a pyramidal



structure, the bottom is classified as an 'impulsive mind', which is limited by our ability to consider other perspectives. This is similar to what Maslow says is our 'psychological need' for self-preservation. Kegan explains that an adult's thinking graduates from the bottom and rises through four layers to the top, as the individual evolves into what he describes as having a 'transforming mindset', characterised by a capacity to learn and grow, which par-

allels Maslow's 'self-actualisation' stage. When the two models were explained, the teachers recognised that their need for love and belonging bore heavily on what Kegan calls 'Socialised Mind', which was Level 3 in the pyramid and reflected a need for external validation. When invited to explore their thought processes, many understood that their thinking was affected by their environment. As teachers whose es-

task perspective and were divorced from appreciating their own state of mind. Hence recognising how the hierarchy of needs was playing out in them and affecting their thinking provided them a handle to appreciate how personal transformation can take place.

The teachers also sensed that their evolving thoughts and needs were not strictly linear with one need leading to the next but that multiple needs were present at the same time. These affected their thoughts and manifested in their behaviour and communication in class. At the end of the session, the teachers wished to understand the Kegan model better, as it explained to them that developing as an 'adult learner' involved personal transformation and changing the manner in which they view the world, rather than learning new things.

GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

In conclusion, Kegan's model combined with Maslow's hierarchy of needs lays out a clear path on how we may re-craft our patterns of thinking and cultivate a more authentic way of relating as teachers to students. The writer is an organisational and behavioural consultant and visiting professor at the Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai. Email [ttsrinath@gmail.com](mailto:ttsrinath@gmail.com)

### SCHOLARSHIPS

#### The Cadence Scholarship

An initiative to support students pursuing higher education.

**Eligibility:** Indian nationals

from lower-income families who are residing and studying in Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Pune, Ahmedabad, or Hyderabad and have scored 60% overall in Class 12.

Preference will be given to girls, specially abled or transgender students and those pursuing STEM courses.

**Reward:** Support for educational expenses



## Forced get-together

Political expediency dictated the coming together of AIADMK and BJP

**U**nion Home Minister Amit Shah displayed political urgency when he formalised the BJP's reunion with the AIADMK, a year ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly election. A cautious Edappadi K. Palaniswami, the leader of the AIADMK, was also persuaded to endorse a pre-poll agreement to form a coalition government. Coming just days after the AIADMK's Rajya Sabha MPs voted against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, the move places the Dravidian party firmly in the NDA camp and severely restricts any leeway for it to take an independent line on issues of public interest. The newly stitched-up alliance could also lead to an electoral polarisation, narrowing the field for fence-sitters and marginal players who now have to choose between the fronts led by the DMK and the AIADMK to make any impact at all in the first-past-the-post system. Besides the electoral arithmetic, the BJP high command must have been conscious that time is needed to revive the chemistry between the two parties and to mount a cohesive campaign to dislodge the DMK. The BJP might also have been uneasy with the DMK's growing national visibility, especially after its leader and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched the Joint Action Committee for Fair Delimitation with support from parties in seven States. Not surprisingly, Mr. Shah accused the DMK of raising the three-language policy, delimitation, and NEET exemption to divert attention from governance failures. But with the AIADMK's stand on these issues not very different from the DMK's, how these will be handled in a common minimum programme remains to be seen.

To dispel the perception that the BJP is exploiting a weakened AIADMK, Mr. Shah affirmed that the alliance would fight the elections under Mr. Palaniswami's leadership. He also avoided pushing for any patch-up with splinter groups of the AIADMK saying such matters were internal affairs. The timing of the alliance announcement overshadowed the transition in the BJP's State leadership – from K. Annamalai to Nainar Nagenthiran – and Mr. Shah ensured that this did not appear as a concession to the AIADMK, which had strongly opposed Mr. Annamalai. But surely, the elevation of Mr. Nagenthiran, a former AIADMK member, could smoothen relations. The NDA is likely to include the PMK and TMC (Moopanar); whether the AIADMK rebels, who joined hands with the BJP in the 2024 general election, will still find a place in the new alliance is unclear. The 2026 election is poised to be a two-way contest involving the DMK-led alliance and the NDA; the Naam Tamil Katchi, with an 8% vote share, and actor Vijay's newly formed Tamilaga Vettiri Kazhagam will likely bring up the rear. With Mr. Shah levelling corruption charges against the DMK, there is also the likelihood of central agencies being more active in the State. Although the alliance is sewn up, the NDA could find it challenging to finalise a seat-sharing formula that is acceptable to the many claimants.

## Communal cauldron

Political parties are fanning riots in West Bengal ahead of polls

**T**he three deaths in Murshidabad district during protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act have exposed the deep political fault lines and the festering communal divide in West Bengal. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's repeated assurances that she would protect minority interests, and that the Act would not be implemented in the State, have done little to assuage the Muslim community. The violence, which began on April 8, continues unabated despite prohibitory orders and the suspension of Internet services. Mob attacks on public property have been reported from the Jangipur subdivision of Murshidabad and other parts of the State, including Kolkata. West Bengal has been a simmering communal cauldron for quite some time. Both the ruling Trinamool Congress and the Opposition BJP have sought to exploit communal polarisation for political gain. While the TMC tacitly encouraged Muslim protests against the Waqf amendments, the BJP backed communally charged Ram Navami processions across the State. Although the police have now warned of strict action against lawbreakers, their inaction before and during the current flare-up has been evident. The Calcutta High Court has since intervened, ordering the deployment of central armed police forces in Murshidabad.

The State remains on edge ahead of every major religious festival, and policing has grown weak and increasingly politicised. Even though Murshidabad witnessed similar violence in 2019 during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the administration has failed to prevent the current unrest. The violence is unfolding in one of the State's most impoverished regions, where men migrate for work and women earn a living by rolling beedis. As tensions have escalated over the Ram Navami processions and the Waqf amendment, political parties have chosen to fan the flames rather than promote calm. This is part of a larger and troubling trend seen across the country. The Mamata Banerjee government must act swiftly and impartially to restore normalcy. The rule of law must be firmly established, and the police must prevent violence. With Assembly elections due in a year, the BJP and the TMC appear intent on pandering to communal sentiments for political gain. This must change. The focus must shift to governance and development. As the party in power, the TMC cannot absolve itself of responsibility by merely blaming the BJP.

# A Governor's conduct and a judgment of significance

**L**ast week, in a judgment of wide-ranging significance, in *The State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor of Tamil Nadu and Anr.*, a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court of India, comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwal and Justice R. Mahadevan, reaffirmed the limits that bind gubernatorial authority. In doing so, the Court reminded us of a constitutional truth that ought to be self-evident: the Governor of a State is neither an appendage of the Union nor an independent power centre, but is constrained by legal norms and democratic principle.

**A need to respect democratic obligations**  
At the heart of the case was a seemingly simple but institutionally weighty question: what happens when a Governor fails to act on a Bill duly passed by the State's legislature? The answers from the Court not only helped validate a clutch of Bills passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly – each of which had languished without assent – but also contained in them a broader message. The office of the Governor, while significant, is not exempt from the obligations of representative democracy. To withhold assent indefinitely, without reason, subverts the constitutional order.

Initially numbering 12, the contested Bills trace their origins to as far as 2020, with two enacted under the previous regime in the State. Among them were Bills that sought to supplant the Governor's power to appoint Vice-Chancellors to public universities – proposals that emanated out of a long-standing skirmish between the Raj Bhavan and the elected government over institutional control.

For years, the Governor took no discernible action. When the State government moved the Supreme Court in November 2023, he promptly referred two of the Bills to the President for her consideration. The Legislative Assembly, in turn, convened a special session to reenact the remaining 10 Bills. But when these were sent to the Governor, he swiftly passed them on to the President. Since then, the President assented to only one, rejected seven outright, and left two pending.

It was this sequence of events which formed the basis for the State government's case in the Court. The Governor, through his conduct, the State claimed, had undermined the people's will. His prolonged inaction, and ultimately delayed referral, therefore, demanded judicial scrutiny.

India's federal design rests on a delicate balance. The Constitution carefully demarcates legislative authority between the Union and the States. Article 245 prescribes the territorial jurisdiction of each, allowing Parliament to legislate for the entire country or any part thereof, while State legislatures are confined to their respective territories.

The scope of legislative powers is categorised into three distinct lists outlined in the

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



**Suhrit Parthasarathy**

is an advocate practising in the Madras High Court

Constitution's Seventh Schedule. The Union enjoys exclusive authority over items in List I, while subjects in List III allow for legislation by both the Union and State governments. Matters in List II, on the other hand, remain under the sole legislative domain of the States. However, in the event of conflict with a parliamentary law, primacy is given to the Union legislation.

In this scheme, the Governor, though appointed by the President, functions as the constitutional head of the State. Barring specific instances where the Constitution expressly permits discretion, he is bound to act on the advice of the State's Council of Ministers.

### A reading of Article 200

It is in this context that Article 200 of the Constitution, which deals with how a Governor ought to assent to a Bill, assumed significance before the Court. Much of the dispute turned on its interpretation. On a plain reading of Article 200, the Governor may: grant assent; withhold assent (and return the Bill to the Assembly for reconsideration), or reserve the Bill for the President's consideration.

The Union of India, in their response to Tamil Nadu's petition, contended that the first proviso to Article 200 provided the Governor an independent, fourth course of action: he could simply withhold his assent to a Bill, without referring it back to the Assembly. In other words, he could perform a pocket-veto.

But this argument had expressly been rejected by the Court in *State of Punjab vs Principal Secretary to the Governor of Punjab* (2023). There, it found that the proviso to Article 200 contains no independent power. Once an ordinary Bill is passed by the Assembly, the Governor has only one of three options available: to either assent to it, or reserve it for the President's consideration, or withhold the assent, in which case, the Governor must also refer it back to the Assembly for reconsideration.

It was also the Union's case that in deciding whether to reserve a Bill for the President's assent, the Governor could exercise an autonomous discretion. That is, he had the independent ability to decide what course of action to follow. In answering this argument, the Court harked to the debates in the Constituent Assembly. It noted that the draft version of Article 200 (then Article 175) had explicitly stated that the Governor "may, in his discretion" reserve a Bill for the consideration of the President. This phrase was consciously omitted in the adopted version. Its removal, the Court held, was deliberate, aimed at ensuring that the Governor's role was constrained by the advice of the elected executive.

Indeed, the Court identified only three narrow circumstances in which the Governor could act without ministerial counsel: first, where the second proviso to Article 200 applied, that is

where a Bill derogated from a High Court's powers; second, where a Bill fell within a class for which presidential assent was explicitly mandated, such as under Article 31C where a law was sought to be protected from judicial review; and third, where a Bill so fundamentally undermined constitutional values.

This conclusion came with an important caveat. Even where a Governor exercises discretion, the action is still amenable to judicial review. Relying on its earlier judgment in *Rameshwar Prasad vs Union of India* (2006), the Court found that while Article 361 grants personal immunity to Governors, it does not insulate their actions from legal scrutiny. Consider the alternative: a Governor may simply paralyse the legislative process by sitting over Bills for years on end, all the while hiding behind the cloak of gubernatorial immunity, choking, in the process, the entire governance of a State.

In any event, in this case, the Court found that there was no discretion available to the Governor. Having chosen to withhold assent, he could not plausibly have then referred the Bills to the President, on their being re-presented to him. There was no trace of executive advice backing his decisions nor were his acts grounded in any identifiable, let alone defensible, constitutional rationale. Having found the Governor's actions unconstitutional, the Court could no doubt have considered issuing what the law describes as a writ of mandamus, compelling him to grant his assent to the Bills. But given the substantial time that had lapsed and given that previous Court decisions had been overlooked, the Court chose the ostensibly extreme option. With a view to achieving complete justice – a power available to it under Article 142 – it declared that these 10 Bills would be deemed to have been assented to on the date when they were re-presented to the Governor.

Some might see this as judicial overreach, but issuing a mandamus might well have been rather more unworkable. Should the Court's orders be breached, it cannot plausibly hold the Governor in contempt. Therefore, the ultimate direction must be seen as a logical *sequitur* to the Court's findings: on the Bills being passed anew by the State Assembly, and on the Council of Ministers recommending their assent, the Governor was left with no discretion in the matter.

### The larger message

The significance of the judgment for the specific Bills, which were at stake, is plain to see. But the verdict also carries with it a larger message. It upholds a fact intrinsic to our Republic: that the Governor, though appointed by the Union government, functions on the aid and advice of the State executive; the office is meant to serve not as a source of political disputes, but as a constitutional sentinel, upholding the values of representative democracy.

# Adding a French touch to India's Olympic dream

**T**he 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games were extraordinary organisational, popular and sporting successes, and hailed as such worldwide. The stunning venues and ceremonies in the heart of the city of love and across France, the memorable prowess of the athletes, and the unbridled enthusiasm throughout the country thrilled spectators and television viewers around the world. The Games built bridges and brought people together – which is all the more important in the current geopolitical context.

France is grateful that India fully participated in the festivities and contributed to the success of the Games. The Indian Paralympic delegation made a record-breaking performance in Paris, reaching the 18th position in the medals tally. Further, under an international cooperation framework, India sent K9 teams (canine) abroad for the first time to patrol various Olympic venues, reinforcing France's meticulously-planned security arrangements. The first Indian hospitality centre in the Games' history, India House, was set up during the 2024 Olympics and opened to visitors strolling through the iconic "Nations Park".

### Expertise that will be shared

Paris 2024 was also the most sustainable and inclusive Games. It reduced the carbon footprint of the Games by 54.6% when compared with the average for the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Games, setting new standards for international sporting events and their impact on the people. It made history by achieving gender parity with the equal participation of male and female athletes, and invested massively to make the Games accessible for spectators with disabilities. These achievements were made possible by bold and innovative approaches and the great collective effort of France's central and regional governments, the Olympic Organising Committee, various sports movements and sponsoring companies. France has developed



**Samuel Ducroquet**

is France's Ambassador-at-Large for Sport

Paris is working to boost India-France sports cooperation and share its expertise in organising major sporting events

Join FREE Telegram Channel <https://t.me/+Bu7senHpQdhODg1>  
very special and comprehensive expertise that it now aims to share with its partners under its sports diplomacy. This is one of the main objectives of my visit to India.

### India's Olympic bid

France has also noted how sports have been playing an increasingly important role in Indian society and economy, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently upholding sports as an "essential aspect in the development of the country". Besides India's 2036 Games bid and, more broadly, the organisation of international sporting events, the Indian authorities and sports movements are proactively developing sporting practices and focusing on improving performance, as recently demonstrated by the decision to establish 10 Olympic training centres across the nation.

Sports are hence another area of cooperation with promising prospects. Mutual interest in deepening exchanges have been expressed at the highest levels: President Emmanuel Macron and Mr. Modi highlighted this during the French President's visit to India in January 2024 and more recently, Mr. Modi's visit to France in February 2025.

In July 2023, a joint declaration of intent on sports was concluded between our respective sports ministries to increase exchanges between sports delegations and federations, economic actors of the sports industry, and experts of international sporting events. In January 2024, the India-France Joint Statement welcomed the strengthening of sports cooperation and reaffirmed that France would share its experience of hosting the Paris 2024 Games with India as it bids to host the 2036 Games.

Against this backdrop, my mission in Delhi and Chennai as Ambassador-at-Large for Sport aims to enhance France's understanding of India's sports ecosystem and meet its various institutional and economical players to deepen already identified areas of cooperation and explore new ones.

The sharing of expertise in organising major international sporting events, as well as their long-term social and environmental legacy, has already begun. Institutional exchanges have been taking place, with several delegations from India's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports having visited France in September 2024 during the Paralympic Games. As India's 2036 project takes shape, my visit will help identify India's needs more precisely, so that our dialogue can advance in line with India's targeted priorities.

### A vibrant industry that has much to offer

The medium-term idea is also to bring new players to the table, particularly economic ones. The French sports industry is particularly dynamic: in 2023, it generated a turnover of €75 billion (₹6.7 lakh crore approximately at that time), which is much higher, for example, than that of the aerospace industry (€65 billion). With around 1,28,000 companies of all sizes, its offering is diverse, ranging from construction, major equipment, data analysis, to ticketing and consumer experience. While some of these companies, such as Decathlon, are already household names in the Indian market, many are looking to expand here soon. We are also seeing promising new partnerships, including the recent one between Tata Consultancy Services and Amaury Sport Organisation for the Paris Marathon.

Lastly, enhancing exchanges between our two countries' sports movements and professionals – such as athletes or coaches – is a constant priority for France's sports diplomacy, the main goal being to boost youth exchanges with India. In this regard, one of the most recent success stories is that of the Indian and French surfing federations, which signed a cooperation agreement last November, under which four Indians under 21 years of age were invited to participate in an international competition in Reunion Island, a French overseas territory in the Indian Ocean.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Court and the Governor

Once again, the judiciary has saved democracy. The Supreme Court's ruling on the exercise of powers by Governors to clear Bills within a reasonable time or be subject to judicial review has provided relief to States. The Court has laid to rest the ambiguity that

enabled Governors to 'harass' non-BJP ruled States by delaying Bills. It is observed that the BJP intends to convey to voters that only a 'double engine sarkar' can govern without obstructions. Other governments will be frustrated through its 'institutions' of the

Governor, the Enforcement Directorate and other central agencies.

P.R. Ravinder,  
Hyderabad

The verdict is a clear case of judicial overreach. The two-judge Bench could have referred the matter to the constitutional full Bench

for prudent adjudication.  
**Devadas K. Nair,**  
Palakkad, Kerala

### Corrections & Clarifications

A sentence in the second paragraph of an explainer, "What has the T.N. Governor?" (FAQ page, April 13, 2025), should have read: "In all other cases, once a Bill has been passed by both Houses of the legislature, the Governor can exercise one of three options: grant assent, withhold assent and return the Bill to the Assembly for reconsideration, or reserve it for the President's consideration."

The Tamil Nadu government's decision to pass the Bills without the

assent of either the Governor or the President cannot be taken lightly. It was unwise indeed to undermine the authority of a constitutional functionary as it amounts to disrespecting the Constitution of India itself.

**V. Lakshmanan,**  
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

# Saving traditional varieties of seeds

**I**magine an India where every farmer grows the same handful of crops – wheat, rice, and a few vegetables – while thousands of traditional seed varieties disappear. This is not a distant future; it is happening now.

For centuries, India's seeds of traditional varieties have been the backbone for food security and a key component of the country's rich cultural heritage. While new hybrid varieties have held the promise of high yields, they have come with a cost – greater dependence on chemical fertilisers, water-dependant farming, increased vulnerability to climate shocks, and altered food quality and nutrient content. The irony? At a time when extreme weather events are threatening food production, we are sidelining the very varieties that can withstand droughts, floods, and replenish depleted soils.

**Structure of the food system**  
Even when we know their benefits, why are traditional varieties disappearing? The truth is: the problem is not just about seeds of traditional varieties; it is about how the entire food system is structured, creating issues that make it hard, if not impossible, for traditional seeds to survive. The first issue is of market demand and consumer preferences. Most Indian consumers unknowingly contribute to the loss of traditional seeds. Supermarkets, government food programmes, and households favour high-yielding rice and wheat, sidelining traditional, climate-resilient grains of millets, pulses and indigenous rice varieties. As there is no demand, farmers hesitate to grow these varieties.

The second issue is that unlike hybrid seeds that are mass-produced and sold commercially, traditional seeds rely on community exchange and local conservation. However, India lacks enough well-funded community seed banks to store and conserve these varieties.

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



**Costanza Conti**

Policy Research Lead at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)



**E.D. Israel Oliver King**

Biodiversity Program Director, MSSRF



**Rengalakshmi**

Executive Director, Area Operations, MSSRF

At a time when extreme weather events are threatening food production, we are sidelining the very varieties that can withstand droughts, floods, and replenish depleted soils

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

Third, India's agricultural policies have historically promoted high-yielding varieties, in a well-meaning attempt to prioritise food production and boost food security. However, this has inadvertently caused a trade-off in terms of biodiversity and nutritional quality. While initiatives such as the Odisha Millet Mission have attempted to change this, most government subsidies and procurement programmes are slow to catch up. Even agricultural research and development has focused more on increasing productivity of a few crops, rather than focusing on conserving and improving genetic diversity and enhancing climate resilience.

#### Conservation efforts

While challenges persist, the fight to save India's traditional seed varieties is not lost. Many organisations have been leading the way in conserving and reviving indigenous varieties and neglected crops for over 30 years. For instance, MSSRF's Tribal Agrobiodiversity Centre in Jeypore, Odisha, recently held a national consultation, which brought together different stakeholders and fostered discussion on how to build climate resilient, sustainable, and inclusive seed systems.

From this consultation, a road map started to emerge on the way forward. No single solution will work to save India's seeds of traditional varieties and crops – recognising farmers' knowledge and rights, strengthening community seed bank networks, initiating alternative seed systems to support local crops and varieties, providing market incentives, and promoting policy changes are all actions that must go hand in hand.

For too long, India's research and development efforts have focused on improved/high-yield varieties that prioritise productivity over climate resilience. A shift is needed – one that funds participatory plant breeding programmes where

farmers work alongside scientists to share knowledge and develop improved traditional seeds.

Well-funded and easily reachable seed banks are critical to prevent seed losses for farmers. Governments must support the establishment of a network of regional conservation centres to prevent India from losing its genetic heritage forever.

Farmers will not grow crops that they cannot sell. The government must create support systems for processing and marketing and provide financial incentives for traditional crop cultivation, recognising their climate-resilient, environmental and nutrition benefits. Expanding Minimum Support Prices and procurement programmes for including these crops into school meals, hospitals, and ration shops can drive large-scale change.

Ultimately, the battle for traditional crops and varieties will be won in kitchens. Awareness campaigns and branding initiatives should highlight the health and environmental benefits of traditional crops. When consumers demand these such produce, the markets will respond, creating a cycle of production and consumption.

#### Time for action

India stands at a turning point. Rising cost of farming inputs, climate change, depleting soil health, and unhealthy food consumption make it clear that we cannot afford to rely only on high-yield crop varieties and market preferred crops. The good news? We do not need to choose between food security and sustainability. By investing in seeds of traditional crops and varieties, India can create a sustainable food system that is not just productive but also resilient, nutritious, and aligned with its agricultural heritage. The time for piecemeal solutions is over. We need coordinated national efforts and alliances between diverse stakeholders to restore the balance in our food system.

# Playing politics on the runway

The government should pay heed to the needs of passengers and not politicians

#### STATE OF PLAY

**Hemanth C.S.**

[hemanth.cs@thehindu.co.in](mailto:hemanth.cs@thehindu.co.in)

**S**eldom do infrastructure projects, especially in the mobility sector, catch the attention of lawmakers. The lack of attempts being made to fix Bengaluru's potholed roads or speed up the progress of the metro rail project indicate this apathy in the Karnataka's capital city.

However, one large project is drawing the attention of lawmakers. Even those outside the city seem interested in getting a slice of this massive real estate pie, which could be around 5,000 acres of land.

This project is the second greenfield international airport in Bengaluru, which is a necessity for the city as the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) will not be able to accommodate more than its peak capacity of 80 million-90 million passengers by the turn of the next decade.

With no scope for the KIA's expansion, the Karnataka government began exploring potential sites for the second airport a decade early, which is a welcome sign.

Having finalised three potential sites for the second airport – two on Kanakapura Road in south Bengaluru and one on Nelamangala-Kunigal Road – the Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation, the industrial and investment promotion agency of the State government, recently invited an Airports Authority of India (AAI) team to inspect them and conduct a feasibility study on these sites.

To coincide with the AAI team's visit, 42 legislators from various political parties led by veteran Congress lead-



er T.B. Jayachandra petitioned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to develop the airport at Sira in Tumakuru district, which is about 120 kilometres from Bengaluru. Prior to this, Home Minister Dr. G Parameshwara had also pitched for Tumakuru, his home district located north of Bengaluru, as the best location for a second airport.

The lobbying for the airport to be developed in these locations has deeper political overtones, especially given the ongoing battle over chief ministership between the incumbent, Mr. Siddaramaiah, and his deputy, D.K. Shivakumar. Two of the three short-listed sites which were inspected by the AAI team are part of, or are close to, Mr. Shivakumar's Assembly constituency, Kanakapura. Those who oppose the development of the airport in south Bengaluru have hinted that Mr. Shivakumar will stand to gain if the project comes up there.

Meanwhile, Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil said that the second airport is being constructed for the city and the decision is not about personal preferences. He said that the government would go by the Centre's directives, viability and feasibility reports, and a detailed project report prepared by global consultants. He also shot down the demands of the 42 legislators, stating that setting up a greenfield international

airport in Sira is not viable and that a district-level airport could, at best, be built there.

That leaves south Bengaluru as the most viable option. Is this a step in the right direction? Experts and IT heads and a majority of those living in the southern part of the city believe it is. Prior to the opening of the KIA in Devanahalli, located in north Bengaluru, there were calls for keeping operational the existing Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) airport, located in the eastern part of the city, for commercial operations or at least short-haul flights. Protesters demanding this argued that commuting to KIA would be tedious for those living in south and east Bengaluru due to traffic woes. But the HAL airport had to close commercial operations due to an agreement between the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation and Bengaluru International Airport Limited, the operator of KIA. As per the agreement signed on July 5, 2004, no airport can operate within an aerial distance of 150 km of the airport before the 25th anniversary of KIA, which falls in May 2033. As this agreement expires in 2033, KIA too will run out of capacity, paving the way for the second airport.

Residents of south Bengaluru point out that building an airport beyond the existing one does not address their concern. Besides, constructing an airport in southern Bengaluru would also thwart competition from the proposed Hosur airport, which the Tamil Nadu government is pursuing. After all, commuting to the proposed Hosur airport to board a domestic flight would be a better option for residents of the southern part of the city than travelling more than two hours to reach KIA or an airport beyond it.

# Urban consumers are worried about their income levels

The fact that incomes are stagnant while prices have increased suggests that city residents are struggling to meet expenses

#### DATA POINT

##### The Hindu Data Team

**T**his March, while a significant share of urban consumers remained optimistic about job opportunities, many continued to be pessimistic about income levels. This suggests that although jobs are available in urban areas, income growth has stagnated. Notably, pessimism around income levels is even more pronounced in rural areas.

Moreover, a majority of urban consumers said that commodity prices have risen compared to a year ago and, as a result, their spending has increased. Coupled with stagnant incomes, this has led to a greater share of urban consumers feeling pessimistic about the overall economic situation of the country despite improved sentiment regarding employment.

Urban perceptions are drawn from a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) survey conducted between March 1 and 10, 2025, covering respondents from 19 major cities. Rural perceptions are based on the first edition of a separate RBI survey, which gathered responses from households in rural and semi-urban areas across the country in the same period.

**Chart 1** shows the share of urban respondents who said that their employment opportunities have increased compared to a year ago. In March, 35.5% of respondents had said that their employment scenario had improved compared to a year ago, maintaining almost the same level recorded in the last one year.

**Chart 2** shows the share of urban respondents who said that their income levels have increased compared to a year ago. Only 23.8% claimed that their income levels have increased compared to a year ago – close to 12% points less than those who said that the job outlook has improved.

The steady recovery in percep-

tions about income levels, since the pandemic-related peak pessimism, saw a reversal in March 2024. From that month, optimism about income levels started to dip again. This negative trend persisted into March 2025 as well, with fewer than one in four urban respondents reporting any improvement in their income levels.

Charts 1 and 2, when read together, suggest that while a decent number of jobs are available in urban areas, income levels remain largely stagnant, as noted earlier.

Chart 3 presents the share of urban and rural respondents who reported a decline in their income compared to a year ago. Across all surveyed months, a consistently higher proportion of rural respondents expressed pessimism about their income levels compared to their urban counterparts. In March this year, 29.9% of rural respondents said that their income levels have declined compared to a year ago, higher than the 23.3% who said the same in urban areas.

Chart 4 illustrates the share of urban respondents who said that commodity prices have increased over the past year. As of March, over 90% continued to report that prices were higher than a year ago.

This perception appears to have influenced spending behaviour. Chart 5 shows the share of urban respondents who said that their spending has increased compared to the previous year. In March, over 80% reported higher spending levels compared to a year ago.

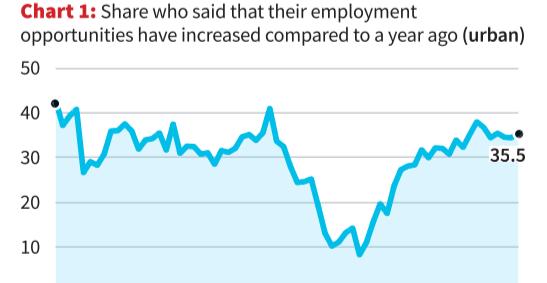
Charts 4 and 5 indicate that rising prices have led to higher spending. However, as Chart 2 shows, income levels are stagnant. This suggests that many urban residents may be struggling to make ends meet despite retaining their jobs. This had an effect on the overall economic perception of urban residents. Only 34.7% of them said in March that the overall economic situation has improved this year, compared to last year. This is the lowest such share of respondents in over a year (Chart 6).

#### Spending more, earning less

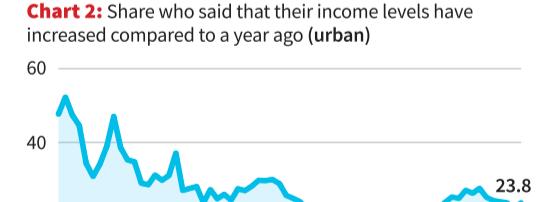
Data for the tables were sourced from the Reserve Bank of India's urban and rural consumer confidence surveys



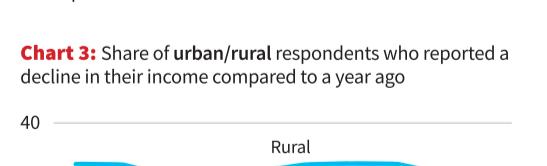
**Chart 1:** Share who said that their employment opportunities have increased compared to a year ago (urban)



**Chart 2:** Share who said that their income levels have increased compared to a year ago (urban)



**Chart 3:** Share of urban/rural respondents who reported a decline in their income compared to a year ago



# Text & Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

**Number of people killed in Russia's missile attack on Sumy**

**20** More than 20 people were killed in a Russian missile strike on the Ukrainian city of Sumy on Sunday. Two ballistic missiles struck the heart of the city at around 10:15 a.m. as people gathered to celebrate Palm Sunday. At least 83 people, including seven children, were injured. AP

**Palestinians killed since the ceasefire collapsed on March 18**

**1,574** An Israeli air strike damaged one of the few functioning hospitals in Gaza, as the Israeli military said it targeted a Hamas "command and control centre" operating in the facility. Gaza's health ministry said that at least 1,574 had been killed since March 18. AFP

**Complaints registered on the cyber crime helpline number 1930**

**1** lakh. The helpline number 1930 has become a potent weapon in the Mumbai police's fight against cybercrime in the last three years, with the number of complaints crossing the one lakh figure this week and the amount saved on behalf of victims standing at a whopping ₹241 crore. PTI

**Share of vacant posts across departments in Kashmir University**

**20** In per cent. Nearly 20% of the 2,859 sanctioned posts in the University of Kashmir were lying vacant as on February 2024, the varsity said in response to an application filed under the Right to Information Act (RTI), highlighting significant staff shortage across departments. PTI

**India's coal imports during the April-February period**

**240.7** In million tonnes. India's coal import dropped marginally by 1.4% to 240.77 million tonnes in the April-February period of FY25. India's coal import was 244.27 million tonnes in the year-ago period. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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

## Will Trump's tariffs bring in a recession?

U.S. President Trump declared on April 2 that the U.S. would henceforth be charging a minimum of 10% tariff on all its imports. While the markets recoiled with horror at the scale of the tariff increases, China has vowed to 'fight till the end' in what may turn out to be a prolonged and bitter trade war

### ECONOMIC NOTES

**Jayan Jose Thomas**

The U.S. has been the greatest champion of free trade and the chief architect of globalisation since the middle of the 20th century. However, in a stunning reversal of roles, U.S. President Donald Trump unleashed a carpet bombing of the global trading system on April 2, which he declared as "Liberation Day".

The U.S. tariff, or the tax America levies on imports from other countries, was 2 to 3% for two decades until 2024 (Chart 1). However, President Trump declared on April 2 that the U.S. would henceforth be charging a minimum of 10% tariff on all its imports. Imports from about 60 countries will have a significantly higher-level tariff – which is being described as "reciprocal" tariffs. These include tariffs of 20% on the European Union (EU), 27% on India, and 46% on Vietnam.

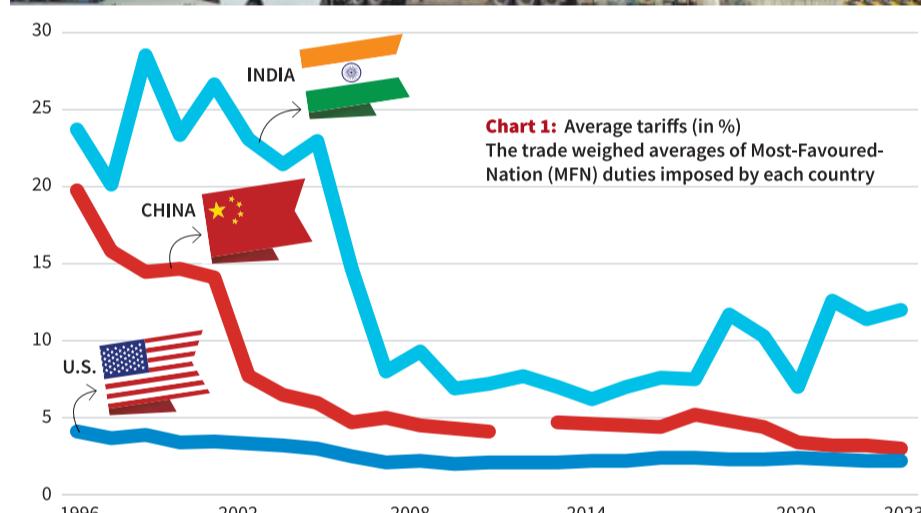
Tariffs of 25% were imposed in February itself on Mexico and Canada, the U.S.'s neighbours and two of its largest trading partners. But the biggest jolt has been the tariff imposed on China, which supplies one-sixth of all foreign goods the U.S. consumes. Imports from China to the U.S., as of April 11, will now face tariffs of 145% (Table 1).

The markets recoiled with horror at the scale of the tariff increases and their uncertainty. Stock markets nosedived. China has retaliated, returning each tariff blow with equal ferocity. It has imposed 125% tariffs on imports from the U.S. There is a distinct possibility that the U.S. and the world are heading towards a painful economic recession. On April 9, President Trump reversed some of his decisions, announcing a 90-day pause on "reciprocal" tariffs for most countries while insisting that the steep tariffs on China would take immediate effect.

A commodity with a price tag of \$100 imported from (say, Vietnam) would have cost \$103 in the U.S. market if tariffs were 3%. However, the same good must be purchased for \$146 when the newly announced tariffs take effect. Tariffs protect domestic industries from foreign competition but may lead to price increases.

**'Make America Great Again'**  
With its high per capita income and low tariffs, the U.S. has been the largest export market for goods from cars to computers, aiding the creation of manufacturing jobs in several countries. In 2022, China exported goods worth \$576 billion to the U.S., but the U.S., in return, could sell only \$154 billion worth of goods to China (Table 2). Overall, the U.S. had a trade deficit of \$1,311 billion, or 5% of its gross domestic product (GDP), in 2022. America has managed to continue buying more from the world than what it sells because of the dollar's position as the dominant international currency. That is primarily thanks to China, which continues to back dollar-denominated assets, storing significant portions of its large export surpluses in U.S. treasury bonds. Such a mutually beneficial relationship between the two largest economic powers has been the key driver of the globalisation of trade and finance since the 2000s.

However, globalisation creates inequalities not only in the developing but also in the developed world. In the U.S., sectors such as steel and automobiles have been among the most hit by import competition.



Join FREE Telegram Channel <https://t.me/+Bu7senHqQdhlODg1>

**Table 1: U.S. tariffs on selected countries and their export-GDP ratios**

	U.S. tariffs (%), as of April 9, 2025	Exports as % of GDP
India	27*	21.8
China	145	19.7
Canada	25	33.4
Mexico	25	36.0
Vietnam	46*	87.2
South Korea	26*	44.0

\*Yet to take effect due to the 90-day pause

**Table 2: U.S.'s trade with major trading partners in 2022 (in \$ billion)**

Partner Name	Export	Import	Trade Balance
All countries	2,062	3,373	-1,311
China	154	576	-422
Mexico	324	459	-135
Canada	355	447	-92
Japan	80	154	-74
Germany	73	150	-78
Vietnam	11	136	-124
South Korea	71	121	-49
<b>India</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>-44</b>
United Kingdom	77	65	13
Thailand	16	63	-47

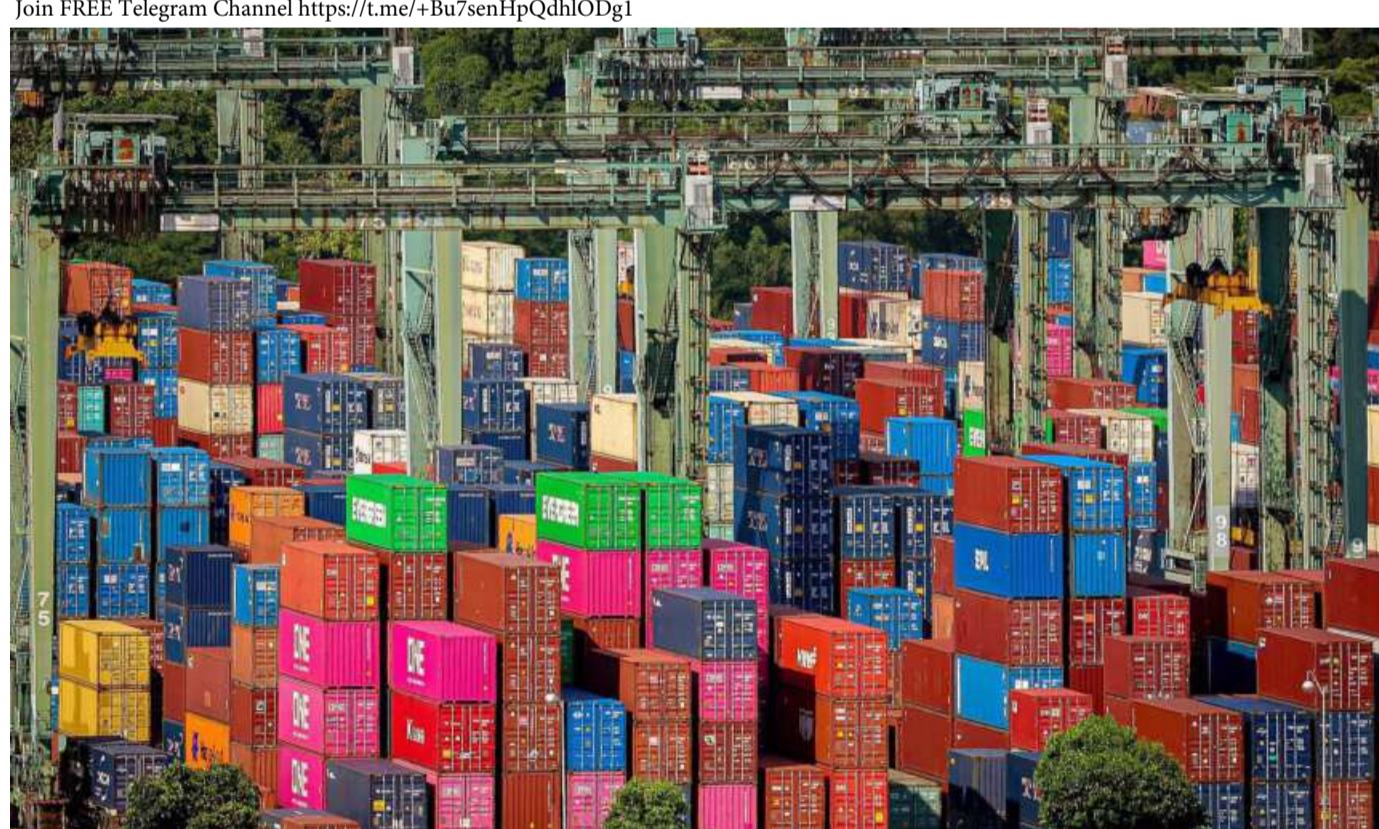
Sources: World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), The World Bank, World Trade Organization (WTO), World Development Indicators, The New York Times.

### THE GIST

With its high per capita income and low tariffs, the U.S. has been the largest export market for goods from cars to computers, aiding the creation of manufacturing jobs in several countries.

From now on, imports from about 60 countries will have a significantly higher level tariff — which is being described as "reciprocal" tariffs. These include tariffs of 20% on the European Union (EU), 27% on India, and 46% on Vietnam.

President Trump calls India a 'tariff king', referring to the marked increase in India's tariffs since 2018.



**Trade disruptions ahead:** Gantry cranes stand as containers stack below at Brani Terminal, operated by the PSA (Port of Singapore Authority) International Pte, Singapore on April 12. GETTY IMAGES

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

The resentment of the workers in these sectors — many of whom are white, middle-aged men — has been one of the factors that helped propel Mr. Trump to the U.S. presidency in 2016 and again in 2024. President Trump has promised to revive U.S. manufacturing, protecting it from competitors who, in earlier years, were allowed to "rip off" America with their imports.

Without a doubt, President Trump is playing with fire. With the higher tariffs, prices of most goods, especially consumer goods, will move upward, inflicting pain on ordinary Americans. It is doubtful if American firms can lift their production capabilities to serve at least a part of the demand created for them by making imports costlier.

#### China's gamble

China has vowed to "fight till the end" in what may turn out to be a prolonged and bitter trade war. Such bravado is backed

by the fact that China has been quietly preparing for such a showdown for over a decade, gradually reducing its dependence on the U.S. economy. The proportion of exports to GDP has declined steeply in China, from 35% in 2012 to 19.7% in 2023. As a proportion of its total exports, China's exports to the U.S. have fallen, too, from 21% in 2006 to 16.2% in 2022. China has invested hugely in science, technology, and innovation, particularly in artificial intelligence and electric cars. This has been done partly in response to the U.S.'s restrictions on technology transfer to China. China bypassed U.S. tariffs earlier by shifting production to its East Asian neighbours (especially Vietnam), with which it built deep economic networks.

#### India's options

President Trump calls India a 'tariff king', referring to the marked increase in India's tariffs since 2018 (Chart 1). The biggest

chunk of India's exports is sold to the U.S. (\$91 billion in 2022), and they are critical for meeting the country's large import bill. Therefore, any reduction in India's export earnings following tariff escalation will be keenly felt. At the same time, as exports form a relatively small share (21.8%) of its GDP, the impact of the tariff increases may be less in India than in many other countries (Table 1). Also, there has been no increase in tariffs on pharmaceuticals and services, two of India's major export items to the U.S.

The narrowness of its manufacturing capabilities is the biggest hurdle for India. Tariff protection and the Production Linked Incentive Scheme have not been sufficient to revive this sector. India needs a clear-cut industrial policy and a resurgence in investments to escape the unfolding global turmoil.

Jayan Jose Thomas is a Professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.

## CACHE

# OpenAI's Ghibli-style AI image generator and copyright law

ChatGPT is turning military propaganda, terrorist attacks, and family portraits into Studio Ghibli-style anime pictures, even if it means ignoring Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki's anti-war and anti-AI beliefs

Sahana Venugopal

**J**apanese director Hayao Miyazaki's anime fantasy films have enthralled generations of children both within Japan and internationally. These movies instilled in countless viewers a lifelong opposition to war, militarisation, and all forms of violence, regardless of their political affiliation. Across Studio Ghibli films like *Princess Mononoke*, *Howl's Moving Castle*, and *Castle in the Sky*, soldiers are portrayed as misled fighters at best and sexual predators at worst.

This is why there was widespread shock when the official Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) account on X shared images reminiscent of Studio Ghibli's style. The IDF's collage was prompted by OpenAI's late March update to the GPT4o model. This update enabled users to simply type text prompts into ChatGPT to generate images imitating Studio Ghibli's iconic animation style.

While most people initially used ChatGPT's new image update to transform themselves or their family portraits into adorable, Studio Ghibli-inspired images, others ventured further. They created anime stills from photos of the 9/11 terror attacks and the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Users shared Studio Ghibli-style pornography, "Ghibli-fied" stills from Bollywood films, and even a short video clip re-imagining Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar* as a Studio Ghibli film. What's more, the irony of Nolan's *Oppenheimer* being turned into a Studio Ghibli-style image was lost on far too many.

One AI anime image that gained widespread attention in India depicted the destruction of the Babri Masjid in 1992 by Hindutva rioters. This image, rendered in a distorted Studio Ghibli style, featured anime figures waving flags atop the mosque's dome, cheering in celebration.

Another viral image was shared by the U.S. White House. This picture, in a dark anime style, mocked a foreign citizen accused of drug trafficking who was visibly distraught as she was taken into custody. The IDF account on X also joined the trend, sharing anime images of soldiers using communication devices and flying planes.

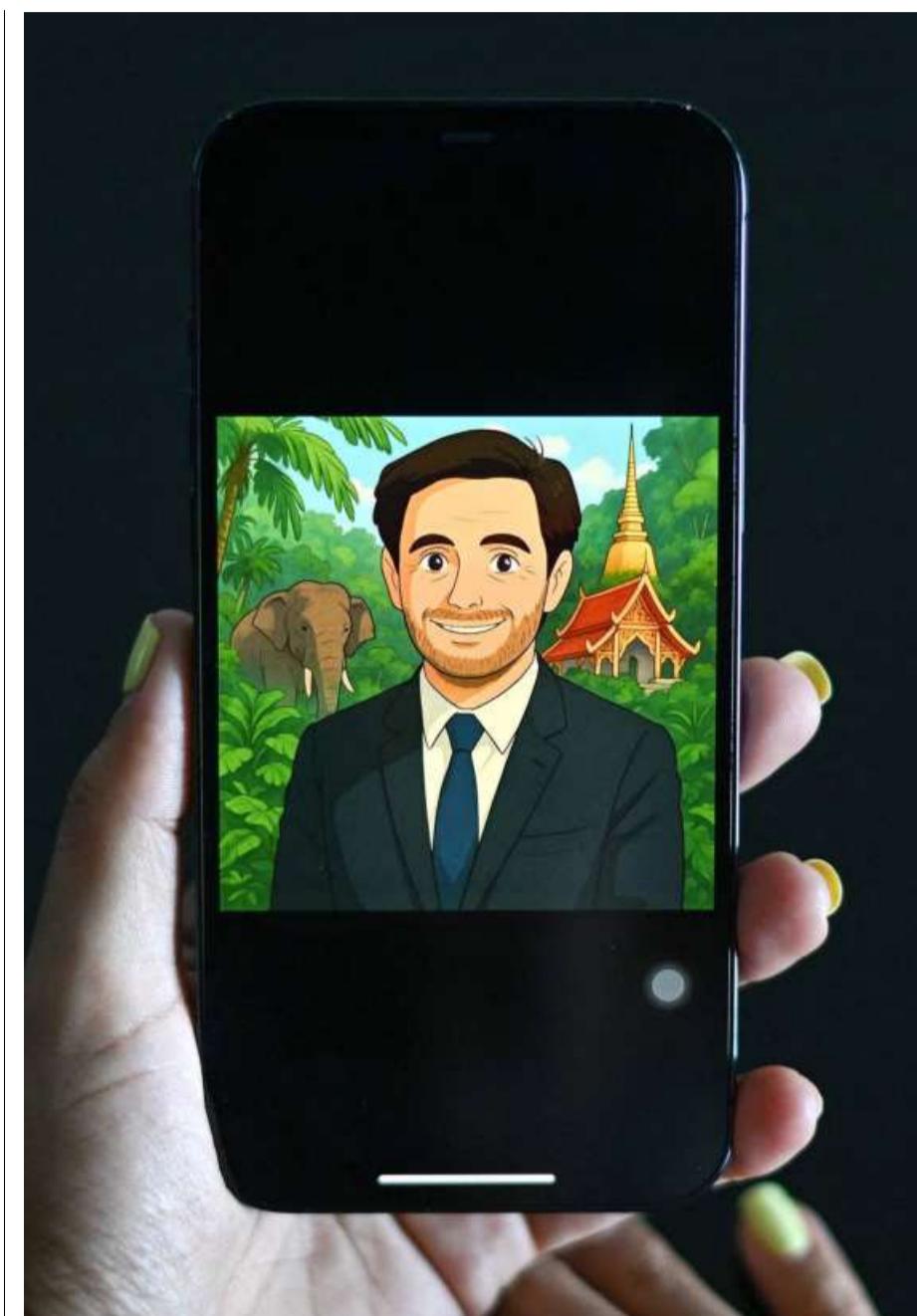
## The art behind the trend

Professor David Leslie, Director of Ethics and Responsible Innovation Research at The Alan Turing Institute, highlighted the ethical concerns surrounding the misappropriation of a man's life work in "troubling ways."

"Miyazaki has always been a person who takes a lot of care to present the ideas that are passionate to him in his works, and here you've got just an operationalisation of the patterns or the styles of those work[s], now being easily re-appropriated in any context, right? So you've got the IDF of Israel producing Miyazaki-style images," said Mr. Leslie. He described the Japanese artist as "one of the great pacifists of his generation."

Mr. Leslie acknowledged that Studio Ghibli's media would likely be part of the OpenAI model's training data set. However, he stressed the need for a more evidence-based approach to explore the extent of its presence. He also highlighted OpenAI's lack of transparency as a

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



**Creative decay:** A Facebook user profile displaying an image generated by AI in the style of a Studio Ghibli animation in Bangkok on April 2. AFP

Join FREE WhatsApp Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F> potential complication in this process.

Miyazaki's ardent fans have resurfaced an old video where the Japanese director expressed disgust when introduced to AI-generated motion animation. In the video, Miyazaki referred to AI art as an "insult to life itself."

Last year, OpenAI championed the fair use defence, which allows copyrighted works to be used in specific circumstances. The company claimed this usage was "fair to creators, necessary for innovators, and crucial for U.S. competitiveness."

However, Leslie urged the public to consider a broader perspective beyond fair use regulations. He questioned whether OpenAI's actions were advancing the shareholder value of itself and Microsoft, or if they were aligned with the public interest.

## Fair use?

Diving into the legal intricacies, Geoffrey McGovern, Director of Intellectual Property and Senior Political Scientist at the RAND non-profit organisation, clarified that while specific creative products or works enjoy copyright protection, this is not the case for concepts and ideas.

Mr. McGovern explained, "For

instance, if Georges Braque, the French painter, sought to copyright *Still Life with Metronome* and the style that became known as Cubism, the painting's image would theoretically be copyrightable. It's an image that can be reproduced, and the rights to that reproduction would vest in Braque. However, the 'Cubist style' is an idea. U.S. law does not permit the ownership of ideas. It becomes IP-protected only once those ideas are manifested in some form, such as a photograph, poem, recipe, film, composition, and so on."

Mr. McGovern elaborated, "In this manner, the Studio Ghibli style is not copyrightable, and therefore, the ChatGPT-generated image does not constitute a copyright violation."

Tori Noble, Staff Attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, noted that U.S. courts have yet to determine whether AI models that generate images in an artist's "style" are considered to be violating copyright.

For instance, in an ongoing case in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, *Andersen versus Stability AI Ltd.*, it was alleged that AI art generators produced images in the style of specific artists. The crux of the matter lies in determining whether the models'

output infringed upon protectable creative expression and whether using works to develop AI image generators constitutes fair use. Ms. Noble sheds light on these undecided issues in the case.

## Expressing love, sans AI

In our world, there are already works of art inspired by Studio Ghibli that were created without using AI.

One example is *The Glassworker*, a 2024 fantasy film directed by Usman Riaz. This film was celebrated as Pakistan's first hand-drawn animated feature film. The character designs clearly demonstrate Riaz's deep admiration for Studio Ghibli.

Unlike AI-generated images that are hastily assembled by machines in seconds, *The Glassworker* was meticulously crafted over years. Riaz's film received expert support from a Studio Ghibli producer, and it paid homage to Miyazaki's strong anti-war beliefs. This contrasts sharply with the "Ghibli-fied" images posted by the U.S. White House, the IDF, and individuals who celebrate the destruction of Islamic places of worship in India. This juxtaposition is particularly jarring for those who understand Miyazaki's anti-war films beyond their superficial appeal as photo filters.

Unlike many civil law countries, the United States does not safeguard the "moral rights" of creators to control how their work is used or adapted, clarified Ms. Noble. Consequently, Studio Ghibli films are not entitled to these very limited moral rights in the U.S., she added.

Even if applicable, U.S. moral rights would not permit Studio Ghibli to prevent others from imitating their artistic style to create new, transformative works, according to her.

Artists are now contemplating their next steps in response to concerns about their work being illegally stolen or scraped to train AI models. "This is one of the biggest technology law questions of our age," said Mr. McGovern, "and there is no easy answer that works for all artists." He suggested that creators be cautious about posting their work online, or that they explore using paywalls as a safeguard.

Meanwhile, Ms. Noble explained that websites take action to limit content scraping through the Robots Exclusion Protocol (REP). The REP enables websites to include a "robots.txt" file containing rules that restrict data scraping. While these rules are non-binding, OpenAI and other prominent American AI developers currently respect robots.txt restrictions, but not all may, Ms. Noble said.

Some artists are utilising anti-AI tools such as Glaze, which are virtually imperceptible to the naked eye but were designed to disrupt or at least mislead AI models attempting to scrape Glaze-protected art for training purposes.

Ms. Noble proposed that social and labour policies would be more effective avenues for countries to protect artists and creators from the economic harm caused by AI.

"At least in the U.S., extending copyright protection to uses of works for AI training purposes would not be an effective way to protect artists' livelihoods, and may actually undermine their interests over time," she said.

For his part, Mr. Leslie cautioned that the viability of living as an artist is not only being challenged by OpenAI but also by other companies that influence how people perceive (or disregard) the work of human artists and art teachers.

"If we kind of widen the lens and really think about the life of artists and the sustainable professional life of artists, the Ghibli moment is really an important but surface-level warning about a deeper transformation that's happening, where there is, I think, an existential risk to the future [that] visual artists have," he said.



## KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

### *She was very listless during the journey*

He needs to man up and face the consequences of his actions so that he can move on

**S. Upendran**

"How was the wedding? Did your aunts and uncles turn up for the big event?"

"Most of my aunts were present."

"How is your favourite aunt from Pune? Is she her usual bubbly self?"

"For some reason, she was rather listless this time around...."

"Listless? You mean to say that she usually comes with a list of things to do? I know a few people who always..."

"No, no. When you say that someone is listless, what you mean is that the individual is rather dull. Not their usual energetic self. This time around, my aunt didn't seem interested in the things happening around her."

"I see. In other words, she didn't display her usual enthusiasm. She was indifferent to things happening around her. Looked lazy."

"I guess you could say that. When you're listless, you usually avoid doing things which require effort. Here's an example. The humid weather was making Meera listless."

"That happens to me whenever I visit Mumbai or Chennai in the summer. Ever since he was overlooked for the promotion, Dharam has been listless."

"My favourite actor's movie is being released next week. I hope he's done a better job this time. His performance in the previous movie was listless."

"I think his listless performance was the main reason the movie flopped."

"You're probably right! But he doesn't believe it. According to him, it flopped due to other reasons. Perhaps, he should man up and accept what many people..."

"Man up? Never heard that expression before. What does it mean?"

"When someone tells you to 'man up' what they would like you to do is to act bravely. When facing a difficult situation, you should be brave and meet the challenge head on."

"In other words, deal with the problem in a manly fashion."

"I guess you could say that. The Minister needs to man up and apologise for the comments he made about the members of the Opposition."

"No chance of that happening. It's about time you manned up and told your two cousins to leave."

"I guess it's about time I manned up and confronted them."

"Can I use this expression with members of the opposite sex? Can I, for example, tell my sister to 'man up'?"

"Yes, the expression can be used with both men and women. Your sister, however, may be happier with 'woman up' instead of 'man up'."

"I see. Does it have the same meaning as 'man up'?"

"Yes! Except, in this case, it applies to a woman. It's important to remember that both 'man up' and 'woman up' are used in informal contexts."

[upendrankye@gmail.com](mailto:upendrankye@gmail.com)

## THE DAILY QUIZ

Here's a simple quiz on innovations and discoveries that form the bedrock of modern day medicine. How many of them can you get?

Please send in your answers to [dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in](mailto:dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in)

Ramya Kannan

### QUESTION 1

We couldn't have gotten very far if not for the first detailed anatomy of the human body, which used elaborate dissections to define anatomical contours. Who do we credit for this?

### QUESTION 2

William Harvey's contributions in 1628 told the world about a very basic aspect of the functioning of the human body. This helped shape several medical theories over the ages. What was his seminal work all about?

### QUESTION 3

Much of the advances we have in microbiology, and even pathology, today wouldn't have been possible if

the human race had not figured out how to use a microscope for the magnification that allows the study of microbes and pathogens. The question is simple: who invented the microscope?

### QUESTION 4

Horror stories abound from back in the day when surgeries were done on fully conscious patients, forcefully drunk on alcohol and/or biting down hard on a bit between their teeth, held down by an army of people. It was Crawford Long's invention that changed the field of surgery forever, what did he start?

### QUESTION 5

This first recipient of the Nobel prize for Physics discovered something that was later optimised for use in diagnostics leading to a revolution in the field. Who is he and what did he discover?



### Visual question:

Identify this Scottish scientist whose first achievement was the discovery of lysozyme, which later led him to his primary invention that drastically reduced deaths due to infections; and won him the Nobel prize for Medicine.

**Questions and Answers to the April 10 edition of the daily quiz:** 1. In 1927, Dr. B R Ambedkar led an agitation to allow Dalits to use water in a public tank in this place. **Ans: Mahad**

2. Savitribai Phule's collection of poems. **Ans: Kavya Phule**

3. This Dalit freedom fighter was India's Defence Minister during the Bangladesh War of Liberation. **Ans: Jagjivan Ram**

4. This Dalit activist from the then Madras Presidency, represented Dalits in the two Round Table Conferences held with the British alongside Dr. Ambedkar.

**Ans: Rettamalai Srinivasan**

5. This social reformer launched the Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham. **Ans: Ayankali**

Visual: Identify this Dalit activist and politician. **Ans: Jignesh Mevani**

**Early Birds:** Tamal Biswas| Haridas Pal| Anju Sharma| Jitesh Mori| Seema| Abhijit

## Word of the day

### Stylus:

a sharp pointed device attached to the cartridge of a record player; a pointed tool for writing or drawing or engraving

**Usage:** For writing, they used a stylus and a stone tablet.

**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/styluspro](http://newsth.live/styluspro)

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /stʌlɪs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) with the subject 'Text & Context'

**From Page One****CAPF deployed in Murshidabad**

State BJP president Sukanta Majumdar alleged that the violence was a "conspiracy of radical outfits such as the Popular Front of India [PFI] and the Students Islamic Movement of India [SIMI]."

A section of BJP leaders also claimed that hundreds of Hindus from Dhubli in Murshidabad have been forced to take shelter across the river at Baishnabnagar in neighbouring Malda district.

"The BJP is spreading disinformation and attributing some photos to the Murshidabad unrest, whereas the reality is far from it. For instance, they are using photos from anti-CAA protests in Lucknow, as those of Murshidabad," a Trinamool leader alleged.

"The Bengal government is clear that no one will be allowed to take law into their hands and violence will be met with strict punishment," Trinamool Rajya Sabha member Sagarika Ghose said.

**Kerala seeks to have Bills deemed as passed**

The Supreme Court, legal experts pointed out, had made it clear that the President would be required to assign clear and sufficiently detailed reasons while withholding assent to a Bill.

Among Bills the President has withheld assent to are the University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021; University Laws (Amendment no. 2) Bill, 2021; Kerala Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022; and the University Laws (Amendment no. 3) Bill, 2022, which were referred to her by the Governor.

The State would also contend that the principles laid down by the top court in the Tamil Nadu case should be equally applied to the Kerala case, and the Bills should be deemed to have been assented to on the date they were presented to the Governor, said top law officers of the State.

The Supreme Court's order fixing a time-frame for the President and the Governors to act in the case of Bills passed by the State legislatures in Tamil Nadu's case has come as a shot in the arm for the Kerala government. Kerala would argue that applying the Supreme Court's guidelines framed in the Tamil Nadu case to its own grievances would reveal that the acts of Mr. Khan too were bad in law and hence liable to be quashed, sources said.

Further, it will also point out that Mr. Khan had referred three Bills to the President, which he had initially promulgated as ordinances.

**'Pause, review, repeal amendment to RTI Act'**

Civil society groups voiced concerns regarding the amendment to the RTI Act, which would strike out all but the first six words in Section 8(I)(j), which exempts "information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest, or which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual unless" officials are convinced that the "larger public interest justifies the disclosure of such information: Provided that the information which cannot be denied to Parliament or a State Legislature shall not be denied to any person".

Thanking the Union Minister for his response, Mr. Ramesh on Sunday said, "I now wish to make four points by way of a counter-response to your defence of the RTI-destroying amendment."

"First, Section 3 of the DPDP Act, 2023, cited in your letter as protecting disclosures under the RTI Act 2005, is wholly irrelevant since Section 8(I) of the RTI Act, 2005 itself has been amended drastically," he said. "Section 3 of the DPDP Act will now only protect disclosures as per the amended RTI Act, which exempts all personal information from being accessible."

Second, the operation of the RTI Act, 2005 – informed by several judgments by the Supreme Court and various High Courts – has demonstrated that the law is able to withhold the disclosure of personal information which has no relationship to any public activity or public interest, Mr. Ramesh said.

Third, the deletion of the proviso in Section 8(I) of the RTI Act which recognises the citizens' right to information as being at par with that of legislators is "completely unwarranted", the Congress general secretary said in the letter to Mr. Vaishnav. "In fact, that proviso is applicable not just to the personal information exemption, but all exemptions in Section 8(I) of the RTI Act, 2005."

Mr. Vaishnav had argued that the Supreme Court judgment in the *Puttaswamy v. Union of India* case in 2017 effectively nullified much of the exemption. Hence, the amendment was included in the DPDP Act, 2023.

In response to this, Mr. Ramesh said, "Fourth, you mention the *Puttaswamy* judgment of the Supreme Court. Please do remember that nowhere in this judgment is it mentioned that the RTI Act, 2005 itself needs to be amended."

"The judgement reinforces that safeguarding personal privacy and promoting institutional transparency are not mutually exclusive but are jointly essential," he said.

The DPDP Act, 2023, has not yet been notified, but as soon as it is – a draft notification has already undergone consultations, and is expected to be finalised in the coming weeks – the provision will be cut down.

# Russia targeted Indian pharma firm's warehouse in Kyiv: Ukrainian Embassy

The incident occurred on the eve of the 78th anniversary of India-Russia diplomatic ties; Kusum Healthcare's representative in Sumy says the main warehouse has been completely destroyed

**Kallop Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

**R**ussia has "deliberately" bombed a major Indian-owned pharmaceutical warehouse in Ukraine, the Embassy of Ukraine announced in New Delhi on Sunday. The assertion from the Ukrainian side coincided with the 78th anniversary of India-Russia diplomatic ties marked by the Embassy of Russia on Sunday.

The attack on Kusum Healthcare's storehouse in Kyiv showed the "all out" nature of the war between Ukraine and Russia, which has escalated in recent weeks, a Ukraine-based representative of Kusum Healthcare told *The Hindu*.

"Today [Sunday], a Russian missile struck the warehouse of Indian pharmaceutical company Kusum in Ukraine. While claiming 'special friendship' with India, Moscow deliberately targets Indian businesses – destroying medicines meant for children and the elderly," the Embassy of Ukraine in India said in a message.

Akhilendra Mall, the Kusum Healthcare representative based in the northern Ukrainian city of Sumy,



**Intense destruction:** Firefighters put out the fire following a missile attack by Russia in Sumy, Ukraine on Sunday. AP

told *The Hindu* over phone that the warehouse in Kyiv that had been destroyed in the early hours of Saturday was the company's central warehouse in Ukraine, apart from a smaller warehouse that the company owned on the outskirts of Kyiv.

**Total loss**

"The main warehouse has been completely destroyed. We are yet to evaluate the total loss. There is heavy Russian bombing taking place in different locations of Ukraine and it

will take some time before the company can determine the scale of the destruction," Mr. Mall said over the phone.

Kusum Healthcare owns a factory in Sumy where the company manufactures medicines for the Ukrainian market.

"Our factory in Sumy is fully operational as of now, despite the heavy conflict taking place here," Mr. Mall said.

The bombing from the Russian side is accompanied by firing of tank shells as well as drone warfare.

Mr. Mall, who represents Kusum Healthcare, has been based in Ukraine for 17 years. He said the attack on the Indian medicine storehouse showed the intensity of the current state of the war. "This is really an all out war on the ground. There are at least 200 rockets that are landing in Sumy throughout the day."

The Russian Embassy has not yet responded to questions from *The Hindu* regarding the bombing of the pharmaceutical warehouse in Kyiv. The Russian Embassy has not yet responded to questions from *The Hindu* regarding the bombing of the pharmaceutical warehouse in Kyiv.

## Centre to celebrate Ambedkar's anniversary

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

The 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a champion of social justice, will be commemorated at Prerna Sthal on the Parliament House lawns here on Monday.

President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and other dignitaries will pay floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar in a morning ceremony. The venue will remain open to the public till noon, according to a statement. The Dr. Ambedkar Foundation will facilitate visitors paying their respects at the site and has arranged special bus services to the Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial.

# Congress slams denial of permission for Palm Sunday rally; Minister cites security reasons

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Criticising the Delhi Police's decision to deny permission for the Palm Sunday procession organised by the Sacred Heart Cathedral in the national capital, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said it was not an "isolated incident" but "targeted discrimination".

Mr. Venugopal has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, protesting against the Delhi Police's decision.

"The BJP can't even keep up its so-called pro-Christian gimmick for a single week. First the *Organiser* article targeting church properties and now the Delhi Police has denied permission for the sacred procession on the holy day of Palm Sunday," Mr. Venugopal said, sharing his letter to Mr. Shah on X.



**QQ** The decision to prohibit this procession represents a serious attack on religious freedom... This is targeted discrimination  
**K.C. VENUGOPAL**  
Congress leader

Delhi Police spokesperson Sanjay Tyagi told *The Hindu* that permission had never been given for the procession. "The procession started a few years back and the organisers never got the permission in the past as well. No police personnel stopped the procession physically; the organisers themselves did not proceed with it," Mr. Tyagi said.

Mr. Venugopal also questioned whether Christians in Delhi were excluded from Article 25 of the Constitution that guarantees freedom of religion. "Since when did practising faith become a threat? This is not an isolated incident – it's targeted discrimination," the Congress leader said on X.

In his letter, he said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had participated in Christmas and Easter celebrations at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. "The decision to prohibit this procession represents a serious attack on the religious freedom guaranteed under the Constitution," Mr. Venugopal said.

He said there were no "concrete reasons" to deny permission for a procession that had been peacefully held for the past 15 years.

Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs George Kurian also dismissed the allegations on the denial of permission for the Palm Sunday procession from the St. Mary's Church to the Sacred Heart Church in New Delhi, stating that the decision had been based solely on reasons of security.

"Security is very tight in Delhi, and permission was denied due to security reasons," Mr. Kurian told presspersons in Thiruvananthapuram. Even a Hanuman Jayanti procession scheduled for Saturday had not been granted approval, he said. "All processions of this nature have been restricted," he added.

The alleged denial of permission has drawn criticism from various quarters, including from Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly. Earlier, Mr. Vijayan condemned the Delhi Police's decision.

"Permission was denied for the procession from St. Mary's Church to the Sacred Heart Church. This violates the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom and secular values," Mr. Vijayan said.

He added that such actions, which "infringe upon minority beliefs, are unbefitting of a pluralistic society".

Meanwhile, BJP Kerala president Rajeev Chandrasekhar alleged that the Congress and the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) were "politicising" even Palm Sunday. (With PTI inputs)

## Experts share insights on spinal health and its impact on human well-being

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI



As part of the "Healthy India, Happy India" initiative, a webinar titled "Healthy Spine, Healthy Life" was organised by Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, in collaboration with *The Hindu*. The session brought together three expert doctors who shared insights into spinal health and its vital role in overall well-being.

Boopesh P., consultant, neurosurgery, Naruvi Hospitals, focused on workplace ergonomics. "Spinal health is essential for maintaining overall quality of

strated proper desk posture and safe lifting techniques to avoid strain or injury.

Backiaraj D., spine surgeon at Naruvi Hospitals, addressed the factors affecting spine health. "A healthy spine has discs that are cushiony and flexible, enabling smooth movement," he said. He further explained that strong supporting muscles play a vital role in maintaining spinal integrity.

Maintaining good posture involves aligning the joints, engaging the core, relaxing the shoulders, and ensuring the head and neck are in proper alignment," he noted, adding that caring for the spine positively influences physical, mental, and emotional health. He identified key ergonomic risk factors such as poor posture, repetitive strain, excessive force, and compression. Dr. Boopesh also demon-

strated proper desk posture and safe lifting techniques to avoid strain or injury.

Vinitha Varghese, consultant, physical medicine and rehabilitation, Naruvi Hospitals, emphasised the importance of exercise for spinal health.

She introduced the Flamingo Test, a simple technique to assess balance by standing on one leg with eyes closed.

"There's no ideal age to begin exercising," she said, urging people to first assess their joint mobility and flexibility before starting a fitness routine.

## Protesters, police clash in anti-Waqf Act agitation in Assam

**Press Trust of India**  
GUWAHATI

few of them threw stones at us. We had to use mild lathi-charge to disperse the crowd," he added.

He said that a case has been registered, but no one has been detained or arrested yet.

The protesters showed black flags and shouted slogans against the BJP government, demanding repeal of the Act.

State Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma claimed that the State police had a "strong intelligence" report that there could be "some disturbances" during protests.

## 16 held after clashes during religious procession in M.P.

**Mehul Malpani**  
Bhopal

At least 16 people have been arrested so far in connection with clashes that took place between members of two communities during a Hanuman Jayanti procession in Madhya Pradesh's Guna on Saturday night, the police said on Sunday.

The Guna Kotwali police station-in-charge, Brajman Singh Bhadoriya, told *The Hindu* that nine men were arrested late on Saturday night, while seven arrests were made on Sunday.

**The organisers did not take formal permission from the local administration, a police official said**

clashes. A first information report against five identified and over 20 unidentified persons was filed on Saturday night based on a complaint by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) councillor Omprakash Kushwaha, who was among the procession's organisers.

**CCTV footage**  
Mr. Thakur said that the police identified the accused based on CCTV and mobile footage, and that efforts were on to see if more people were involved in the incident.

Mr. Thakur said the procession had also been taken out without permission.

Guna Superintendent of Police Sanjeev Sinha said on Saturday night the procession was "taken out forcefully" and that "sloganeering was done" near a place of worship of another community, which led to the altercation.

Mr. Sinha further said that no action has yet been taken against the organisers for taking out between members of two communities over loud music, that led to sloganising and stone-throwing.

He said 13 people suffered minor injuries in the

Amid political divide, Pawar duo shares stage again

The Hindu Bureau  
MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) supremo Sharad Pawar and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who are political adversaries, shared a stage on Saturday, marking their second joint public appearance this week. The senior Pawar and his nephew attended the Managing Council meeting of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha at Chhatrapati Shivaji College.

At the meeting, the council approved several educational initiatives. Mr. Sharad Pawar, a former Union Minister, announced the launch of a monthly magazine, *Rayat*.

The two, who have been on opposite sides of the political spectrum since Mr. Ajit Pawar's 2023 defection to the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance, maintained a cordial demeanour at the event.

This comes just days after Mr. Sharad Pawar attended the engagement of Mr. Ajit Pawar's younger son, Jay Pawar, near Pune.

The repeated public appearances of the politically estranged Pawars have sparked speculation about their personal equation.

# Amid turmoil over 'Signalgate', U.S. NSA puts off visit to India

Michael Waltz was set to visit New Delhi from April 21-23 for official meetings; he is facing backlash over chats on Signal involving sensitive information; J.D. Vance may fill in for Waltz at the Indo-U.S. forum during his largely 'private' visit to India

Suhasini Haidar  
NEW DELHI



**Under scrutiny:** According to sources, the U.S. National Security Adviser may now reschedule his visit in the next few months. AFP Join FREE Telegram Channel https://t.me/+Bu7senHpQdhlODg1 Transforming Relations Utilising Strategic Technologies (TRUST) mechanism, the successor to the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) mechanism that the government had launched with the Joe Biden administration in 2023.

Mr. Waltz was due to be a speaker at the U.S.-India Forum, a conference held

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

ment on the reasons for the cancellation.

Speculation has been rife in U.S. newspapers about Mr. Waltz's position being tenuous after the "Signalgate" controversy. He has accepted the blame for inadvertently adding a senior journalist to a chat on the messaging platform Signal.

In the chat, details of the upcoming bombing operations on Houthis in Yemen were discussed by Mr. Waltz, Vice-President J.D. Vance, Defence Secretary Peter Hegseth, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard and other senior members of U.S. President Donald Trump's Cabinet in real time.

Reports added that Mr. Waltz had maintained several other such insecure Signal chats for other foreign policy issues involving Ukraine, China and Gaza, and that the National Security Adviser used his personal Gmail accounts for sensitive communication.

While the White House has stood by Mr. Waltz, the reports have considerably embarrassed the administration.

tration and could be a reason for Mr. Waltz's decision to put off the India visit.

According to sources, he may now reschedule his visit in the next few months, and could time it along with the next edition of Indus-X, a collaboration between the U.S. Department of Defense and the Indian Ministry of Defence, that brings businesses involved in defence innovation and strategic technologies together.

## Efforts under way

Officials said some efforts are under way to see if Vice-President J.D. Vance can fill in for Mr. Waltz's spot at the Indo-U.S. Forum.

Mr. Vance is travelling to India for a largely "private" visit with his wife and their three children, visiting tourist destinations in North India as well as Usha Chilkuri Vance's home State of Andhra Pradesh.

The Vances are expected to be hosted by Prime Minister Modi on the 21st of April before Mr. Modi leaves for Saudi Arabia (April 22-23).



Jairam Ramesh

crease of 54% and 357%, respectively!" he said.

He said the government had earned ₹39.54 lakh crore from the petroleum sector over the past 11 years, but failed to give any relief to people. "In May 2014, crude oil was \$108/barrel, today it is only \$65.31 – i.e. 40% cheaper, yet the prices of petrol and diesel are higher than the UPA era," Mr. Ramesh said.

"In 2014, petrol in Delhi was ₹71.41 and diesel ₹55.49 per litre. Today, the same petrol is ₹94.77 and diesel ₹87.67 per litre – the public is being openly looted," he asked.

He said along with government companies, the private oil companies are also earning huge profits from refining and marketing, while the common man is burdened with expensive petrol and diesel.

**Homage to martyrs**

## Centre planning ₹10-lakh-cr. investment to rejuvenate highways, says Nitin Gadkari



Police personnel pay tribute on Sunday to martyrs at the Jallianwala Bagh memorial in Amritsar on the massacre anniversary. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the nation would forever remember the victims of the 1919 massacre. AFP

## Cooperative movement was 'almost dead' before Modi govt., says Shah

Press Trust of India  
BHOPAL

In a veiled swipe at previous Congress-led governments, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday that the cooperative movement had remained in a shambles as laws had not been tweaked for years and "almost died" before the Narendra Modi government took decisive actions.

Addressing a State-level cooperative conference in Bhopal, Mr. Shah said the erstwhile governments never considered bolstering the cooperative sector.

On the occasion, an agreement was signed between the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the Madhya Pradesh State Co-operative Dairy Federation to enhance milk production in the State.

"For years, the cooperative movement was moving slowly and turned almost dead. Looking at the cooperative movement nation-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah distributes a Kisan Card to a beneficiary during a conference in Bhopal on Sunday. ANI

wide, it was uneven (in the past)," he said.

He said the movement gained traction only after 75 years of Independence, when Prime Minister Modi formed the Ministry of Cooperatives to strengthen the sector.

"In some States, the movement gained momentum, while in some places, it has been destroyed. The main reason was that the laws, which should have been changed with time, were not tweaked," Mr. Shah said while crediting Mr. Modi for bringing this op-

portunity," he said.

As cooperation is a State subject under the Constitutional arrangement, initiatives were not taken to frame cooperative laws adapting to rapidly changing conditions across the country.

"This (scenario) was not considered from a holistic perspective at the national level, because there was no separate Ministry for cooperatives," he said.

Stating that the Centre works within the Constitutional framework, Mr. Shah said the Union government has enacted model bylaws for cooperatives, which are accepted by all States.

"By accepting these model bylaws that empower primary societies, States have given a new lease of life to the cooperative sector in India," he said while thanking the States.

Mr. Shah said the Modi government was "standing like a rock" in supporting the cooperative sector's expansion.

## Manipur Congress to move SC over Waqf Act

Press Trust of India  
IMPHAL

Senior Congress leader Okram Ibobi Singh on Sunday said that the Manipur unit of the party would file a petition with the Supreme Court against the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025. The former three-time Chief Minister said that the Act was a gross violation of the Constitution.

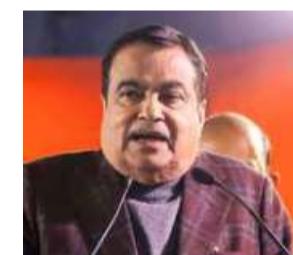
₹42,000 crore in West Bengal, about ₹53,000 crore in Jharkhand, and around ₹58,000 crore in Odisha," Mr. Gadkari said.

"In the Northeast, except Assam, we are undertaking projects worth about ₹1 lakh crore this year," he said.

Mr. Gadkari said a mass rapid transport pilot project was under way in Nagpur at a cost of ₹170 crore.

"The project involves a 135-seater bus that will run on non-polluting energy sources and is expected to be highly cost-effective. If successful, it will be replicated on important routes across the country, including the Delhi-Jaipur stretch, under the Build-Operate-Transfer model," he said.

The Minister said the length of the National Highway network has expanded, growing from 91,287 km in March 2014 to 1,46,204 km at present, with a significant improvement in standards.



Nitin Gadkari

Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Delhi.

Mr. Gadkari said 784 highway projects were going to be implemented in the eastern States at an estimated cost of ₹3,73,484 crore, covering 21,355 km.

Among them are projects of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the National Highways Authority of India, and the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., he said.

"We currently have projects worth ₹57,696 crore in Assam, and about ₹90,000 crore in Bihar. We're also undertaking projects worth over

"We are totally opposed to this Act. India is a secular nation, but the present NDA government is attacking Muslims and other minorities. The State unit of the Congress is preparing to fight the legislation. A team will leave for Delhi and by Wednesday, a petition will be filed at the top court challenging this Act," he told presspersons.

The leader also questioned the imposition of President's Rule in the State and wondered why the BJP was not forming the government despite having sufficient numbers to do so.

## FIR against Kanhaiya Kumar for allegedly abusing PM and RSS

Press Trust of India  
PATNA

The Bihar Police on Sunday lodged a first information report (FIR) against Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar on a complaint filed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Bihar State media in-charge Danish Iqbal at the Kotwali police station here.

In the complaint, Mr. Iqbal alleged that during an interview given to a Hindi news channel, Mr. Kumar called the Prime Minister a terrorist and used objectionable language for the workers of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

"Calling the Prime Minister a terrorist is not only a shameful statement, but it is a direct attack on the sovereignty of the country. Strict action should be taken against such leaders who try to defame a nationalist organisation like the RSS," Mr. Iqbal said.

"We have full faith that the law will take action against such anti-national mentality people," he said. He added that Mr. Kumar had repeatedly worked to insult the country.

Based on the complaint, the police lodged the FIR under Section 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita. The penalty for violating this Section was imprisonment for up to two years, a fine, or both.

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
6th, 7th, & 8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre,  
Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029  
Dated: 11.4.2025

Petition No. 313/TD/2025  
**NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003 (the Act)**

An application for the grant of a Category-V licence for inter-State trading in electricity across India has been made before the Commission by Clean Max Fusion Power LLP (CMFPL), 13A, Floor -13, Plot 400, The Peregrine Apartment, Kismat Cinema, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025, Maharashtra,

2. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State trading licence to Clean Max Fusion Power LLP before the Commission can be accessed at the website [www.cleanmax.com](http://www.cleanmax.com) or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.

3. On consideration of the material available on record, the Commission is satisfied that prima facie the applicant qualifies for the grant of a licence for inter-State trading in electricity and by order dated 9.4.2025, the Commission has proposed to grant a Category-V licence to the applicant for inter-State trading in electricity across India.

4. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act to invite suggestions or objections, if any, to the proposal to grant the licence for inter-State trading in electricity as aforesaid by the Commission to be received by the undersigned latest by 21.4.2025 at the above noted address. The objections or suggestions received after the specified date shall not be considered.

5. The Commission has fixed the application for final disposal on 22.4.2025 and the person who files the suggestions or objections may in his discretion attend the hearing, for which no TAD shall be paid by the Commission.

S/-  
(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)  
Secretary



# MONEYWISE

## Rupee cost averaging for NRIs

### MARKETMOVE

#### Vivek Jain

India's investment landscape appeals to domestic and NRI investors alike, but it comes with its own challenges. Investor sentiment has taken a hit during the recent phase of correction in the Indian market. As a result, many of them try to time the market. But it is hardly easy to time a market that moves in unpredictable cycles.

Many investors try to chase peaks and avoid dips, only to end up making costly mistakes. A smarter strategy is Rupee Cost Averaging (RCA), allowing investors to capitalise on market volatility without getting caught up in short-term noise. RCA ensures NRIs stay invested, absorb market shocks and accumulate wealth over time.

**Understanding RCA**  
RCA is a disciplined investment strategy where a fixed sum is invested periodically regardless of market conditions. This means when market prices are low, more units are bought and when prices rise, fewer units are bought. Over time, this strategy evens out the average investment a unit and shields investors from short-term fluctuations.

Consider an NRI investing ₹25,000 a month in an equity mutual fund via a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP). If the Net Asset Value (NAV) is ₹100, you purchase 250 units. If the NAV drops to ₹80, you buy 312 units. If the NAV rises to ₹120, you purchase 208 units.

Instead of outguessing the market, this approach allows NRIs accumulate wealth steadily while reducing risk.

#### For NRIs

**Mitigating market volatility**  
Market movements are unpredictable and for NRIs not closely tracking Indian markets daily, staying updated on every fluctuation is impractical. RCA ensures investments continue uninterrupted, eliminating the need to make impulsive decisions during downturns. By sticking to a pre-set investment plan, they can benefit from market corrections.

**Managing currency risks**  
NRIs also face an additional layer of uncertainty from foreign exchange fluctuations. When transferring money from abroad, the rupee's value against the investor's home currency can impact real cost of investments. RCA smoothens out this risk by spreading transactions over time, reducing exposure to unfavorable exchange rate movements.

**India's long-term growth**  
India is one of the fastest-growing major economies. NRIs investing systematically can benefit from this long-term growth without worrying on short-term economic slowdown. Mutual funds, ULIPs or other investment vehicles, RCA secures participation in India's economic progress with minimal stress.

**Financial goals with discipline**  
Many NRIs invest in India with long-term objectives in mind. It could be retirement planning or securing a child's future education. RCA aligns with these goals by instilling discipline and preventing emotional investing. NRIs can focus on steady capital accumulation and the power of compounding.

At its core, RCA is about maintaining a steady investment approach even when markets fluctuate. It prevents the classic investor mistake of panic selling in downturns or over-investing in market peaks. During a market correction, investors following RCA automatically buy more units at a lower cost, which positions them for stronger future gains when the market recovers.

As India's markets continue to evolve, those who stay invested with a long-term vision are likely to see the best results.

Rupee Cost Averaging provides NRIs with the right balance of risk management and wealth creation.

(The writer is chief business officer, life insurance, Policybazaar.com)



## Opting for no-cost EMI to buy consumer durables

No-cost EMIs are quite helpful for individuals who need to make necessary high-ticket purchases like gadgets and can't afford upfront payment but they must be aware of pitfalls

### EASY BUY

#### Rohit Chhibbar

No-cost EMI is one of the most popular financing options for high-ticket consumer durables such as gadgets and home appliances. It allows consumers to defer high-value purchases over several monthly instalments without any additional interest charges. Popular e-commerce platforms such as Amazon, Flipkart, Ajio, TataCLiQ and more offer the facility in collaboration with leading card issuers. But let's take a closer look at the benefits of no-cost EMIs and some key factors to consider when opting for it.

#### How it works?

Unlike regular EMI transactions, no-cost EMI allows you to divide the cost of a product into monthly instalments without any interest. The interest is still factored into the EMI, but merchants or lenders offset it by providing an equivalent discount.

Here is an example. Suppose you are buying a refrigerator worth ₹60,000 using credit card EMI for six months. If the card issuer charges an interest rate of 16% on EMIs, the total interest charged will be ₹9,600, along with 18% GST on the interest component amounting to ₹1,728. In a regular EMI plan, you have to pay the product price and the interest along with GST, which means total outgo



Unlike regular EMI transactions, no-cost EMI allows you to divide the cost of a product into monthly instalments without any interest

would be ₹71,328.

However, in the case of no-cost EMI, the interest amount is adjusted as a discount, allowing you to get the product at its actual price. In the above example, the merchant would offer an upfront discount of ₹9,600, which will cover interest cost, effectively reducing EMI amount to ₹10,000 per month. This means, you would be paying only actual price of the product, that is ₹60,000.

However, a key factor to consider is while the merchant provides an upfront discount to offset the interest cost, the GST on the interest amount is still payable by the cardholder. In the above example, GST of ₹1,728 will be charged to credit card. Note, GST will also be applicable on processing fee and other applicable charges, which you would need to pay out of pocket.

#### Choose tenure wisely

Unlike regular EMIs, no-cost EMIs generally have shorter repayment tenures, typically ranging from 3-9 months. A shorter tenure would increase EMI amount, hence it is important to choose the tenure strategically. You must ensure the EMI amount fits monthly budget and you



Additional costs like processing fee, impact on credit limit and potential penalties must be considered before opting for a no-cost EMI

can comfortably pay dues on time.

#### Read fine print

While the term "no-cost" sounds appealing, many lenders charge processing fee on no-cost EMIs, which increases the overall cost of the product. Although you get the product at actual price, the additional charges can add to the cost. Similarly, some lenders slap pre-payment penalties. So, if you anticipate that you would have funds to pay the amount earlier, you must check the associated terms. Also, note 18% GST will be applicable on the interest, processing fee and other applicable charges, which you would need to pay out of pocket.

#### Loss of rewards

Most credit cards exclude EMI transactions from rewards and cashback programmes. So, despite charging a high-value transaction to your card, you would not get any benefits.

For instance, if you buy an item worth ₹50,000 on EMI from Amazon using a credit card that offers 5% cashback on online spends, you would miss earning ₹2,500 cashback.

Merchants offer no-cost

EMI in collaboration with card issuers like SBI Card, Axis Bank and others. Generally, the offer applies to all cards. However, in some cases, no-cost EMI may be applicable only on select credit card variants. Hence, it is crucial to check if your card is eligible.

#### Timely payment

In addition, you must ensure paying the EMIs as and when due to avoid finance charges and late payment penalties. Moreover, when you purchase a product on EMI, your credit limit is blocked for the entire transaction amount and gradually released as you pay, which can increase your credit utilisation ratio initially. This could be a concern for individuals with a single credit card with low credit limit, as a high CUR may impact credit score.

No-cost EMIs are quite helpful for individuals who need to make necessary high-ticket purchases like gadgets, consumer durables, etc. but cannot afford upfront payment. They provide them with the flexibility to buy the products and defer the payment over several months, without disrupting their cash flow.

However, additional costs like processing fees, the impact on your credit limit and potential penalties must be carefully considered before opting for a no-cost EMI. Always weigh benefits against potential pitfalls before proceeding.

(The writer is chief business officer, credit cards, Paisabazaar.com)

## Question of choice

### THINKINVESTOR

An investment coach, unlike an investment advisor, will not help you make any investment choices but will help you become aware of your relationship with money and investments

#### Venkatesh Bangarawamy

Investing is not just about analysing the market's various scenarios on an excel sheet and choosing appropriate investments to accumulate wealth. It also involves managing emotions relating to investments. Here, we discuss why emotions are crucial for decision-making and why you need a behavioural coach to emotionally manage your investments.

#### Managing emotions

The price we pay for letting emotions dominate your investment decisions is called behavioural gap. This refers to the difference between investor returns and investment returns; lower the returns you earn when actively buying and selling shares or switching from one fund to another compared with a buy-and-hold returns on the investment. Why the difference? Anxiety can cause us to take profit quickly only to see the market continually move up thereafter. Regret could prompt us to switch from one fund to another only to see the fund we switched from outperform the one we switched into! It's not easy to learn from our emotionally-driven mistakes.

This does not mean we can do better sans emotions. Neuroscientists have shown that we cannot take even simple decisions when the brain region ruling our emotion is impaired. Studies show how brain-impaired patients can be irrational and risk-seeking because they cannot assess the risk associated with their decisions. While emotion is vital, letting emotions rule our investment decisions can lead to adverse consequences. What should you do?

You can keep investment choices simple, buying ETFs or index funds for capital appreciation and investing in bank deposits for income returns. But you still need to manage emotions to manage investments through the time horizon for a life goal. So, you can hire an investment coach. An investment coach, unlike investment advisor, will not help you make your investment choices but will help you become aware of your relationship with money and investments.

#### Conclusion

Not all of us have time and inclination to self-manage money. So, you may be pressed to hire an investment advisor. The optimal solution would be to choose an advisor who also leans on behavioural aspects of investing. The goal is to improve financial wellbeing, not just accumulate wealth with the related anxiety arising from market risk. Many investment advisors have long recognised the need to understand clients' relationship with money. Hire such an investment advisor – one also skillful at financial counselling, a financial therapist.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage personal investments)

### Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	10.90-24.00	10,846-14,384	2,169-2,877	Up to Rs 6,500
Tata Capital	11.99 onwards	11,120 onwards	2,224 onwards	Up to 4%
State Bank of India	10.30-15.30	10,697-11,974	2,139-2,395	Up to 1.5% (Min. Rs 1000; Max. Rs 15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.85-16.65	10,834-12,332	2,167-2,466	Up to 2%
Bank of Baroda	11.05-18.50	10,884-12,833	2,177-2,567	Up to 2% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	11.25-22.00	10,934-13,809	2,187-2,762	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99-16.99	10,869-12,424	2,174-2,485	Up to 5%
Bank of India	11.60-16.20	11,021-12,212	2,204-2,442	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 250; Max. Rs 15,000)
Canara Bank	10.70-16.15	10,797-12,199	2,159-2,440	Up to 0.25% (Max. Rs 5,000)
Punjab National Bank	11.25-17.80	10,934-12,642	2,187-2,528	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	10.15-16.00	10,660-12,159	2,132-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.99 onwards	11,120 onwards	2,224 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.10-15.20	10,896-11,948	2,179-2,390	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	10.00-31.00	10,624-16,485	2,125-3,297	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.60-13.65	10,772-11,544	2,154-2,309	0.50%-1%
Indian Overseas Bank	10.75-14.15	10,809-11,673	2,162-2,335	Up to 0.75%
UCO Bank	10.95-13.95	11,236-11,621	2,172-2,324	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 750)
IDFC First Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	2%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.75-14.55	10,562-11,777	2,112-2,355	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Central Bank of India	10.85-12.65	10,834-11,287	2,167-2,257	Up to 1%

### Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.45-10.20	10,246 - 10,673	Up to Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.60-10.45	10,282 - 10,735	Up to 0.25% (Rs 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.80-12.45	10,331 - 11,236	0.50% (Rs 2,500 - Rs. 10,000)
UCO Bank	8.45-11.00	10,246 - 10,871	NIL
State Bank of India	9.10-10.15	10,403 - 10,660	Rs 750 - Rs 1,500
IDBI Bank	8.80-9.60	10,331 - 10,525	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.45-12.75	10,246 - 11,313	0.25% of loan (max. up to Rs. 15,000)
Indian Overseas Bank**	8.40-12.00	10,234 - 11,122	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	9.10 onwards	10,403 onwards	Up to 2%
HDFC Bank	9.20 onwards	10,428 onwards	Up to 1% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 9,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.32-11.80	10,457 - 11,072	Up to 0.60% (Rs 2500 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	10.40 onwards	10,722 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Punjab and Sind Bank***	8.		

**PORT SUDAN**

Sudan paramilitaries kill 56 over two days in Darfur town: activists



Sudan's paramilitaries killed 56 civilians over two days of attacks on a town they seized on the road to El-Fasher, the last major city in the Darfur region still in Army hands, activists said. The killings on Friday and Saturday targeted residents in Um Kadah "on an ethnic basis", according to the local resistance committee. AFP

**DUBAI**

**UAE President expresses desire to support Syria reconstruction**



UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan said he wants to support Syria's reconstruction as he met on Sunday with interim President Muhammad al-Jolani in Abu Dhabi. Jolani has sought Gulf financial support for war-torn Syria since he led a lightning offensive that toppled the Bashar al-Assad dispensation. AP

**KABUL**

**Days after four shot, Taliban leader says executions are part of Islam**



Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada said executions were part of Islam, days after four men were killed by gunfire in Afghanistan after they were convicted of murder. In a speech in Kandahar, he said "We must carry out disciplinary measures, perform prayers and acts of worship. We must enter Islam completely." AP

**DHAKA**

**Court issues arrest warrant against Hasina, sister, British MP Tulip**



A court in Bangladesh issued arrest warrants against ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana, British MP Tulip Rizwana Siddiq, and 50 others in connection with the alleged illegal acquisition of land by abusing political power. The decision comes based on chargesheets filed by Anti-Corruption Commission. PTI

Semiconductor tariffs coming in a 'month or two', says U.S.

**Agence France-Presse**

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Commerce Secretary said on Sunday that tariffs on semiconductors would probably be coming "in a month or two."

"We can't be relying on China for fundamental things that we need: our medicines and our semiconductors need to be built in America," Howard Lutnick told ABC's "This Week."

Meanwhile, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieon Greer said on Sunday these electronics that were exempted from President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs will still be subject to tariffs, just under a different category.

## China urges U.S. to cancel reciprocal tariffs completely

Asking Washington to return to the 'right path of mutual respect', Beijing calls the exemption of electronics from tariff list a 'small step' and says it is evaluating the impact of the U.S. decision

**Agence France-Presse**

BEIJING

**C**hina on Sunday called on the U.S. to "completely cancel" its reciprocal tariffs after Washington announced exemptions for consumer electronics and key chip-making equipment.

"We urge the U.S. to... take a big step to correct its mistakes, completely cancel the wrong practice of 'reciprocal tariffs' and return to the right path of mutual respect," a Commerce Ministry spokesperson said in a statement.

Beijing called the exemptions a "small step" by



**Minor relief:** The new exemptions will benefit U.S. companies such as Apple, which makes iPhones in China. REUTERS

Join FREE Telegram Channel <https://t.me/+Bu7senHpQdhlODg1> Washington and said that China was "evaluating the impact" of the decision.

The new exemptions will benefit U.S. tech com-

panies like Nvidia and Dell, as well as Apple, which makes iPhones and other premium products in China.

U.S. Customs data suggests the exempted items account for more than 20% of those Chinese imports, according to senior RAND researcher Gerard DiPippo.

'Facing steep tariffs, China has sought to present itself as a stable alternative to an erratic Washington, courting countries spooked by the global economic storm.'

Mr. Trump's reciprocal tariffs have "not only failed to solve any of the United States' own problems but have seriously undermined the global economic and trade order", Beijing's commerce ministry said.

## 34 killed, 117 wounded in Russian strike on Ukraine

**Associated Press**

KYIV

At least 34 people were killed in a Russian missile strike on the Ukrainian city of Sumy on Sunday, officials said.

Two ballistic missiles struck the heart of the city at around 10.15 a.m. as people gathered to celebrate Palm Sunday, according to officials.

At least 34 people were killed as a result of the attack, including two children, the State Emergency Service of Ukraine said in a statement.

A further 117 people were injured, including 15 children, it said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed that rescue efforts were ongoing and said "dozens" had been killed in



**Dystopian world:** Two ballistic missiles struck the heart of Sumy around 10.15 a.m. as people gathered to celebrate Palm Sunday. AP

the double missile attack.

"According to preliminary information, dozens of civilians were killed and wounded. Only filthy scum can act like this – taking the lives of ordinary people," he said.

The head of the Ukrainian President's office, Andriy Yermak, said that the strike had also used cluster munitions in an attempt to kill as many people as possible.

Other world leaders also condemned the attack, with French President Emmanuel Macron saying that the strike undermined Washington-led peace talks between the two sides.

## Ready to ensure Iran never gets a nuclear bomb, says Hegseth

**Agence France-Presse**

TEHRAN

The U.S. Defence Secretary reiterated that Washington hopes for a diplomatic solution to keep Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, but if that failed the military was ready "to go deep and to go big."

U.S. and Iranian diplomats opened indirect talks on Saturday in Oman in an effort to resolve Western concerns about Iran's nuclear program.

U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth on Sunday described the first, tentative contacts in Oman as "a

## At least 21 killed as Israel strikes across Gaza on Palm Sunday, targets hospital

**Associated Press**

DEIR AL-BALAH

A wave of Israeli strikes across Gaza on Sunday hit a hospital, a municipal building, a home and a vehicle, killing at least 21 people, including children, as Israel vowed to expand its security presence in the small coastal strip.

A predawn strike on al-Ahli Hospital, in Gaza City, was the latest of several attacks on the last major hospital providing critical healthcare in northern Gaza.

One patient, a girl, died during the evacuation because staff were unable to provide urgent care.



**No let-up:** Relatives mourn over the bodies of Palestinians killed in an Israeli strike in Deir el-Balah in Gaza Strip on Sunday. AFP

Al-Ahli Hospital is run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, which condemned the attack, saying it occurred on "Palm Sun-

day, the start of the Holy Week, the most sacred week of the Christian year."

Palm Sunday com-

memorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Hours later, a strike on a car in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza killed at least seven persons including six brothers. The youngest brother was 10.

An airstrike Sunday afternoon hit a house in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza, killing at least seven persons including two women. A pregnant woman was rescued from the rubble.

Another strike in Deir al-Balah hit a municipal building Sunday afternoon and killed at least three persons. In Khan Younis, a strike killed at least three persons.

## Baloch separatists kill eight Pakistanis across border in Iran

**Agence France-Presse**

ISLAMABAD

Separatists killed eight Pakistanis in Iran, Islamabad said on Sunday, across the border from Pakistan's Balochistan province where there are regular deadly attacks.

Pakistan has been battling a decades-long insurgency in impoverished Balochistan, which militant groups claim is being exploited by outsiders, with wealth from its natural resources siphoned off with little benefit to the local population.

Pakistani Prime Minis-

ter Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday condemned the "brutal killings of eight Pakistanis", calling on Tehran to "immediately arrest the culprits".

The Baloch Nationalist Army (BNA), a Pakistani separatist group, and Jaish al-Adl (Arabic for Army of Justice), a Baloch jihadist group that is based in Pakistan but is also active in Iran, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Iran and Pakistan frequently accuse each other of allowing militants to operate from their territory to carry out cross-border attacks.

## McIlroy roars into the lead with a historic start in penultimate round

**AUGUSTA MASTERS**

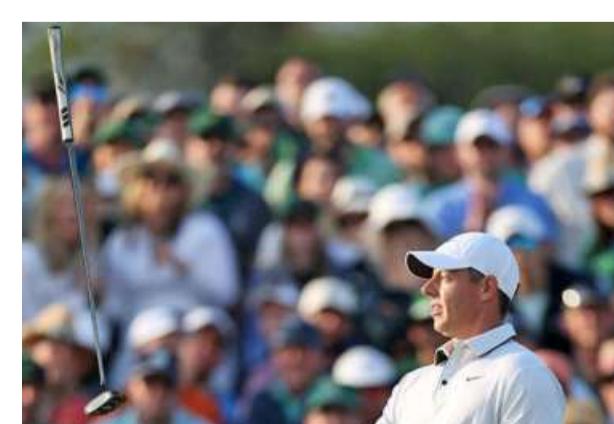
**Agence France-Presse**

AUGUSTA

Rory McIlroy charged to the Masters lead with a historic start to Saturday's third round, then finished strong on Augusta National's back nine to stand two clear atop the leaderboard heading into final round.

McIlroy had two eagles and four birdies in a six-under-par 66 and with a 12-under total of 204 was two strokes clear of Bryson DeChambeau.

McIlroy, who had a six-under in the second round too, is poised to strike for a long-coveted Green Jacket that would see him join



**Magical day:** McIlroy produced a second successive six-under to move two clear at the top. AFP

Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods as the only players to complete a ca-

reer Grand Slam. McIlroy's first eagle of the day was at the par-five second, part of six straight threes to open

his round – a first in Masters history. His second eagle at the par-five 15th, where he stuck his approach six feet from the pin, was the first of the day there and pushed his lead back to four strokes after it had dwindled to one with bogeys at the eighth and 10th.

DeChambeau birdied three of the last four holes for a three-under 69 and a 10-under total of 206. Canadian Corey Conners was alone in third after a two-under-par 70 for 208.

**Top scores (after third round):**  
204 — Rory McIlroy; 206 — Bryson DeChambeau.  
208 — Corey Conners; 210 — Justin Rose, Scottie Scheffler, Shane Lowry, Jason Day.

## Sport

## Van Dijk's late winner edges Liverpool closer to title

**EURO LEAGUES**

**Agence France-Presse**

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool is within touching distance of the Premier League title after Virgil van Dijk sealed a dramatic 2-1 win over West Ham, while Newcastle climbed into the top four with a 4-1 thrashing of Manchester United on Sunday.

Luis Diaz's first-half strike at Anfield was cancelled out by Andrew Robertson's late own goal, but Van Dijk headed Liverpool's winner in the closing moments. Arne Slot's side is 13 points clear of second-placed Arsenal with six games left.



**Ecstatic:** van Dijk celebrates after scoring Liverpool's second against West Ham. AFP

Barcelona needed an own goal to eke out a 1-0 win at relegation-threatened Leganes and protect its lead of the Spanish league on Saturday.

**The results: Premier League:** Chelsea 2 (Tuanzebe 46-og, Sancho 79) drew with Ipswich 2 (Fernandez 28, 63; Leganes 0 lost to Barcelona 1 (Saenz 48-og).  
**Series A:** Juventus 2 (Koopmeiners 2, Yildiz 33) bt Lecce 1 (Baschirotto 87).

(Enciso 19, Johnson 31); Liverpool 2 (Diaz 18, Van Dijk 89) bt West Ham 1 (Robertson 86-og); Wolves 4 (Ait Nouri 2, Spence 38-og, Strand Larsen 64, Cunha 86) bt Tottenham 2 (Tel 59, Richardson 85); Newcastle 4 (Tonali 24, Barnes 49, 64, Guimaraes 77) bt Manchester United 1 (Garnacho 37).  
**LaLiga:** Osasuna 2 (Budimir 38, Ibanez 79) bt Girona 1 (Asprilla 90+6); Alaves 0 lost to Real Madrid 1 (Camavinga 34).  
**Series A:** Atalanta 2 (Retegui 3, Pasalic 21) bt Bologna 0.  
**On Saturday:** LaLiga: Real Sociedad 0 lost to Real Mallorca 2 (Larin 20, Darder 47); Getafe 1 (Aldrete 19) lost to Las Palmas 3 (Silva 53, 74, McBurnie 61); Celta Vigo 0 lost to Espanyol 2 (Fernandez 28, 63); Leganes 0 lost to Barcelona 1 (Saenz 48-og).  
**Series A:** Juventus 2 (Koopmeiners 2, Yildiz 33) bt Lecce 1 (Baschirotto 87).

**IN ELITE CLUB**

**Kohli becomes second batter to score 100 fifties in T20 cricket**



R.V. MOORTHY

Virat Kohli struck his 100th half-century in T20 cricket in RCB's nine-wicket win over RR in the IPL on Sunday. Kohli smashed his third fifty of the season, and the 66th in the tournament, to go level with Australia's David Warner. Warner leads the fifty count in the format (108 in 400 games) followed by Kohli (100, 405 matches).

**DISAPPOINTING**

**Fleming hurt by lack of fight shown by Super Kings**



SANDEEP SAXENA

The disappointing aspect particularly in the last game (eight-wicket loss to KKR at home) was the lack of competition we put up, and that hurt a lot. It's important that we put out a performance that is representative of the proud franchise that we are — CSK head coach Stephen Fleming on the eve of the match against LSG.

# Capitals run out of steam after Karun's heroics

The 33-year-old, playing his first League game since May 2022, makes a swashbuckling 40-ball 89 and puts Delhi on course before Impact Player and leggie Karn spins it in Mumbai Indians' favour



Top red: Boundaries flowed from Karun's willow in an incredible IPL comeback. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

**IPL-18**

**Vivek Krishnan**  
NEW DELHI

**R**uns have rained relentlessly from Karun Nair's bat in domestic cricket for the past few months. For Delhi Capitals in the IPL at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday, Karun's purple patch was on further evidence. That the 33-year-old was playing his first IPL game in three years didn't matter as he produced a scintillating 40-ball 89 against Mumbai Indians in a run chase of 206. Agonizingly for Karun, however, DC imploded after his exit, losing its last seven wickets for 58 runs in 44 balls to suffer a 12-run defeat.

The home side lost its last three wickets to run-outs off successive deliveries in the penultimate over. Leg-spinner Karn Sharma

(three for 36), who came on as an Impact Player, was the pick of the MI bowlers. Karun, who was cooling his heels for the first four games of DC's campaign, had the host in the driving seat till the time he was in the middle.

After 11 overs, DC was 128 for two, requiring another 78 runs from 54 balls. It took something special for Karun to be dislodged. Mitchell Santner was the man to prise out the key scalp in the 12th over, getting one to pitch on middle stump and turn just enough to take off-pole. The game turned on its head from thereon.

Karun's assault against Jasprit Bumrah inside the first six overs had been breathtaking. The spearhead is seldom meted out rough treatment, but his first two overs on Sunday went for 29 runs as the DC batter played shots of the highest quality.

**Next assignment**

**DC:** April 16 vs RR  
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

**MI:** April 17 vs SRH  
Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

**SCOREBOARD****MUMBAI INDIANS**

Rohit Sharma lbw b Vipraj 18 (12b, 2x4, 1x6), Ryan Rickleton b Kuldeep 41 (25b, 5x4, 2x6), Suryakumar Yadav c Starc b Kuldeep 40 (28b, 5x4, 2x6), Tilak Varma c Porel b Mukesh 59 (33b, 6x4, 3x6), Hardik Pandya c Stubbs b Vipraj 2 (4b), Naman Dhir (not out) 38 (17b, 3x4, 2x6), Will Jacks (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-1, w-5); Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 205.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-47 (Rohit, 4.6 overs), 2-75 (Rickleton, 7.4), 3-135 (Suryakumar, 13.1), 4-138 (Hardik, 14.1), 5-200 (Tilak, 19.4).

**CAPITALS BOWLING**

Starc 3-0-43-0, Mukesh 4-0-38-1, Vipraj 4-0-41-2, Kuldeep 4-0-23-2, Axar 2-0-19-0, Mohit 3-0-40-0.

**DELHI CAPITALS**

Jake Fraser-McGurk c Jacks b Chahar 0 (1b), Abishek Porel c Naman b Karn 33 (25b, 3x4, 1x6), Karun Nair (**Impact Player for Mukesh**) b Santner 89 (40b, 12x4, 5x6), K.L. Rahul c & b Karn 15 (13b, 1x4), Axar Patel c Suryakumar b Bumrah 9 (6b, 2x4), Tristan Stubbs c Naman b Karn 1 (4b), Ashutosh Sharma run out 17 (14b, 2x4), Vipraj Nigam st. Rickleton b Santner 14 (8b, 1x4, 1x6), Mitchell Starc (not out) 1 (1b), Kuldeep Yadav run out 1 (1b), Mohit Sharma run out 0 (1b); Extras (lb-4, w-9); Total (in 19 overs): 193.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-0 (Fraser-McGurk, 0.1), 2-119 (Porel, 10.2), 3-135 (Karn, 11.4), 4-144 (Axar, 12.4), 5-145 (Stubbs, 13.3), 6-160 (Rahul, 15.3), 7-180 (Vipraj, 17.4), 8-192 (Ashutosh, 18.4), 9-193 (Kuldeep, 18.5).

**MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING**

Chahar 3-0-24-1, Boult 2-0-21-0, Bumrah 4-0-44-1, Santner 4-0-43-2, Hardik 2-0-21-0, Karn (**Impact Player for Rohit**) 4-0-36-3.

**Toss:** Capitals.

**PoM:** Karn.  
**MI won by 12 runs.**

**Next assignment**

**DC:** April 16 vs RR  
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

**MI:** April 17 vs SRH  
Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

# CSK faces a Herculean task against a marauding Pooran and LSG

**S. Prasanna Venkatesan**

LUCKNOW

Nicholas Pooran is batting like a dream. He's striking at 215.43 per 100 balls. He's become a six-hitting outlier — his average of 5.1 sixes per match this season is the best in the IPL history among those who've hit at least 20 sixes in a season.

But for Chennai Super Kings, which takes on Lucknow Super Giants at the Ekana Stadium here on Monday, his batting poses a big threat. How does CSK negate a batter who has single-handedly hit nearly as many sixes (31) as all its batters have collectively managed to (32)?

How do the CSK spinners tame a spin-slayer who strikes spin at 272.46 (22 sixes)?

Super Kings might have an interesting match-up,



Let's do this: The Super Kings think-tank would have had a lot to discuss ahead of the meeting against Super Giants. SANDEEP SAXENA

though. Pooran has been dismissed twice in three innings and has scored only two runs off eight balls in the IPL against its left-arm wrist spinner and Purple Cap-holder Noor Ahmad.

But, for that to play out, CSK has to first go through Mitchell Marsh if he plays. It has to contain Marsh and his opening partner Aiden

Markram in the PowerPlay. Forget about LSG's batting riches, CSK has to repair its own batting.

How does it maximise and not lose too many wickets in the PowerPlay? How does it frequently hit fours and sixes? How does it not play too many dot balls?

How does it string to-

**Today's match**

**LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS** vs. **CHENNAI SUPER KING**  
Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

**HEAD-TO-HEAD**

Played: 5

LSG 3 | CSK 1 | NR 1

**PREVIOUS MEETING**

LSG won by six wickets, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOCHATSTAR

gather at least one substantial partnership?

These might seem T20 101, but sadly what the five-time champion contends with.

CSK does try, but does it try hard enough?

Because, even for the cosmos to collude with it, CSK has to be challenging enough.

How does it string to-

**TASK FORCE**

**ICC announces initiative to support displaced Afghan women cricketers**



AFP

The ICC on Sunday announced the creation of a task force to support displaced Afghan women cricketers. The initiative will see the setting up of a "dedicated fund to provide direct monetary assistance, ensuring these cricketers have the resources they need" to continue playing, according to the ICC.

**ICC CRICKET COMMITTEE**

**Ganguly remains chairperson, Laxman a panel member again**



FILE PHOTO

Sourav Ganguly was re-appointed chairperson of the ICC men's cricket committee while V.W.S. Laxman was picked again as a panel member. Former Afghan player Hamid Hassan, West Indies batting great Desmond Haynes, South Africa's Temba Bavuma, and former England batter Jonathan Trott will also be part of the committee.

# Salt and Kohli combine to help RCB maintain its perfect away record

**M.R. Praveen Chandran**  
JAIPUR

Royal Challengers Bengaluru is proving to be a force to reckon with on the road in IPL 2025. After registering wins in Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai, the Bengaluru side added Jaipur to the list after it walloped Rajasthan Royals by nine wickets at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Sunday.

Royals' homecoming this season wasn't a happy affair as it ended in a huge defeat much to the disappointment of the capacity crowd. RCB's gun pair of Phil Salt (65) and Virat Kohli (62 not out) set up the win with an opening stand of 92 in 8.4 overs.

The PowerPlay, during which RCB raced to 65 for no loss, set the template for the chase. The Royals bowlers sprayed the ball around and fielders failed to hold on to the catches, letting RCB off the hook. The catching was bizarre with 10 chances going down in the contest, but the drops by Rajasthan proved costly.

Salt enjoyed a large slice of fortune, with Jaiswal and Sandeep Sharma failing to grab the opportunities. He made it count and with an assortment of pulls, cuts and drives countered to his half-century off 28 balls. Kohli, dropped by Riyan Parag at long-on when he was on seven, was the accumulator during Salt's carnage.

However, after Salt's departure, Kohli went into overdrive and carted Kumar Kartikeya and Wanindu Hasaranga for sixes to reach his fifty off 39 balls. Impact Player Devdutt Padikkal (40 not out) punished the wayward deliver-



Fortune favours the brave: Salt rode his luck to smash a 33-ball 65. R.V. MOORTHY

**Points table**

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	6	4	2	8	1.081
Delhi Capitals	5	4	1	8	0.899
Royal Challengers	6	4	2	8	0.672
Lucknow Super Giants	6	4	2	8	0.162
Kolkata Knight Riders	6	3	3	6	0.803
Punjab Kings	5	3	2	6	0.065
Mumbai Indians	6	2	4	4	0.104
Rajasthan Royals	6	2	4	4	-0.838
Sunrisers Hyderabad	6	2	4	4	-1.245
Chennai Super Kings	6	1	5	2	-1.554

\* Till the DC-MI match on April 13

ies to add 83 with Kohli to hasten the win.

In the afternoon, Royals openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Sanju Samson struggled for timing on the slow surface.

But Jaiswal (75) took

**SCOREBOARD**

**RAJASTHAN ROYALS**  
Yashasvi Jaiswal lbw b Hazlewood 75 (47b, 10x4, 2x6), Sanju Samson st. Jitesh b Krunal 15 (1b, 1x4), Riyan Parag c Kohli b Dayal 30 (22b, 3x4, 1x6), Dhruv Jurel (not out) 35 (23b, 2x4, 2x6), Shimron Hetmyer c Padikkal (**Impact Player for Suyash**) b Bhuvneshwar 9 (8b, 1x4), Nitish Rana (not out) 4 (1b, 1x4); Extras (lb-1, w-2); 5; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 173.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-49 (Samson, 6.5 overs), 2-105 (Parag, 13.2), 3-126 (Jaiswal, 15.6), 4-169 (Hetmyer, 19.5).

**RCB BOWLING**

Bhuvneshwar 4-0-32-1, Dayal 4-0-36-1, Hazlewood 3-0-26-1, Krunal 4-0-29-1, Livingstone 1-0-8-0, Suyash 4-0-39-0.

**ROYAL CHALLENGERS**

Phil Salt c Jaiswal b Kartikeya 65 (33b, 5x4, 6x6), Virat Kohli (not out) 62 (45b, 4x4, 2x6), Devdutt Padikkal (not out) 40 (28b, 5x4, 1x6); Extras (nb-1, w-7); 8; Total (for one wkt. in 17.3 overs): 175.

**FALL OF WICKET**

1-92 (Salt, 8

## INBRIEF



## Ju wins seventh game, takes a three-point lead

Defending champion Ju Wenjun beat challenger Tan Zhongyi in the seventh game of the women's World chess championship at Chongqing on Sunday to take a three-point lead. She scored her third straight win, defeating Tan with white to jump ahead 5-2 and is just 1.5 points away from clinching the match with five games to be played.

## India clinches silver in men's recurve team event

India clinched a silver in the men's recurve team event at the Archery World Cup Stage 1 after the trio of Dhiraj Bomma devara, Tarundeep Rai, and Atanu Das lost 5-1 to China in the final, in Auburndale, USA, on Sunday. This was India's third medal of the event.

## Churchill withdraws from Super Cup football

Churchill Brothers has withdrawn from Super Cup football, starting in Bhubaneswar on April 20, protesting against the AIFF's decision to not officially declare it as 2024-25 I-League winner, calling it a "blatant disregard of rules and precedent". In a letter on Saturday to AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey on Saturday, the Goan club also cited "irregularities" in the conduct of the Super Cup draw as another reason for pulling out.

## Sriram Balaji &amp; Reyes-Varela duo loses in semifinals

Sriram Balaji and Miguel Reyes-Varela lost 6-4, 7-5 to Santiago Gonzalez and Austin Krajicek in the doubles semifinals of the \$200,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Mexico.

## Indian boys lose to Indonesia in WJT

India lost to Indonesia 2-1 in the play-off match for the 9th to 12th place in the Asia-Oceania WJT under-14 boys' tennis championship in Kuching, Malaysia, on Sunday.

**The results:** Play-off (9th to 12 place): Indonesia bt India 2-1 (Rafael Priadi lost to Kaustubh Singh 0-6, 1-6; Ethan Frans bt Viraj Choudhary 6-1, 6-1; Ethan & Komang Purustama bt Viraj & Paranjay Siwach 6-4, 6-1).

## Molina credits Bagan's success to hard work and quality

**ISL**  
**Amitabha Das Sharma**  
KOLKATA

The quality of the players combined with hard work helped the team achieve its aim, said Mohun Bagan Super Giant head coach Jose Molina after his side completed an Indian Super League double on Saturday night. Having lifted the League Shield earlier in March, Mohun Bagan continued its successful run to annex the Cup and made it one of the most dominant performances by any team in ISL history.

"I believe in the process, and that takes care of the results. Once you believe in the process, and you have the tools, by which I mean the quality of the players, support staff and the fans, then you can have success," Molina explained after he was asked about the secret behind his team's success story.

"We have everything of quality in Mohun Bagan and that took us from one success to another. Now we won two titles – the Shield and the Cup."



**On a high:** Bagan players celebrate with family and friends after achieving a grand double. X/INDSUPERLEAGUE

the ground. That worked well for us as you cannot predict a result but work for it," said Molina, who had previously won the ISL crown for the team's previous avatar ATK in 2016.

"I feel, for the fourth time in a row this season, we were better than them. We had everything under control. The penalty changed the match," said

"We worked hard every day to reach a level of preparation and the players tried to put their best on

# Hope our players get tougher, physically and tactically: Vishal

The captain says the plan was to have the experience of Ankita for the doubles matches and youngsters for singles; hails the performance of Shrivalli and Vaidehi in the tournament; wants the team to be ready for the sterner challenges ahead

## BJK CUP

## PUNE

**F**ive years after playing a sterling role in partnership with Sania Mirza, Ankita Raina did it once again, to take India to the Billie Jean King Cup World Group play-offs, by winning the decisive doubles against Korea, in the last league match in along with Prarthana Thombar.

In 2020, Ankita had won the decisive doubles rubber against Indonesia to see India qualify as the second team behind China. Ankita had won three doubles matches then with Sania, apart from most of her singles matches, when the event was called the Fed-Cup.

This time around, captain Vishal Uppal opted to preserve the No.1 player in the team, Ankita, for the doubles in all the league matches. Ankita and Prarthana came up with an impressive performance against Sohyun Park and Kim Dabin to secure qualification.



**We've done it:** Team India rode on impressive performances to qualify for the BJK Cup World Group play-offs. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

He played a key role in making a plan and executing it nicely with the combined effort of the team.

"I am ecstatic at having achieved our *lakshya* (target) again. I have believed in these girls for a while now and they have further strengthened my resolve by this performance," said Vishal, who was the captain in 2020 as well.

He was particularly pleased to achieve the qualification on home soil, and share the joy with "fellow Indians."

The captain trusted the younger players with the load of tackling all singles matches, preserving Ankita for the decisive doubles.

"I studied the other teams when they were announced and saw the

strengths of our team, and how we could use that tactically against each individual team.

"I felt we needed the firepower of the youth for singles, and for the crucial doubles, we needed the most experienced to handle the extra pressure.

"I am very happy that the plan worked," observed Vishal.



I am ecstatic at having achieved our *lakshya* (target) again. I have believed in these girls for a while now and they have further strengthened my resolve by this performance

After Vaidehi Chaudhari had won two singles matches, Vishal opted to bring back Sahaja Yamalapalli to play the second singles as No. 1, playing Shrivalli in the first singles as No. 2, against Korea.

Shrivalli won against Park in a three-hour battle of wits, blasting her way out of trouble, and sustaining the explosive game till the end. Shrivalli in fact won all her five singles matches, and two of them against No. 1 singles opponents.

The team will have a few months to get ready for the World Group play-offs.

"I hope our players make themselves tougher physically and tactically. And also understand the importance of the mental game," he said.

## Punjab to take on M.P. for the honours

## HOCKEY

## Sports Bureau

Madhya Pradesh entered the 15th men's National hockey championships Division A final in Jhansi on Sunday with a 5-3 victory against Manipur in the semifinals.

It will now take on Punjab for the championship, the latter registering a 4-3 win against Uttar Pradesh.

**The semifinals:** Madhya Pradesh 5 (Aman Yousuf 5, 34, Ali Ahmad 7, 15, Mohd. Zaid Khan 49) bt Manipur 3 (Rabichandra Singh 47, Chinglensana Singh 50, Dipu Singh 53).

Punjab 4 (Jasjit Singh Kular 14, 40, Harjeet Singh 22, Jugraj Singh 45) bt Uttar Pradesh 3 (Pawan Rajbhar 32, Shardanand Tiwari 41, 43).

## Women's chess Grand Prix set to begin today

## Sports Bureau

The fifth leg of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix chess, a qualifying event for the Candidates tournament that will determine the challenger for the World championship, featuring 10 of the world's leading players will begin in Pune on Monday.

India's four best players – Koneru Humpy, Dronavalli Harika, R. Vaishali and Divya Deshmukh – are competing. Zhu Jiner (China), Polina Shuvanova (Russia), Alina Kashlinskaya (Poland), Nurygul Salimova (Bulgaria), Batkhuyag Munguntuul (Mongolia) and Salome Melia (Georgia) complete the line-up.

## Pairing for the first round:

Batkhuuyag v Salome; Zhu v Harika; Kashlinskaya v Shuvanova; Salimova v Divya; Vaishali v Humpy.

## LIVE TELECAST

**IPL:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

## Jeswin keen to make the cut for Asian athletics championships

## CHENNAI



**All set:** Jeswin says the Indian Open would be a good preparation for the Federation Cup. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

mention that the Indian Open would be good preparation for the Federation Cup to be held in Kochi from April 21 to 24.

"I last took part in the Inter-State meet in the city in 2022. It is a new track here. I was in Florida to learn new techniques and will want to replicate them in Chennai.

"My focus will be on qualifying for the Asian meet," Jeswin, who will be representing Reliance in the Chennai meet, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

The 23-year-old also

had trained in Florida, USA for the last three months, now looking forward to his first event of the season – the Indian Open Meeting at the Nehru Stadium here on April 15.

The current National record holder in men's long jump (8.42m set in March 2023) said he is excited to take part in the Chennai event and added that he was keen to make the qual-

ification mark of 8.07m for the Asian championships scheduled in Gumi, South Korea from May 27 to 31.

"I last took part in the Inter-State meet in the city in 2022. It is a new track here. I was in Florida to learn new techniques and will want to replicate them in Chennai.

"My focus will be on qualifying for the Asian meet," Jeswin, who will be representing Reliance in the Chennai meet, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

The 23-year-old also

had trained in Florida, USA for the last three months, now looking forward to his first event of the season – the Indian Open Meeting at the Nehru Stadium here on April 15.

The current National record holder in men's long jump (8.42m set in March 2023) said he is excited to take part in the Chennai event and added that he was keen to make the qual-

ification mark of 8.07m for the Asian championships scheduled in Gumi, South Korea from May 27 to 31.

"I last took part in the Inter-State meet in the city in 2022. It is a new track here. I was in Florida to learn new techniques and will want to replicate them in Chennai.

"My focus will be on qualifying for the Asian meet," Jeswin, who will be representing Reliance in the Chennai meet, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

The 23-year-old also

had trained in Florida, USA for the last three months, now looking forward to his first event of the season – the Indian Open Meeting at the Nehru Stadium here on April 15.

The current National record holder in men's long jump (8.42m set in March 2023) said he is excited to take part in the Chennai event and added that he was keen to make the qual-

ification mark of 8.07m for the Asian championships scheduled in Gumi, South Korea from May 27 to 31.

"I last took part in the Inter-State meet in the city in 2022. It is a new track here. I was in Florida to learn new techniques and will want to replicate them in Chennai.

"My focus will be on qualifying for the Asian meet," Jeswin, who will be representing Reliance in the Chennai meet, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

The 23-year-old also

had trained in Florida, USA for the last three months, now looking forward to his first event of the season – the Indian Open Meeting at the Nehru Stadium here on April 15.

The current National record holder in men's long jump (8.42m set in March 2023) said he is excited to take part in the Chennai event and added that he was keen to make the qual-

ification mark of 8.07m for the Asian championships scheduled in Gumi, South Korea from May 27 to 31.

"I last took part in the Inter-State meet in the city in 2022. It is a new track here. I was in Florida to learn new techniques and will want to replicate them in Chennai.

"My focus will be on qualifying for the Asian meet," Jeswin, who will be representing Reliance in the Chennai meet, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

The 23-year-old also

had trained in Florida, USA for the last three months, now looking forward to his first event of the season – the Indian Open Meeting at the Nehru Stadium here on April 15.

The current National record holder in men's long jump (8.42m set in March 2023) said he is excited to take part in the Chennai event and added that he was keen to make the qual-

ification mark of 8.07m for the Asian championships scheduled in Gumi, South Korea from May 27 to 31.

"I last took part in the Inter-State meet in the city in 2022. It is a new track here. I was in Florida to learn new techniques and will want to replicate them in Chennai.

"My focus will be on qualifying for the Asian meet," Jeswin, who will be representing Reliance in the Chennai meet, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

The 23-year-old also

had trained in Florida, USA for the last three months, now looking forward to his first event of the season – the Indian Open Meeting at the Nehru Stadium here on April 15.

The current National record holder in men's long jump (8.42m set in March 2023) said he is excited to take part in the Chennai event and added that he was keen to make the qual-

ification mark of 8.07m for the Asian championships scheduled in Gumi, South Korea from May 27 to 31.

"I last took part in the Inter-State meet in the city in 2022. It is a new track here. I was in Florida to learn new techniques and will want to replicate them in Chennai.

"My focus will be on qualifying for the Asian meet," Jeswin, who will be representing Reliance in the Chennai meet, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

The 23-year-old also

had trained in Florida, USA for the last three months, now looking forward to his first event of the season – the Indian Open Meeting at the Nehru Stadium here on April 15.

The current National record holder in men's long jump (8.42m set in March 2023) said he is excited to take part in the Chennai event and added that he was keen to make the qual-

ification mark of 8.07m for the Asian championships scheduled in Gumi, South Korea from May 27 to 31.

"I last took part in the Inter-State meet in the city in 2022. It is a new track here. I was in Florida to learn new techniques and will want to replicate them in Chennai.

"My focus will be on qualifying for the Asian meet," Jeswin, who will be representing Reliance in the Chennai meet, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

The 23-year-old also

had trained in Florida, USA for the last three months, now looking forward to his first event of the season – the Indian Open Meeting at the Nehru Stadium here on April 15.

The current National record holder in men's long jump (8.42m set in March 2023) said he is excited to take part in the Chennai event and added that he was keen to make the qual-

ification mark of 8.07m for the Asian championships scheduled in Gumi, South Korea from May 27 to 31.

"I last took part in the Inter-State meet in the city in 2022. It is a new track here. I was in Florida to learn new techniques and will want to replicate them in Chennai.

"My focus will be on qualifying for the Asian meet," Jeswin, who will be representing Reliance in the Chennai meet, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

The 23-year-old also

had trained in Florida, USA for the last three months, now looking forward to his first event of the season – the Indian Open Meeting at the Nehru Stadium here on April 15.

The current National record holder in men's long jump (8.42m set in March 2023) said he is excited to take part in the Chennai event and added that he was keen to make the qual-

ification mark of 8.07m for the Asian championships scheduled in Gumi, South Korea from May 27 to 31.

"I last took part in the Inter-State meet in the city in 2022. It is a new track here. I was in Florida to learn new techniques and will want to replicate them in Chennai.

"My focus will be on qualifying for the Asian meet," Jeswin, who will be representing Reliance in the Chennai meet, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

The 23-year-old also

had trained in Florida, USA for the last three months, now looking forward to his first event of the season – the Indian Open Meeting at the Nehru Stadium here on April 15.

The current National record holder in men's long jump (8.42m set in March 2023) said he is excited to take part in the Chennai event and added that he was keen to make the qual-

ification mark of 8.07m for the Asian championships scheduled in Gumi, South Korea from May 27 to 31.

"I last took part in the Inter-State meet in the city in 2022. It is a new track here. I was in Florida to learn new techniques and will want to replicate them in Chennai.

"My focus will be on qualifying for the Asian meet," Jeswin, who will be representing Reliance in the Chennai meet, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

The 23-year-old also

had trained in Florida, USA for the last three months, now looking forward to his first event of the season – the Indian Open Meeting at the Nehru Stadium here on April 15.

The current National record holder in men's long jump (8.42m set in March 2023) said he is excited to take part in the Chennai event and added

# Sai Sudharsan – the perfect sync between consistency and authority

The Tamil Nadu southpaw has been churning out a truckload of runs, pleasing on the eye and of great impact in a line-up of explosive stroke-makers; even had he not joined the race for the Orange Cap, he'd still firmly be on course for an international comeback



SANDEEP SAXENA

## R. Kaushik

**I**t might still be early days, but this edition of the Indian Premier League is already fast becoming the Season of the 20-something left-handers.

Ahead of double-header Sunday (April 13), a 29-year-old from Trinidad & Tobago (Nicholas Pooran) helmed the run-making charts while a 20-year-old from Khost in Afghanistan (Noor Ahmad) wore the Purple Cap. Two of the three hundreds of Season 18 have come from the scything willows of 24-year-olds (Priyansh Arya and, famously on Saturday night, Abhishek Sharma), the third from a 26-year-old seasoned campaigner on the international comeback trail (Ishan Kishan). Left certainly has been overwhelmingly right.

Add to this flamboyant bunch - and make no mistake, this is a largely flamboyant bunch of batters to whom hitting sixes is second nature, complemented by a left-arm wrist-spinner who, even if he wanted to be, couldn't be anything but flamboyant - a quiet, understated rangy 23-year-old left-hander from Chennai who cries out for attention not with flashy earrings and outlandish gestures but with the simplicity of his strokeplay, at once effortless and breathtaking.

Answering to the name of B. Sai Sudharsan, the Gujarat Titans opener is engaged in a gripping battle with Pooran for the race to the Orange Cap. The symbol of supremacy when it comes to run-making in the IPL has changed hands more than once and is currently in the possession of the Caribbean charmer. But while the Orange Cap will be a welcome addition to his kitbag, Sudharsan's primary focus is not on the slice of individual glory. The larger cause, team success, resonates with him; he was part of the squad (but not the XI) that won its maiden final on debut in 2022, top-scored with 96 in the last-ball loss to Chennai Super Kings in the title clash 12 months later and has been one of their more consistent performers in the last four seasons. Now armed with a maturity that goes well beyond his biological age, it sets him up as potentially one for the future from a leadership perspective too.

### Nip and tuck

Pooran and Sudharsan have been engaged in a fabulous battle of nip-and-tuck in the race for top run-making honours. The far more explosive Trinidadian leads the way with

349 runs from six innings at an average and a strike-rate superior to Sudharsan. Where the latter averages 54.83 and strikes at 151.61 per 100 runs scored (he has 329 runs, also from six innings), Pooran's corresponding numbers are 69.80 and 215.43 respectively. The older batter has smashed 31 sixes (just one fewer than Chennai Super Kings' entire team tally at the conclusion of their sixth game) to Sudharsan's 13 but then again, this isn't a battle between Pooran and Sudharsan, this isn't a comparison of who is more valuable to their team.

For starters, Pooran strides out at No. 3, behind the aggressive opening pair of Mitchell Marsh and Aiden Markram, with Lucknow Super Giants packing most of their explosive power in the top half of their batting order. New skipper Rishabh Pant has yet to catch fire but behind Pooran, there is no shortage of batting muscle - Ayush Badoni, David Miller, Abdul Samad. This is a fearsome group of ball-strikers in a tournament where every team, with the exception of CSK, seems to have assiduously assembled fearsome groups of ball-strikers.

Gujarat Titans aren't an exception, by any stretch of the imagination. On paper, they might not appear to possess the same depth when it comes to scoring rapidly but of their six batters who have faced at least 30 balls this season, skipper Shubman Gill's strike rate of 149.64 is the least. One would think that in a line-up that, Gill apart, boasts Jos Buttler, Sherfane Rutherford and Shahrukh Khan, Sudharsan would be the fulcrum around whom the rest would operate. But astonishingly, for want of a better word, it is the Tamil Nadu left-hander who tops the boundary-hitting charts for his franchise, with 31 fours and 13 sixes from 217 deliveries faced.

Sudharsan's IPL career graph is the perfect illustration of how to marry consistency with authority, how to make the most of experience gained and situations encountered, how to keep growing better and better and finding novel methods of keeping oneself a step ahead of the opposition in these days of constant scrutiny and supreme dependence on data and analytics. Each edition of the IPL has been more fruitful numerically than the previous one - he is now in his fourth season - but more than the quantum of runs, it is the manner in which he has made them that has been impressive.

It is inevitable that batters will need to improvise - some might point to Virat Kohli, unfairly, and say that he is pretty

much the poster boy for batting orthodoxy in 20-over cricket without any drop in returns or efficacy but the former Indian skipper can't be the norm in any cricketing discussion - in the T20 format, and especially those who have cut their teeth bang in the middle of the 20-over revolution, unlike a Kohli. Sudarshan is nearly a decade and a half younger than Kohli and therefore is more of an offspring of the 20-over revolution than Kohli will ever be, but that doesn't mean that he goes to the reverse sweep or the switch hit at the drop of a hat.

In Royal Challengers Bengaluru's first home game of the season on April 2, Sudharsan made a polished 49 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on April 2, one of the driving forces behind his team's nonchalant assault on the hosts' 169 for eight. During his time in the middle until he ceded centre-stage to Buttler and Rutherford, Sudharsan lit up the venue with several wondrous strokes. There were muscular pulls and rasping square-cuts; his only six came when he walked across his stumps and paddled a full, fast ball from Josh Hazlewood to fine-leg for six. It was a terrific piece of improvisation, bold and adventurous and a grand example of the spectrum that traverses risk and reward. But the connoisseurs who watched that game at the ground and on television would have been delighted at Sudharsan's choice of the stroke that had given him the greatest joy.

### Subliminal effect

That came a ball after the six. Somewhat overcompensating for having bowled so full and on leg, Hazlewood pulled his length back and sent down a good delivery, potentially headed to the top of the off-stump. Sudharsan was prepared.

An initial movement translated into a forward press and he punched the ball on the up past the Aussie quick, sending it racing off the pitch to the straight boundary with minimal effort and subliminal effect. It was a stroke that had 'class' written all over it, class that has been a Sudharsan ally for a long time now.

This season, Sudharsan has four half-centuries and the aforementioned 49 from six innings. If that's not a sign of consistency, then little else is. Despite all this, he may not be even close to the fringes of the Indian T20 team, such is the depth that Ajit Agarkar and Suryakumar Yadav and Gautam Gambhir can pick from. The queue, especially within the batting community, to break into the T20

set-up is long, winding, seemingly endless. Sudharsan is smart enough to understand the futility of trying to second-guess the decision-makers, of the follies of attempting to figure out if he has done enough to catch and then hold their attention. In his head, that is not even his brief; that revolves around scoring runs of import and impact, of making runs that matter, that buttress the team's cause rather than his own CV and runbank alone.

"It's my fourth year (in the IPL and with GT), it has given me a lot of experience. I got exposed to a few difficult conditions, I got exposed to a lot of quick bowling in the nets. The most important thing which has helped my evolution or the way I've improved my T20 batting is the game time I get here and the practice time I get here with the Titans - with all quality bowlers, all international bowlers, Sudharsan acknowledged the other day.

"That has helped me even from the nets; I've learnt a lot in these three years. And obviously, playing for India, that has helped me even more to understand the game better and the basics of the game as well." Sudharsan has played three One-Day Internationals, all in South Africa in December 2023, making half-centuries in his first two appearances. He didn't bat in his only T20I, against Zimbabwe in Harare last July, but was in the India 'A' squad that travelled to Australia last hundred and produced a sparkling 103 in the second innings of the first unofficial 'Test' against the hosts in Mackay. Surprisingly for someone with such strong grounding in the basics, very good awareness of where his off-stump is and more than decent technique, he only averages 39.93 in 29 first-class games when he is clearly much, much better than those numbers would suggest.

India travel to England for five Tests, the first of them at Headingley from June 20, in the build-up to which the 'A' team will play two four-day games, starting in Canterbury on May 30.

Unless things go horribly wrong, Sudharsan should be on the flight to the English capital sometime towards the third or so week of May, hoping to build on the gains of Australia and hoping to stay in the consciousness of the national selectors. India showed by plucking Devdutt Padikkal from the 'A' squad and fielding him in the XI in Perth Test ahead of reserve opener Abhimanyu Easwaran that they are prepared to look beyond the Bengal captain. Maybe in that lies Sudharsan's chance to stake his claim. Quietly and without fuss, of course.

## THE GIST

Sudharsan's IPL career graph is the perfect illustration of how to make the most of experience gained and situations encountered

This season, Sudharsan has four half-centuries and the aforementioned 49 from six innings. If that's not a sign of consistency, then little else is

India travel to England for five Tests, the first of them at Headingley from June 20, in the build-up to which the 'A' team will play two four-day games, starting in Canterbury on May 30. Maybe in that lies Sudharsan's chance to stake his claim

# SCIENCE

# BatEchoMon: India's first automated bat monitoring, detection system

**BatEchoMon** is programmed to activate at sunset, when bats begin flying, and continuously listens and analyses audio. Its Raspberry Pi microprocessor processes data captured by an ultrasonic detector, isolating bat calls from other noises, and then uses a neural network to identify the species

Nikhil Sreekandan

**F**or her PhD research, bat biologist Kadambini Deshpande made overnight recordings of bat echolocation calls in the Western Ghats. A "good night" would generate about 30 GB of data from 11 hours of recording with a bat detector. To process the data, Deshpande would go through several one-minute recordings, scanning every millisecond for bat calls, and make notes on the species and other information on their behaviour and ecology.

"It took me 11 months to process 20 nights of data," Deshpande said. "BatEchoMon can probably give me that in a few hours."

BatEchoMon, short for 'Bat Echolocation Monitoring,' is an autonomous system capable of detecting and analysing bat calls in real-time. It is India's first automated bat monitoring system, developed by Deshpande and Vedant Barje under the guidance of Jagdish Krishnaswamy, at the Long-Term Urban Ecological Observatory in the School of Environment and Sustainability at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), Bengaluru.

Deshpande is a postdoctoral fellow at the Observatory and the School; Barje, who leads the WildTech Project at the Wildlife Conservation Trust, is a consultant there.

BatEchoMon marks a new chapter for bat research in the country, according to Deshpande. The monitoring system allows scientists who study bats to "go beyond data processing and towards asking interesting questions about bat ecology."

"Not only will it lead to a smoother workflow, it will help people transition to recording bats in different parts of the country, allowing us to gain more insights on the natural history and ecology of different bat species," Rohit Chakravarty, a bat researcher and conservationist at the Nature Conservation Foundation, said.

"I don't know of any device internationally with an inbuilt recording plus call classifying unit. If my knowledge serves me well, BatEchoMon is a milestone in bat research globally."

#### The bat in the machine

Aside from a recording device, BatEchoMon includes components to record, store, process, and analyse species-wise bat activity on the fly. "In [BatEchoMon], Audiomoth, a popular low-cost ultrasonic detector, has been configured to work as an ultrasonic microphone," Barje said.

BatEchoMon is programmed to activate

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



Kadambini Deshpande and Vedant Barje with two BatEchoMon units. VIVEK HASYAGAR

Join FREE WhatsApp Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F> automatically at sunset, when bats begin flying, and continuously listens and analyses audio. The device's brain is a Raspberry Pi microprocessor, which processes the data captured by Audiomoth. "It first isolates bat calls from other ultrasounds, such as those of insects or anthropogenic and environmental noises. Then the peak frequency and structure of a bat call are analysed to match a known pre-trained model, which helps identify the bat species," Deshpande explained.

"The system uses a [convolutional neural network] based algorithm to do this," Barje added. The output from the device is a spectrogram – a visual representation of the frequencies of an audio signal as it varies with time – of all detected bat calls, along with audio recordings of the portions with just the calls. The system also generates statistical data on which species has been most active through the night, which species was active when, and so on.

"Earlier, all of this needed to be interpreted manually, after painstakingly combing through hours of data," Deshpande said.

The Raspberry Pi and its associated processing components are enclosed in a box measuring 200 mm × 80 mm × 80 mm. Other auxiliary components in the device include a solar panel plus battery and a WiFi communication unit for power supply and data transmission, respectively. In the absence of the sun, the device can last for up to eight days, according to Barje. BatEchoMon also has



Currently, the system can identify six to seven common Indian bat species. Going forward, we would like to include as many bat species as possible

a modular design, and its battery, charging apparatus, and the level of automation and data relay can be customised to the space it is installed in. But the team was reluctant to reveal more about the setup process.

**'Suddenly, it became possible'**  
Bat ecology and acoustics is a nascent field in India, with just a handful of bat researchers recording bat calls and analysing them for ecological studies. Global bat-call databases such as ChiroVox and Xeno-Canto have few recordings submitted by Indians.

Deshpande has been using bat detectors since 2008 and has observed their evolution worldwide. In Europe, she said, detectors equipped with the associated software and reference libraries have saved scientists a lot of time. Since then she has wanted to develop something similar, but customised for the insectivorous bats that are more common in India.

After a chance meeting with fellow researcher Barje, the duo started iterating through numerous designs, different microprocessors, algorithms, and power

solutions – before arriving at the current version of BatEchoMon.

The core system of BatEchoMon costs a third of advanced detectors and similar systems, according to Barje. He didn't wish to disclose exact numbers, however.

#### The main challenge

In the last few months, BatEchoMon has successfully completed pilot tests in an IIHS site in Nashik. The team plans to test it for longer durations and in diverse conditions as well as to beta test the device with select users outside the organisation.

BatEchoMon's primary obstacle is the limited availability of reference libraries for the calls of many bat species.

"Currently, the system can identify six to seven common Indian bat species. Going forward, we would like to include as many bat species as possible," Deshpande said.

They also said they hope the device in its present form will be able to identify the species commonly seen in urban, peri-urban, and human-modified forested areas. The main challenge is to create robust training datasets to make good detection models for different species.

Fortunately, collaborations among Indian researchers are improving because of initiatives like the 'State of India's Bats' workshop conducted by the Nature Conservation Foundation and Bat Conservation International, according to Chakravarty.

(Nikhil Sreekandan is an independent journalist. [nseekandan@gmail.com](mailto:nseekandan@gmail.com))

## THE GIST

▼  
BatEchoMon can detect and analyse bat calls in real-time. It is India's first automated bat monitoring system, developed by Kadambini Deshpande and Vedant Barje at the Long-Term Urban Ecological Observatory in Bengaluru

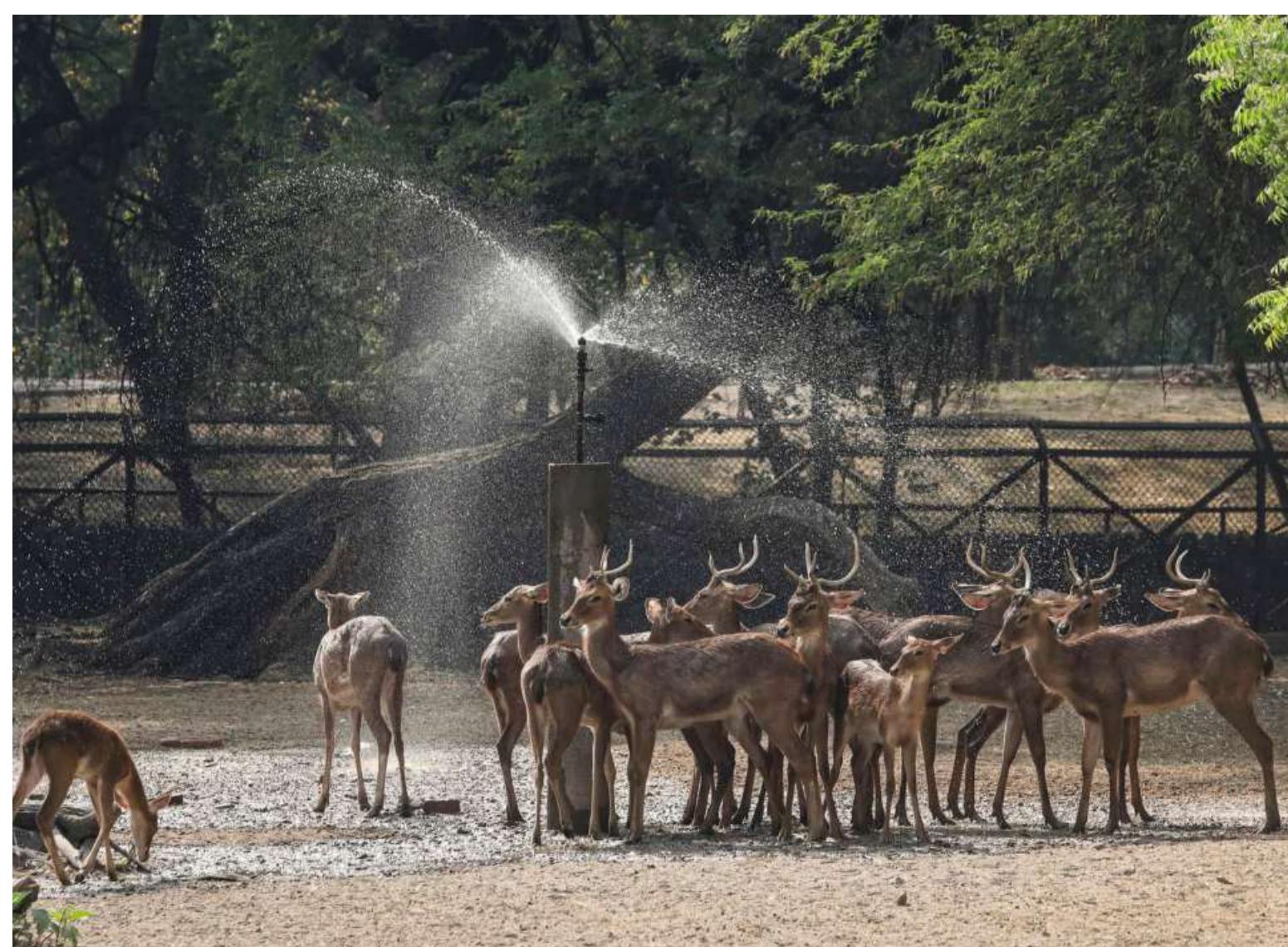
▼  
The developers say the system allows scientists to progress towards asking questions about bat ecology, and will help people transition to recording bats in other parts of the country

▼  
The output from the device is a spectrogram of all detected bat calls, along with audio of just the calls. The system also generates statistics on which species has been most active. Earlier, all of this needed to be interpreted manually

+

+

## BIG SHOT



A herd of deer cools off under a sprinkler in its enclosure amid heatwave conditions at the National Zoological Park, in New Delhi, on April 9, 2025. PTI

## WHAT IS IT?

### Zoos: not just a showcase

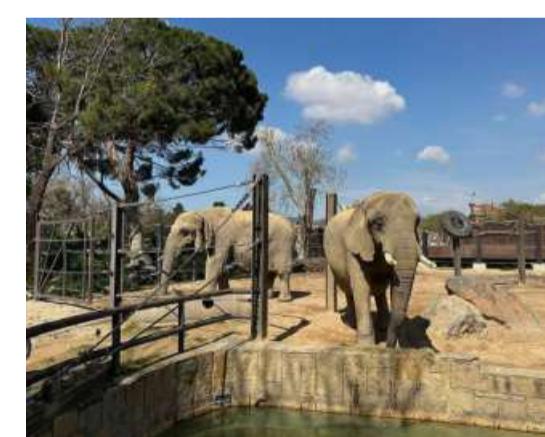
**Associated Press**

At the Barcelona Zoo, a 40-year-old African elephant places her foot through the metal barrier where a zookeeper gently scrubs the sole — the beloved pachyderm gets her "pedicure," along with apple slices every day.

The treatment is part of the zoo's specialised geriatric care for aging animals that cannot be reintroduced into the wild as zoos worldwide increasingly emphasise lifelong care. Zoos have undergone a rethink in recent decades with the emphasis on the conservation of species and education, moving away from the paradigm in which exotic animals are displayed as a spectacle.

The new approach includes knowing how to adapt to the needs of aging animals, which has led zoos to create bigger, more nature-like enclosures, such as the Sahel-Savannah area at the zoo in the Spanish city of Barcelona.

Along with breeding programmes to reintroduce fit animals into nature, zoos today want to ensure that animals living longer due to advancements in veterinary care can age gracefully, said Martín



Two old African elephants, Bully (left) and Susi, at the Barcelona Zoo in Spain on March 27, 2025. AP

Zordan, CEO of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Zordan said that just like older people, elderly animals require more care: regular health checks, arthritis treatment, softer foods or nutritional supplements, adapted living spaces, and monitoring of mental and behavioral health.

"We care about these animals living comfortably and leading lives with dignity," Zordan said.

Several zoos in the United States also highlight their treatment of older animals, such as those in Baltimore and Baton Rouge.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to [science@thehindu.co.in](mailto:science@thehindu.co.in) with the subject 'Daily page'