

AAP to hold town hall against E20 on August 1

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday stepped up its campaign against E20-blended petrol by announcing a national town hall at the Constitution Club in New Delhi on August 1.

Addressing a press conference, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said the event will bring together experts, vehicle owners and concerned citizens to discuss the impact of E20 petrol and chart the future course of the campaign.

Mr. Kejriwal also alleged that another examination paper leak had now happened in Gujarat, and claimed that such incidents would continue unless the BJP is voted out of power.

☀️🌧️ Timings
DELHI

TUESDAY, JUL. 28		
RISE	05:41	SET 19:15
RISE	18:38	SET 04:09
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 29		
RISE	05:41	SET 19:14
RISE	19:17	SET 05:07
THURSDAY, JUL. 30		
RISE	05:42	SET 19:14
RISE	19:51	SET 06:05

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	38	29
Safdarjang	38	29
Palam	37	27

Delhi Palam Today
33°C The weather will be warm. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain & thundershower with gusty winds to occur. Night also will be uneasy.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with strong winds to occur.

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THE HINDU

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Police use facial recognition system to identify over 2,800 ‘criminals’ present at protest

Exercise aimed at assessing ‘background of participants’ in Jantar Mantar protests: police; findings to be part of investigation into July 20 violence; no clarification on ‘harassment’ of protesters by police

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has identified as many as 2,873 people with previous criminal records who were present at the Jantar Mantar protests, official sources said on Monday.

According to the sources, the police exercise relied on facial recognition systems installed at and around the protest venue. The AI-enabled system compares live CCTV footage with existing criminal databases and dossier records maintained by different district police units and law enforcement agencies.

The verification exercise comes following the crackdown on protesters during the Cockroach Janta Party's march to Parliament on July 20.

At least 989 individuals



Under watch: A mobile surveillance van parked at the Jantar Mantar protest site last week. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

have been previously involved in heinous crimes, 101 in murder, 62 in attempt to murder and 284 in robbery, police sources said, adding that at least 61 people were earlier involved in cases of rape, six were booked under provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and 25 others for molestation.

They said the initiative was aimed at identifying people with previous criminal

involvement and assessing the background of individuals participating in or moving around the protest site. The police, however, have not given any clarification on queries related to protesters being harassed at the site allegedly by their personnel, including those in plainclothes and not wearing name tags and some who allegedly harassed women during the march to Parliament.

“The analysis showed

that among the 101 people linked to murder cases, 42 were involved in two or more criminal cases, while 12 have criminal histories involving 10 or more cases, suggesting repeated involvement in serious offences,” a senior officer said.

The findings would form part of the overall investigation into the violence witnessed during the protest and would be used to identify individuals requiring further verification.

‘Repeat offenders’

“The criminal history indicates that they are habitual offenders, having been involved in multiple criminal cases,” the officer added.

Similarly, 155 of the 284 accused in dacoity and robbery cases had multiple criminal cases against them, including 31 who had been booked in 10 or more cases.

Saket collapse: probe holds MCD responsible

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A Delhi government-ordered magisterial probe has found the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) “primarily responsible” for the May 30 Saket building collapse, which claimed six lives.

‘Fabricating records’

The report also accuses the municipality of fabricating records to “mislead” the investigation.

The report, submitted recently by the District Magistrate (South) to the Chief Secretary, states that the MCD was negligent as it “failed” to enforce building bylaws.

The report notes that the collapse was caused primarily by unauthorised structural additions, including illegal third and fourth floors, combined with inadequate regulatory enforcement. It concludes that the disaster was preventable.

4 feared drowned in Yamuna in east Delhi

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Four persons are feared to have drowned in the Yamuna in east Delhi's Gandhi Nagar, a Delhi Fire Services (DFS) officer said on Monday, adding that one body has been recovered but its identity is yet to be established.

The incident was reported near Madina Masjid on Zero Pusta Road.

The officer said a call was received around 7.20

p.m. and two fire tenders were dispatched to the spot by 7.22 p.m.

Search paused for night

“After receiving the information, we sent two vehicles and launched a search operation. Due to low visibility, the search operation has been halted for the night. It will resume after daybreak,” the DFS officer said, adding that the exact circumstances leading to the incident are yet to be ascertained.

Protest surveillance PIL infructuous: Centre; HC suggests fresh plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday told the Delhi High Court that a public interest litigation (PIL) alleging surveillance of protesters during the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)-led agitation at Jantar Mantar had become infructuous with the end of the protest. The Bench, however, indicated that the broader issue of surveillance of protesters could be examined in an appropriate case and suggested that the petitioner file a fresh plea on the issue instead of one confined to the CJP protest.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia asked the petitioner to allow “things to cool down further” before moving a fresh plea.

The PIL was filed by Aishe Ghosh, former Jawaharlar Nehru University Students' Union president.

“You better file a petition where we can examine the provisions. This petition, as we understood, was confined to a



The petitioner sought directions for the destruction of data collected through surveillance. FILE PHOTO

particular protest. We are permitting you to file a petition which is general in nature,” the court said.

It added that the fresh petition could seek guidelines governing surveillance of protests.

The counsel for Ms. Ghosh argued that the authorities should be directed to permanently destroy personal data collected through surveillance in view of the Centre's assurance that no action would be taken against the protesters.

The matter will be heard again on Tuesday.

Delhi Police seeks death penalty for Tahir Hussain, four others

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Monday sought the death penalty for former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor Tahir Hussain and four others convicted of the murder of Intelligence Bureau officer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 riots.

The police submitted before Additional Sessions Judge Praveen Singh of the Karkardooma Courts that the “cold-blooded” killing, marked by 51 injuries on the victim's body, qualified as a “rarest of rare” case warranting capital punishment.



Former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain. FILE PHOTO

Special Public Prosecutor Madhukar Pandey argued that the crime was exceptionally brutal and warranted the maximum punishment. The court was informed that among the 51 injuries, 18 were caused by sharp-edged weapons, which the prosecution said

No plaint yet over assault on teenage protesters, say police

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Monday said it has not received any complaint against a right-wing leader for assaulting two teenagers during the recently concluded protest at Jantar Mantar.

Ayush Ranjan, a 16-year-old resident of Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, who travelled to New Delhi on July 23 to attend the stir at Jantar Mantar, told *The Hindu*: “I called the Deputy Commissioner of Police, New Delhi, but they have asked me to come to Delhi to file the FIR.”

Videos uploaded by Satyam Pandit, president of the Hindu Rashtra Veer Sena, show him and his associates verbally abusing and assaulting Ayush and his friend Rahul Pal, who is also a minor.

No FIR was registered till the time of going to press despite the video uploaded by Mr. Pandit going viral and drawing widespread criticism.

Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Limited
3rd floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Adjacent to State Health Society, Patna 800014,
Phone/Fax: +91612 2283287, + 91612 2283288
(Notice Inviting E-Bids)
Tender for the Procurement, Rate Contract and Supply of Medical Equipment for different Govt. Health Institutions of Bihar.
Notice Inviting Tender No.-BMSICL/2026-27/ME-505
(Only through E- Tender on website: <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)
The Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited, Patna invites e-bids from interested parties for Procurement, Rate Contract and supply of Medical Equipment for different Government Health Institutions of Bihar as listed below:-

1.	Cardiotocography (CTG) Machine
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Tender Schedule

Tender Reference No.	BMSICL/2026-27/ME-505
Date of Pre- Bid Meeting	07 th August 2026 at 15:00 Hrs in Conference hall of BMSICL, 3 rd Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, IGIMS Campus, Sheikhpura, Patna (Bihar) All Pre-bid queries to be submitted through e-mail on bmsicltenderequipment@gmail.com Upto 10 th August 2026 till 17:00 Hrs. (Note:- No Pre-bid queries would be entertained after the above mentioned dead line)
Last date and time of submission of online bids	01 st September 2026 upto 17:00 Hrs.
Last date and time for submission of original documents of EMD.	02 nd September 2026 upto 14:00 Hrs.
Date, Time and Place of opening of Technical Bid	02 nd September (at 15:00 Hrs.) on the website of https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in , the office of BMSICL
Date and time of opening of financial Bids	To be announced later on https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in
Validity of Tender	180 Days
Cost of the tender document	Rs.11,800/- (Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Rupees only) Non-refundable.
Tender Processing Fee	Rs 1180/- (on the website of https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Note- Changes suggested by prospective bidder in Pre-Bid meeting may be incorporated in the tender document at the sole discretion of the tender inviting authority and for which corrigendum will be issued separately and uploaded on the website & www.bmsicl.gov.in

GM (Procurement)
BMSICL, Patna

PR- 008789 (B & C) 2026-27
For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar
नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forest
HRB Colony, Phoenix Mall opposite, Mahadevapura, Bangalore-560048, Telephone No: 9900245013, E-mail: acfeastgba@gmail.com

No: ACF/BECC/TENDER/ 45/2026-27 Date: 27.07.2026

TWO COVER SYSTEM
Short Term Tender Notification
(Through GoK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)

The Assistant Conservator of Forests, BECC, Bangalore on behalf of the Commissioner, BECC invites works tenders two cover systems from Contractors registered in Greater Bangalore Authority or equivalent registration / CPWD / KPWD / FOREST / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the works detailed in the table below.

S.N.	Name of the work
1	Raising of Monsoon Plantation in East City Corporation of Mahadevapura Zone-1 for the year 2026-27 and Maintenance during the year 2027-28 and 2028-29 in Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency Limits -3850 Plants (GBA BECC Grants). Tender Cost Rs.: 80.00 lakhs, EMD: Rs.1,60,000/-. Period of Completion : 31-03-2029.
2	Raising of Monsoon Plantation in East City Corporation K.R Puram zone for the year 2026-27 and Maintenance during the year 2027-28 and 2028-29 in K.R. Puram Assembly Constituency in Bile Shivale Main Road Bairathi, Arkawathi BDA Layout , Rampura Lake Main Road Rampura, Vaddara palya Layout Vaddara palya, Jayarama Reddy Layout Bairathi, Akshya soorya Layout Seegehalli, Abhivruddi Layout Seegehalli, Maruthi Meadows Layout Kottanuru and K.R. Puram Assembly Constituency Limits - 4450 Plants (GBA BECC Grants). Tender Cost Rs.: 91.50 lakhs, EMD: Rs.1,83,000/-. Period of Completion : 31-03-2029.
3	Raising of Monsoon Plantation in East City Corporation Zone - 1 (C.A) for the year 2026-27, and Maintenance during the year 2027-28, 2028-29, 2029-30 and 2030-31 in Mahadevpura Assembly Constituency in Bellanduru Lake-3840 Plants (Compensatory Afforestation Grants). Tender Cost Rs.: 119.98 lakhs, EMD: Rs.2,00,000/-. Period of Completion : 31-03-2031.
4	Raising of Monsoon Plantation (C.A) in East City Corporation K.R Puram Zone for the year 2026-27 and Maintenance during the year 2027-28 and 2028-29 in K.R. Puram Assembly Constituency limits of Kalkere Lake and Rampura Lake- 3840 Plants (Compensatory Afforestation Grants). Tender Cost Rs.: 119.98 lakhs, EMD: Rs.2,00,000/-. Period of Completion : 31-03-2031.

Calendar of events: 1) Date of Commencement of Download of Document from KPPP website: 29.07.2026, 5.00 PM after wards
2) Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Procurement : 31.07.2026 Up to 4:30 PM. 3) Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting : 04.08.2026 at 4:30 PM. 4) Last Date and Time for uploading of Tender sine Procurement portal for : 07.08.2026 Up to 5.30 PM. 5) Opening of technical document : On 10.08.2026 at 11.00AM.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests

BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल)
ब्रिज, रोपवे, टनल एण्ड अदर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉरपोरेशन ऑफ उत्तराखण्ड लिमिटेड
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड राज्य अवस्थापना विकास निगम लिमिटेड
प्रधान कार्यालय: अवस्थापना भवन, 583-ड, राजकीय आईटीडी0आई0
निरंजनपुर के सामने, माजरा, सहायनपुर रोड, देहरादून - 248001
CIN No - U45203UR2008SGC032591 टेलीफोन - 0135-2522941, ई-मेल - bridcul@gmail.com
Ref : - 1143/BRIDCUL- 979(I)/26 Dated: 27/07/2026

E-Tendering (2nd Call)
On behalf of Hon'ble, Governor of Uttarakhand, E-Tender are invited by Managing Director BRIDCUL, from the Contractors registered with any Govt./Semi Govt./PSU/Nigam in suitable Class & Category for the works given as below:-

S. No	Ref No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost (In Lac including GST)	Earnest Money (In Lac)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Time Period
1	BRIDCUL/HQ HLD/17/2026 -27	SITC of Lift work for State Guest House at Tanakpur Distt. Champawat.	62.48	1.25	5000 + 18% GST	12 Month

For above tenders, document download start date is 29.07.2026 and Bid submission end date is 12.08.2026 at 1500 Hrs. The details of e-tender of above works can be obtained directly from website <https://uktenders.gov.in>
Changes, if any will be intimated only through website <https://uktenders.gov.in>

DGM (HQ)

KALYANA KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Stores & Purchase Department, Central Offices, Sarige Sadana, Main Road, KALABURAGI - 585 102.
Mobile No. 77606 86172 (COSP), 77609 92029 (S.O).

No.KKRTC/CO/COSP/05/2026-27. Dated:27.07.2026

TENDER INVITING NOTICE
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)
Tenders through KPP Portal (pre-qualification & commercial) are invited for supply of following items.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Tender Nomenclature	Estimate Value(Rs.)	Last date for submission of tender
1.	KKRTC/2026-27/IND0221	Procurement of Tyre, Tube & Flap Sets, Tubeless Radial Tyres and Additional Tubes & Flaps	18.55 Crore	28.08.2026 at 15.00 hrs
2.	KKRTC/2026-27/IND0222	Procurement of Pneumatic Door Closure Assembly & Spares	0.29 Crore	17.08.2026 at 15.00 hrs
3.	KKRTC/2026-27/IND0223	Procurement of Window Flocked EPDM Rubber Channels.	0.11 Crore	17.08.2026 at 15.00 hrs
4.	KKRTC/2026-27/IND0224	Procurement of Automotive Bulbs	0.39 Crore	17.08.2026 at 15.00 hrs
5.	KKRTC/2025-26/IND0159/CALL-5	Procurement of Minor Garage Equipments	0.29 Crore	17.08.2026 at 15.00 hrs
6.	KKRTC/2026-27/IND0212/CALL-2	Procurement of First Aid Box & Medicine	0.35 Crore	17.08.2026 at 15.00 hrs

All the details of Tender, Registration, Tender form documents etc. are available at <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/> [Mail to cospnekrct@gmail.com](mailto:cospnekrct@gmail.com) or support@eprocchelpdesk.com for further information if required. Further, any addendum /corrigendum related to changes in terms and conditions of tender, specification and calendar of events etc. will be uploaded only through KPP portal.

Sd/- Controller of Stores and Purchases
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/Kalaburagi/357/Deshpande Publicity/2026-27

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA / अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/ VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं संरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम/ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 22 / (फोन नं./ Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)

दिनांक/Date : 27.07.2026

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-द निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

1. चौखरसी, चौखरसी, तुंबा में सड़क का पुनःसुरक्षित कार्य / Road resurfacing works at VRC, VSSC, Thumba NIT No. VSSC/CMG/ C01/11/2026-27 Dt. 24.07.2026, (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C: ₹ 465.50 लाख/Lakhs)
डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/ Period for downloading : दिनांक 25.07.2026, 10.00 बजे/hrs से/to दिनांक 06.08.2026, 23.00 बजे/hrs.

इच्छुक निविदाकार व्यौरों के लिए www.tenderwizard.in या www.isro.gov.in देखें।/ Interested tenderers may visit www.tenderwizard.in or www.isro.gov.in for details.

प्रधान, सौपरनी, चौखरसी
Head, CMG, VSSC



(रजिस्ट्री के साथ फ्री-होल्ड आवासीय प्लॉट)

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30-07-2026

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1	127.786	106.845	₹ 1,00,000	₹ 30,000	₹ 12,47,860	₹ 38,33,580	₹ 76,67,160	₹ 1,27,78,600
2	161.46	135.001	₹ 1,00,000	₹ 30,000	₹ 15,84,600	₹ 48,43,800	₹ 96,87,600	₹ 1,61,46,000

PLC & Govt. Charges as applicable

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👉 Dwarka Expressway – 15 Mins

👉 KMP – 5 Mins

👉 IMT Manesar – 5 Mins

👉 Dharuhera – 15 Mins

👉 Upcoming Global City – 15 Mins

👉 Proposed Disneyland / Theme Park – 10 Mins

👉 **Pataudi Palace – 1 Min**

AMENITIES



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Disclaimer: License No. 86 of 2025 dated 27.05.2025 has been granted to GSK Infratech LLP & Others by the DTCP, Haryana, for a total area measuring 13.2375 acres in Sector -3, Pataudi. The project is being developed in a phased manner under the name "Jay Shree Royal Greens", covering areas of 13.2375 acres. All information, images, drawings, plans, or sketches shown in this advertisement are architect's impressions and are used for illustrative and representational purposes only. These are not to scale and are subject to change in accordance with applicable laws and approvals. Nothing contained herein shall constitute a legal offer, commitment, or form part of any legally binding agreement of any nature. The Promoter endeavors to keep the information accurate and up-to-date; however, no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made regarding the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of the information provided herein. Recipients/viewers are advised to exercise their own discretion and are requested to independently verify all details — including area, amenities, services, terms of sale, and payment structures — directly with the authorized Sales Team of the Promoter. Terms & Conditions Apply.

INBRIEF



Raj Thackeray visits cousin Uddhav on his 66th birthday

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray on Monday met his cousin and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray to greet him on his 66th birthday. Raj Thackeray visited Uddhav Thackeray's residence in Mumbai to extend birthday greetings to him. Uddhav, the former chief minister of Maharashtra, had also visited Raj at his residence on his birthday in June. On Sunday, they organised a celebration march from Shivaji Park to Siddhivinayak Temple following the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as the Union education minister after protests over the NEET paper leak. PTI

Commissioner stays Jauhar university demolition order

Mohammad Ali Jauhar University received interim relief on Monday after the Divisional Commissioner of Moradabad stayed the proposed demolition of 38 structures on the campus until the next hearing. Divisional Commissioner Aunjaneya Kumar Singh put on hold the order issued by the Rampur District Magistrate, who is also the Vice-Chairman of the Rampur Development Authority (RDA). The demolition notice was issued on July 15 after the RDA alleged that 38 of the 40 structures on the campus had been constructed without approved building plans.

‘He was not part of Bihar bandh’: students’ families allege wrongful arrests

Several students arrested after Saturday protest were sent to Beur Central Jail in Patna in the early hours of Monday; State police not cooperating, violated basic rights, says lawyer working on case

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Families of several students arrested during last Saturday's 'Bihar bandh' faced a tense night as their wards were sent to Beur Central Jail here in the early hours of Monday, leaving relatives scrambling for legal help and information about the charges.

Thousands of people, including students, took part in the agitation in support of the Jantar Mantar protest demanding the resignation of then Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the alleged NEET paper leak.

Prince Kumar, a resident of Begusarai and the elder brother of Piyush Kumar, said the Gandhi Maidan police in Patna wrongfully arrested his younger brother and that he was running from pillar to post to secure his release.

"I have no idea under what charges he has been arrested. He was sent to jail



Security personnel trying to disperse protesters during the 'Bihar bandh' in Patna on Saturday. PTI

at 3 a.m. He was not even part of the protest; he had gone to purchase second-hand books for competitive examinations near Gandhi Maidan, where the protest had begun, and the police picked him up from there," Mr. Prince said.

Mohammad Rashid, a resident of Kankarbagh in the State capital, said his relative Mohammad Shariq Quraishi was arrested by the police on the day of the protest when he had gone to a petrol pump. "After the clash between the pol-

ice and protesters, he tried to leave the area, but the Gandhi Maidan police caught him. On July 25, the entire day, the police did not even inform us about the police station where he had been taken. The next day, on July 26, I received a call from the Kankarbagh police station. When I went there, they asked me to visit the Gandhi Maidan police station, but I did not find him there. Then I went to the civil court after learning from the media that all protesters had been

taken there for production before the magistrate. I found him sitting in a police van," Mr. Rashid said.

Several lawyers are actively working on the case. One of them, Patna High Court advocate Pooja Kishore, said the police were not cooperating and had violated basic rights, including the right to be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours.

"I am closely working on the case and have applied for bail as most of them have been illegally arrested. The arrested students were denied the opportunity to meet lawyers, and the police shared the FIR only this evening. Students from vulnerable backgrounds, including many who were not even involved in the protests, have faced humiliation for over 48 hours. Last night, the police released the minor and female students, but 85 students out of the 144 have been sent to Beur jail," Ms. Kishore told *The Hindu*.

Cong. chief questions Shah over 'flood-free Assam' poll promise

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday targeted Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the recurring floods in Assam, accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government of failing to fulfil its promise of making the State "flood-free".

In a post on X, Mr. Kharge recalled that the BJP's 2016 'Assam Vision Document' had promised a permanent solution to the State's recurring floods.

The Congress chief also cited Mr. Shah's assurance during the 2021 Assam Assembly election campaign that Assam would be made "flood-free" within five years. "Ten years of BJP rule have now passed. What happened to those solemn promises? Why has Assam's so-called 'double-engine government' failed to build a comprehensive flood-control, erosion management and rehabilitation system?" Mr. Kharge asked.

Expressing concern over the devastation caused by the floods, Mr. Kharge said that at least 68 people had lost their lives and nearly 10 lakh people across 25 districts had

been affected.

Condolences to families
He conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families, expressed anguish over people losing their homes, livelihoods, crops and livestock, and appealed to his party colleagues to extend all possible assistance to those affected.

The Congress president urged the Union and Assam governments to mobilise all available resources for rescue, relief and rehabilitation. He also demanded that substantial assistance be released immediately from the PM CARES Fund for affected families and sought adequate compensation for every life lost and for damage to homes, livelihoods, crops and livestock.

Madras HC strikes down orders granting govt. jobs to kin of Karur stampede victims

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Monday struck down orders of the Tamil Nadu government granting government jobs to family members of the victims of the Karur stampede.

A Division Bench of Justices C.V. Karthikeyan and R. Sakthivel allowed a batch of public interest litigation petitions that challenged the Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay-led government's decision to grant jobs to the family members of the victims. Earlier, the court had permitted the government to go ahead with an event in Karur this month to distribute the appointment orders. However, it had made it clear that the appointment would be subject to judicial review.

The stampede occurred in September last year during a Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam roadshow ad-



T.N. Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay handing over an appointment order to a family member of a stampede victim, in Karur on July 10. ANI

ressed by Mr. Vijay, who is also the party president, in the run-up to the 2026 Assembly election.

‘Humane gesture’

The court said appointment on compassionate grounds was based on specific guidelines. The government submitted that it was only a humane gesture, which should not be challenged. "However, it is the cause of the public that overrides every other factor. We are conscious of

the fact that there are waitlists in every department for employment on compassionate grounds. It is not that employment is granted immediately on application being received. Employment is granted only in accordance with seniority and not with reference to the immediate nature of relief to be granted," the court said.

When there was a waitlist, it might not be appropriate to overlook the needs of those waiting for

these jobs and extend what was being termed succour to the family members of the Karur stampede victims, the court said.

It held that these appointments were in violation of the principles enshrined in Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

The State said it had granted these jobs in exercise of its executive powers under Article 162 of the Constitution. But the court said any exercise of executive power had to be within the confines of the Constitution. If an executive power of the State was to be left unfettered, chaos would reign, it said.

"It is for the courts to ensure that fairness is evident," the Bench said.

The grant of such compassionate jobs to those affected in this incident would only open the floodgates for others, the court said, referring to fireworks accidents and road accidents due to negligence.

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Hindutva ideologue T.G. Mohandas from Kerala faced a barrage of criticism on Monday after a recent video of him saying he "would have shot" the protesters at Jantar Mantar if he were in control surfaced online.

Mr. Mohandas, a former head of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) State intellectual cell, made the comments in a video posted on his YouTube channel *Pathrika* on Sunday.

In a 30-minute video, Mr. Mohandas speaks at length about how he would have tackled the student protests by the Cockroach Janta Party and other major Opposition outfits against the NEET exam irregularities.

"I will impose a curfew in about a four-square-kilometre area around Jantar Mantar. Then I would announce thrice for the



T.G. Mohandas

crowd to disperse. After that, I will shoot. People will scatter away and run for their lives. Some may die, some may suffer disabilities. Within four hours, the situation will be calm. Then I will collect the bodies and take them to hospitals," he said.

In another video, he said secular women who take part in protests "enjoy being gang-raped".

"Gang rapes will happen. In this case, there won't be any complaints as these are people who like

Despite resignation, Dharmendra Pradhan remains BJP's strongman in Odisha

NEWS ANALYSIS

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation as Union Education Minister on July 25 following protests against the alleged NEET paper leak has dented the image of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Though he is unlikely to return to the Union Cabinet in the near future, his stature as a party strongman in Odisha remains largely intact.

Mr. Pradhan is the longest-serving Union Minister from Odisha. As a key figure in the BJP's inner circle, he has arguably wielded more power at the Centre than any politician from the State since the late Biju Pattnaik.

"The resignation may be a temporary setback, forc-

ing him to stay away from political activities or governance for a couple of months. He, however, continues to be the quintessential power centre in Odisha politics," veteran political commentator Rabi Das said.

Meanwhile, detractors argue that as a mere Member of Parliament, he won't command the same pull he had as a Union Minister. In politics, power often dictates loyalty and leaders in Odisha who once aligned with him may now reconsider their allegiance in light of his resignation.

The true test of his influence in Odisha will come with the next rejig in the Mohan Majhi Cabinet, which is long overdue. With multiple Cabinet Ministers professing their loyalty to the former Union Minister and a large section of BJP MLAs in his

camp, any drop, reshuffle, or new induction will reveal how much sway Mr. Pradhan still holds.

Deep roots in party

Since his early days in the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Mr. Pradhan has been an active member of the Sangh Parivar and the BJP. He is one of the most recognisable figures in Odisha, owing in part to the legacy of his late father, Debendra Pradhan, who served as a Union Minister.

Mr. Pradhan rose to national prominence after the BJP came to power under Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014. Even before that, he had been working quietly in the party alongside leaders like the late Arun Jaitley and later in close coordination with Mr. Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Over the past 12 years,



Dharmendra Pradhan being welcomed by NDA MPs at Parliament on Monday. PTI

he has remained deeply embedded in both the Central government and the party organisation.

Mr. Pradhan was the BJP's undeclared chief ministerial face in the last Assembly election. Under his leadership, the party fought the 2017 local body polls and the 2019 general and State elections, making electoral gains against the then powerful Biju Ja-

nata Dal (BJD) government under former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

However, the 2024 Lok Sabha election did not yield the desired results for the BJP, forcing Mr. Pradhan to remain committed to national politics.

Since Mr. Majhi took over as Chief Minister, Mr. Pradhan has kept himself away from the State government's affairs. However, his grip over the government is an open secret, with loyalists holding important positions.

Although his resignation came amid massive student protests, visits by senior BJP leaders, including Mr. Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, signalled that he continues to hold importance within the party.

When Mr. Pradhan arrived at Parliament on

Monday, National Democratic Alliance MPs welcomed him with chants of "Dharmendra Pradhan *Zindabad*". The show of support suggests that the BJP views him as a 'victim' of the paper leak row rather than a 'liability'.

State of affairs

The rousing welcome also sent a clear message to the State BJP leadership: Mr. Pradhan cannot be sidelined in party affairs.

BJP national president Nitin Nabin's social media post praising Mr. Pradhan's performance as a Minister, followed by similar posts from Mr. Majhi, State Ministers and MLAs, underlined that this message had been effectively delivered.

His exit now leaves Odisha's berth in the Union Cabinet open. Top contenders include BJP vice-president and Kendrapara MP

Baijayant Panda as well as Rajya Sabha member Sujeet Kumar. A section within the State BJP is also advocating for the inclusion of State president and Rajya Sabha MP Manmohan Samal. Party sources suggest Mr. Pradhan's influence is likely to be a significant factor in the decision-making process.

The former Education Minister's clout in the State BJP will face a key test next year during the rural and urban local body polls. With the BJD having swept the 2022 panchayat and civic elections, the Mohan Majhi government is under immense pressure to secure a win. A setback in these upcoming polls would mark a major embarrassment for the State BJP leadership, making the former Union Minister's role as a master poll strategist all the more crucial.

SC didn't say Karnataka has to take nod of lower riparian States: Centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In what could bolster Karnataka's stand on the proposed Mekedatu balancing reservoir across the Cauvery, the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti has said that a 2018 Supreme Court judgment on the Cauvery dispute does not mention that Karnataka must obtain the consent of other riparian States, including Tamil Nadu, to construct any structure across the river.

The statement came on Monday in response to an unstarred question in the Rajya Sabha by Pattali Makkal Katchi member Anbumani Ramadoss.

He sought to know whether the Centre was aware of the February 2018 Supreme Court verdict relating to the Cauvery water dispute, which, according to the query, required the upper riparian State of Karnataka to obtain the consent of the lower riparian States, including Tamil Nadu, before constructing any structure across the river.

‘No mention of consent’

In a written reply, Minister of State for Jal Shakti Raj Bhushan Choudhary said, "As per the Supreme Court judgment dated February 16, 2018, regarding the Cauvery water dispute, there is no mention that the State of Karnataka has to obtain the consent of other riparian States, namely Tamil Nadu, Kerala and the Union Territory of Puducherry, to construct any kind of structure across the river Cauvery."

Karnataka has been contending that the project at Mekedatu in Bengaluru South will not affect Tamil Nadu's water share. The State has maintained that the actual flows to Tamil Nadu during several years of bountiful monsoon were more than double the stipulated 177.25 tmcft annually.

Kerala names Ashutosh Dash as its expert on dam panel

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala has nominated Ashutosh Dash as its nominee on the Independent Panel of Experts (IPOE) on the Mullaperiyar dam.

Following Kerala's protests over what it termed the "unilateral" decision of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) to remove its nominee from the panel, the NDSA had on June 25 written to the State to nominate an expert to represent it.

Mr. Dash is a former Chief Engineer and a former Special Secretary to the Odisha government, Water Resources department sources said. The NDSA was informed about the State's nomination last week.

The NDSA, in line with the provisions of the Dam Safety Act, 2021, had created the IPOE comprising five members for carrying out a comprehensive dam safety evaluation of the Mullaperiyar dam on January 6.

Protest over removal

The removal of Kerala's nominee T.K. Sivarajan had sparked protests by the State government. Minister of State for Jal Shakti Raj Bhushan Choudhary informed the Rajya Sabha on Monday that "one of the members of the IPOE, who had been nominated by the Government of Kerala, expressed his inability to continue as a member of the panel due to personal reasons."

Seize financial documents from Shwetha panel: actors

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The legal battle involving the rival factions in the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) has intensified as four actors - Maala Parvathi, Ansiba Hassan, Usha Haseena, and Ponnammamma Babu - have urged the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to seize the books of accounts and financial documents that continue to be under the possession of the panel led by actor Shwetha Menon that had announced its resignation on June 21, 2026.

In a letter dated July 26, the actors urged the Registrar to "exercise the powers vested under Section 19 of the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Regis-



Shwetha Menon

tration Act, 1955, and such other enabling provisions of law as may be applicable, to safeguard the interests of the association and its members".

Account freeze

"We further request that immediate directions be issued to the bank concerned to refrain from honouring any cheque or

permitting any operation of the association's accounts until the lawful governing body assumes complete charge of the books of accounts, financial records, banking credentials and other assets of the association," it said.

The actors said the association maintains more than ₹6 crore in its bank accounts.

"We are informed that several signed cheque leaves continue to remain in the possession of the former office-bearers. The bank concerned may not yet have been informed of the change in the governing body and may inadvertently honour cheques presented by persons who are no longer authorised to operate the accounts of the association, risking financial loss," they said.

HC orders HYDRAA Commissioner's exit

Marri Ramu
HYDERABAD

In a significant development that could have wider implications for the functioning of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA), the Telangana High Court on Monday directed the Chief Secretary to relieve IPS officer A.V. Ranganath from his post as HYDRAA Commissioner and appoint a suitable replacement.

The direction came from Justice Anil Kumar Jukanti while the court was hearing a batch of contempt cases arising out of allegations that HYDRAA officials violated court orders during an operation at a disputed land parcel in Lothkunta.

At the heart of the controversy is a 40 acre property claimed by M/s Shanta Sriram Constructions Private Limited. The company alleged that HYDRAA officials entered the land in July with nearly 50 vehicles and around 200 personnel, and damaged containers, chairs, tables and other office infrastructure, asserting that the land belonged to the government.

Odisha Crime Branch to probe case of 'missing' files

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday handed over the investigation into the high-profile case of alleged file disappearance of inquiry commission report from

Chief Minister's Office (CMO) during the Biju Janata Dal rule to Crime Branch.

In a statement, Mr. Majhi said the 'missing file' case of A.S. Naidu Commission report on Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati murder incident was referred to

Crime Branch.

The Odisha police were investigating into the disappearance of two files from the CMO - murder of Swami Laxmanananda, a Sangh Parivar leader in Kandhamal, and Revenue Divisional Commission-level inquiry re-

port over the fire incident at SUM Hospital and Medical College in Bhubaneswar.

As the investigation gained pace, the State police had summoned V. Karthikeya Pandian, a close aide of former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Rajesh Verma,

then Principal Secretary to the CM, and Manoj Mishra, IT Secretary. Since Mr. Pandian was out of country, he could not appear for questioning. Mr. Verma also failed to turn up. Mr. Mishra, however, presented his side to the probe team.

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & an ISO 27001:2022 Certified Company)
VIDYUTH SOUDHA, VIJAYAWADA-520004

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The APTRANSCO invites bids online for Spec.No.PMM11-e-58/2026: Supply of 17 Nos Thermovision Cameras. **Date & Time of availability of above tender: 27.07.2026 at 6:00PM.** Websites: www.tender.aeprocurement.gov.in Contact No. CE/Transmission: **0866- 2429230.**
R.O.No.6MCC/APTRANSCO/10/26-27 **Sd/- Chief Engineer/Transmission**

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-31
कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
एल.सी.-09, शास्त्री नगर, गाजियाबाद-201002
प्रधान कार्यालय: टी.सी.-38 वी, विमूक्ति खण्ड, इण्डियन ऑयल के पास, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ-226010
ई-मेल: cdspmunit31@gmail.com
निविदा सूचना सं: 1194/Vividh-12/284
दिनांक: 21.07.2026

ई-निविदा सूचना
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम की ओर से अधोस्तराहरी द्वारा जनपद गाजियाबाद में राज्य कर विभागीय आवासीय सरयू टावर भवन की बाउण्ड्रीवाल का निर्माण कार्य, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 43.09 लाख (जीएसटी0 सहित एवं लेबर सेस सहित) हेतु सी0 एण्ड डी0एस0 में यथोचित श्रेणी में भवन कार्य हेतु पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से दिनांक **12.08.2026** के अग्रान्ह **16:00** बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक **22.07.2026** से दिनांक **12.08.2026** के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक **12.08.2026** को पूर्वाह्न **16:30** बजे सी0 एण्ड डी0एस0 युनिट-31, उ0य0 जल निगम, गाजियाबाद में निविदा खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 5,000.00 +GST(18%) अतिरिक्त देय होगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट www.cdsupjn.org एवं प्रोक्वोमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धिपत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-09
कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
2-शंकरनगर (नियर संदीप मैस एजेन्सी) दिल्ली रोड, सहारनपुर. फोन 0132-3580995
ई-मेल: pnu9cds@gmail.com
प्रधान कार्यालय: टी.सी.-38वी, विमूक्ति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ-226010
NIT No. : 1396/E-Tender/166
Dated: 20.07.2026

ई-निविदा सूचना
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) की ओर से अधोस्तराहरी द्वारा बेहट में मौं शाकुम्भरी देवी रोड ग्राम मिरापुर पांचवाला में बाउण्ड्रीवाल, गेट और सड़क निर्माण कार्य, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 23.21 लाख (लेबर सेस सहित एवं जी0एस0टी0 सहित) हेतु दिनांक **20.08.2026** अग्रान्ह **17:00** बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक **21.07.2026** से दिनांक **20.08.2026** के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक **21.08.2026** को **13:30** बजे कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-09, सी0एण्ड डी0एस0, उ0य0 जल निगम (नगरीय), सहारनपुर में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 3540.00 [₹ 3000.00 + GST (18%)] अतिरिक्त देय होगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट www.cdsupjn.org एवं प्रोक्वोमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धिपत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

Government of Rajasthan
Directorate of Civil Aviation
State VIP Hanger, Sangner Airport, Jaipur-302011
Tel. Fax. No. 0141-2550543 E-mail dcaraajasthan@gmail.com

RFP/FT/000380 **Dated: As E-signed**

NOTICE INVITING BID
Directorate of Civil Aviation, Jaipur, Rajasthan invites proposals from eligible entities for establishment, operation and maintenance and transfer of DGCA approved Flying Training Organizations (FTOs) on State-owned airstrips as is where is for a period of **20 years** up to **11:00 AM** on or before **19-08-2026**. Other particulars of the RFP may be seen on the procurement portals (<https://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> or <https://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in/>).

UBN **Tender ID No.**
4, DCA2627SLOB00002 2026_CIVAV_575607_1
5, DCA2627SLOB00003 2026_CIVAV_575633_1
6, DCA2627SLOB00004 2026_CIVAV_575641_1
DIPRC/13087/2026 **Director**

Punjab Genco Limited
E-tender notice no. PEDA/PGL/2026-27/12

Punjab Genco Limited invites online bids for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning alongwith Operation and Maintenance (O&M) For 5 Years of 850 kWp Agri-PV Power Project at Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana, Punjab.

Date and time for pre bid meeting 04-08-2026 at 11:30 AM
Closing Date and time for submission of e-bids 18-08-2026 up to 5:00 PM
Date and time for opening of technical e-bids 19-08-2026 at 03:30 PM

Note: For more details log on to www.eproc.punjab.gov.in.
Corrigendum / Addendum / Corrections, if any will be published on above mention website only and no separate notices shall be issued.
PEDA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the e-bids without assigning any reason thereof.

1034/12/2026-27/13697 **Director**

AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
(BRIDGE PROJECT DEPARTMENT)
E - Tender Notice
Expression of Interest (EOI)

Sr. No **Name of Work**

1. **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) For BRIDGE HEALTH MONITORING SYSTEM FOR THE WORK OF INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND OPERATION OF BRIDGE HEALTH MONITROING SYSTEM (BHMS) FOR VARIOUS BRIDGES IN AHMEDABAD CITY.**

Bid Available for Downloading : Dt. 29/07/2026
Date of Bid Opening : Dt. 02/09/2026
Details and Website available on : www.tender.nprocure.com

DY. MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER (BRIDGE PROJECT)

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD
No.: 85 **Dated : 24/07/2026**

NIB : 05/2026-27

Online bids are invited from registered firms for the work of 1. Plantation work including 3 year maintenance of plants at Indira Gandhi Nagar Sector 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 & 14, Newal and Tonk (Phase-II) 2. Plantation and Maintenance work for 3 years in Various RHB Colonies of Ajmer, Beawar & Kishangarh (Phase-II) 3. Modification of Head Office Campus and Texture Paint on Rear Building at Head Office Building, Jaipur through e-proc from 30.07.2026 to 10.08.2026 upto 6:00 PM. Complete details like tender form, detailed information and conditions etc. are available on website <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> and Board website <https://rhh.rajjasthan.gov.in>

UBN No. :- RHB2627WSOB00111 to RHB2627WSOB00113
Raj.Samwad/C/26/7718 **Addl. Chief Engineer-I, Jaipur**

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER
GOVT. OF MADHYA PRADESH, MADHYA PRADESH BHAWAN
29 C-D, JESUS & MARY MARG, CHANAKYAPURI, NEW DELHI-110021
Phone No. 011-26772001, 2002
Dated: 27/07/2026

CORRIGENDUM-I

The due dates for "Hiring Agencies for Taxi Services" for MP Bhawan & Madhyanchal, New Delhi 110021 against NIT No. 13/Hiring Taxi Services/MPB/2026 dated 06.07.2026 have been further extended as mentioned below:-

S.N.	Description	Existing date/time	Extended date/ time
1.	Last date & time of Technical & Financial Bid submission	27.07.2026 upto 03.30 PM	03.08.2026 upto 03.30 PM
2.	Date & time of Opening of Technical Bid	28.07.2026 at 03.30 PM	04.08.2026 at 03.30 PM
3.	Date & time of Opening of Financial Bid of qualified bidder	03.08.2026 at 03.30 PM	10.08.2026 at 03.30 PM

Addl. Resident Commissioner
M.P. Bhawan, New Delhi
G16352/26

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT
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PH: 9820350726

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B)
DIVISION VIJAYPUR

ABBREVIATED NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 38 of 2026-27 Dated. 25-07-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated cost of Work (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest money (In Rs.)	Time allowed for completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Const. of Pucca Drain on Khara to Sumbli road in km. 1st RD-0(200) Pyl. Khara Madana Lower.	13.60	600	2% of Adv. Cost	02 months	"A, B, C & D"
2	Const. of LD and culvert back side Rattana Resort in Ward No.6 MC Bari-Brahmana.	7.77	600	2% of Adv. Cost	02 months	"A, B, C & D"
3	Const. of Protection wall of PWD road (Right Side) RD-0(200) Pyl. Tarone.	13.59	600	2% of Adv. Cost	02 months	"A, B, C & D"
4	Const. of Protection wall and crate work near Bagla Mukhi Mata Mandir Pyl. Khara Madana.	13.60	600	2% of Adv. Cost	02 months	"A, B, C & D"
5	Widening of L/R to Rangoor along defence ditch.	7.00	600	2% of Adv. Cost	02 months	"A, B, C & D"
6	Const. of culvert (1.5m span) on link road to Koli Malkalian and const. of Culvert (1m span) on link road to Jerda to Dug.	10.20	600	2% of Adv. Cost	02 months	"A, B, C & D"
7	Const. of Passing zones and allied links work on L/R Sahib Bandagi Ashram to Dali Mandir Dabji Kaka	19.50	600	2% of Adv. Cost	02 months	"A, B, C & D"
8	Const. of Culvert (1.5m span) drain and crate work on L/R NHW to Gujjar Basti Jaikh.	4.00	600	2% of Adv. Cost	02 months	"A, B, C & D"
9	Const. of drain on Gurha Utterbehani road near Thakori at RD-1(110 to 1/250)	3.50	600	2% of Adv. Cost	02 months	"A, B, C & D"
10	Tile work at Village Chak Babral from H/o Rashpal Singh towards Late Sh. Paramjeet Singh.	3.00	600	2% of Adv. Cost	02 months	"A, B, C & D"
11	Macadamization from Amar Battery ground main road to Samdahi Sh. Shankar Ji (Buchdi) Birpur Dist. Sambra.	7.77	600	2% of Adv. Cost	02 months	"A, B, C & D"
12	Repair of Public Nala. correction of drainage system and coverage with RCC flatter slabs.	12.17	600	2% of Adv. Cost	02 months	"A, B, C & D"

Position of AAA :- Accorded.
Position of T.S :- Sanctioned
Project Authority :- S.No. 01 to 12 Under District. Capex Budget 2026-27.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25-07-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 25-07-2026 to 01-08-2026
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	27-07-2026 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vijaypur
4	Bid submission Start Date	25-07-2026 at 1800 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	01-08-2026 upto 1700 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	03-08-2026 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vijaypur
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

The tender is available at [website http://tenders.gov.in](http://tenders.gov.in) all other terms & conditions can be seen on the above website.

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Contact No. 9873993792
Contact Person:- Ms. Jyoti (Just Auction)
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1. E-bidding will be conducted on 04.08.2026 at 03:00 PM to 04:00 P.M. hours (For MS Scrap/ Galvalume Sheet)

2. E-bidding will be conducted on 04.08.2026 at 04:00 PM to 05:00 P.M. hours (For Air Conditioner/ Copper and Aluminium Cable Scrap)

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANOJ Kumar, son of Amarchand Dhindwal, resident of Naurangabas Jattan, Charkhi Dabri, Haryana have changed my name from Manoj Kumar to Manoj Dhindwal vide affidavit dated 25/07/2026 at Gwalior (M.P.).

I, Sudhir Kumar S/o Sovaran Singh R/o. 252 Kothi Kusmara Bidhuna Rurukhurd Auraiya Uttar Pradesh 206249 Aadhar card no- 783364570577 have change my name to SANDEEP SINGH for all future purpose vide e-stamp affidavit certificate no -INUP64760714045390Y Dated 11 July 2026 Sworn before notary public at Elawah From now on I shall be known as SANDEEP SINGH

I, MOHIT Kumar Sharma, residing at E-200, New Roshanpura, Najafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi - 110043, have changed the name of my minor son Rihit Parashar, aged 3 Years, and he shall hereafter be known as Charvik Sharma.

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- Please Include in Your Application
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D.O.B: 10.11.1916 D.O.D: 28.07.2011

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Daughters in Law: Sudha, Sandhya and Jaishree
Daughters: Radha and Kalyani
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Letter No. : 797 / Nivida / 42
Dated : 27.07.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
On behalf of U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban)
Offline bids for execution of "Renovation and Maintenance works at Circle Office, Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad" under Deposit Program invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible, reputed and experienced bidders. Tender documents will be available for sale from 28.07.2026 by 10:00 Hrs. onwards. Bid can be submitted till 29.08.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. and technical bid shall be opened on 29.08.2026 at 15:30 Hrs. in the office of the Executive Engineer, Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Ghaziabad in presence of contractor or their authorized representative, Tender Cost is Rs. 1,180.00 (Rs.1,000.00+GST@18%).

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Forced labour farce

India should not let the U.S.'s new tariffs push it towards a trade deal

The 10% tariff that the United States has imposed on India and several other countries over their imports of goods supposedly made using forced labour is merely an attempt to restore permanent tariffs and, once again, highlight the benefits of a trade deal with the U.S. The U.S. Supreme Court's February 2026 decision dealt a body blow to the U.S.'s attempts to secure trade deals. The main threat, of high reciprocal tariffs, had been removed. U.S. President Donald Trump's solution, of a temporary 10% tariff on all countries, suffered from two weaknesses: it would expire in 150 days, and was levied on all countries equally, regardless of whether they had a deal with the U.S. or not. Those tariffs have now expired. The Section 301 'forced labour' tariffs announced last week were more permanent, and have carved out benefits for those with trade deals with the U.S. For example, while U.S. imports from India will face a 10% tariff over and above the base tariff the U.S. charges everybody, the European Union and Taiwan will face a total tariff of 10%. Similar benefits have been accorded to Japan, South Korea and Switzerland, all of which also have trade deals with the U.S. at various stages of formalisation. If stopping forced labour was the primary focus, tariffs would have been applied equally across all offenders, regardless of trade deal status. The tariffs would also not have had as many product-wise exemptions and country-wise quotas as the final version has.

There is also the question of whether the U.S. should be penalising other countries for their trade with third parties. India has not been accused of using forced labour, yet faces tariffs because others have been. This, soon after the U.S. government told a court that it did not want to act as the "world police". India has done well to reduce the proposed 12.5% tariffs to a final 10%, the same as or better than most of its competitors. All it took was a notification banning the import of goods made using forced labour. The action itself will be difficult to enforce, since it will require countries such as China and Malaysia to allow Indian government officials to visit and investigate their labour conditions. But simply issuing the notification won India a tariff reduction. However, uncertainty persists since the other Section 301 investigation, on excess capacity, is yet to play out and could result in further tariffs. It is highly unlikely that India will accept a trade deal until those tariffs become clear. That said, the tariffs should not push India towards a deal. Experience has shown that the U.S. tariff landscape can change radically even after a deal is signed.

All art, no deal

Donald Trump miscalculated timing and substance of Saudi nuclear deal

The announcement of a United States-Saudi Arabia civil nuclear deal, in the midst of a U.S.-Iran war that began over Tehran's nuclear programme, could hardly have come at a worse time. Matters became more complicated when U.S. President Donald Trump, after the agreement had been signed, added a new condition: that Saudi Arabia should join the Abraham Accords. Saudi Arabia has long sought to develop a civilian nuclear programme. Crown Prime Mohammad bin Salman, or MBS, wants to end the kingdom's "addiction" to oil. His Vision 2030 aims to diversify the economy through finance, megaprojects, tourism and power-hungry artificial intelligence (AI) data centres. The kingdom currently relies heavily on oil and gas for electricity generation. Saudi officials believe that nuclear power would help meet rising domestic energy demand, while freeing more oil and gas for export. MBS first took up his nuclear ambitions with Mr. Trump during the latter's first presidential term. His successor Joe Biden offered a deal but made it contingent on Riyadh joining the Abraham Accords. At that time, Saudi Arabia appeared open to normalising ties with Israel, but Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel and Israel's genocidal war on Gaza prompted the Saudis to shelve the idea. The July 22 deal suggested that Riyadh and Washington continued talks and remained keen on nuclear cooperation.

As a signatory to the NPT, Saudi Arabia has every right to pursue a peaceful nuclear programme. But the agreement announced by U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright leaves open the possibility of nuclear enrichment on Saudi soil. This flies in the face of the U.S. opposition to any Iranian enrichment on its soil. The agreement, according to U.S. media reports, does not require Saudi Arabia to adopt the IAEA's Additional Protocol, which grants inspectors broad powers to conduct short-notice inspections. The omission has fuelled concerns that the kingdom could eventually acquire the technical capability to weaponise its nuclear programme. Facing domestic criticism, Mr. Trump declared that the deal would proceed only if Saudi Arabia joined the Abraham Accords – a condition which was conspicuously absent when the agreement was signed. This apparent reversal is unlikely to reassure Riyadh, which is already questioning the reliability of U.S. security guarantees. If the deal eventually goes ahead, Tehran is likely to harden its position on enrichment in any future nuclear talks with the U.S. If Mr. Trump's objective was to reassure a long-standing ally while signalling strategic leverage over a regional rival, the execution of the deal has had the opposite effect. Ill-timed diplomacy, ambiguous provisions and shifting conditions have deepened Saudi concerns and strengthened Iran's resolve. That is the result of Mr. Trump's version of the "art of the deal".

The debate over India's proposed Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) III norms comes at a crucial time for the global automobile industry as it transitions from internal combustion engines (ICE) to electrified powertrains. It also highlights India's vulnerability to imported crude oil amid renewed geopolitical tensions. The framework India adopts today will influence investment, technology choices and energy security for decades.

CAFE III, compliance or transformation
The Power Ministry's July 16 draft notification marks the third iteration of CAFE III after months of industry lobbying. While some manufacturers pushed for stricter norms, others sought flexibility. The proposal attempts a compromise, but the question remains whether it prioritises compliance over transformation. CAFE norms set annual sales-weighted average fuel-efficiency targets for manufacturers' passenger vehicle fleets rather than individual models. Introduced in the United States in 1975 after the 1973 Arab oil embargo, they aimed to reduce oil dependence and protect consumers from high fuel costs. The rules caused automakers to adopt smaller, more efficient vehicles. This also helped accelerate the rise of Japanese manufacturers.

From the 1990s, fuel-efficiency regulations gained a second purpose: reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. In the United States, the EPA's Endangerment Finding brought greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act, with later emissions standards aligned closely with CAFE rules. While technology-neutral, the rules encouraged innovation in hybrids and electric vehicles (EV). Ironically, the Obama administration's \$465 million Department of Energy loan to Tesla in 2010 helped accelerate an EV industry now dominated by China.

China's experience is even more instructive. It introduced mandatory fuel-consumption standards in 2004, initially regulating individual vehicle models by weight rather than fleet averages. As car ownership surged, concerns over oil imports and urban air pollution grew. The standards tightened over time before China changed direction in 2018 with the introduction of its Dual Credit System.

Under this framework, manufacturers must meet both Corporate Average Fuel Consumption (CAFC) standards and New Energy Vehicle (NEV) credit requirements. Fuel-efficiency compliance alone is insufficient. Companies that fail to earn enough NEV credits through EV or plug-in hybrid production must purchase credits from those with surplus EV production, creating a market that rewards innovation and penalises delayed electrification. For example, in India, Maruti Suzuki could remain NEV credit-deficient by 18%



Kunal Shankar

Weak fuel efficiency norms risk keeping the country dependent on imported oil

despite having highly fuel-efficient ICE models if it had no EVs in its portfolio. It would need to buy credits from companies such as Tata Motors or Mahindra, which generate NEV credits through their EV portfolios. While CAFC credits can be banked, carried forward or transferred within corporate groups, NEV credits cannot be offset in the same way. The results are evident. According to the International Energy Agency's Global EV Outlook 2026, China sold more than 13 million electric cars in 2025, accounting for almost 55% of new passenger vehicle sales. Comparable figures were about 27% in the European Union, nearly 10% in the U.S. and around 4% in India.

India's own debate has centred on differences between Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra. An earlier proposal effectively carved out lighter small cars from the full stringency of CAFE III. That exemption has since been removed. The current proposal seeks to reduce average emissions from around 113 gCO₂/km to 77 gCO₂/km by FY2031-32. On paper, that appears ambitious. Yet, the headline target tells only part of the story.

The cost of flexibility
The revised framework introduces several flexibility mechanisms that, taken together, substantially reduce its effective stringency.

The first is the Carbon Neutrality Factor, which awards compliance benefits for vehicles compatible with higher ethanol blends and other fuels. Yet, the government has informed Parliament that no decision has been taken to move beyond E20 blending (20% plant-based ethanol with 80% regular petrol). Manufacturers therefore receive compliance advantages for technologies whose long-term policy trajectory remains uncertain. Ethanol is also more expensive than petrol, and has lower energy density, and therefore delivers lower mileage – a fact belatedly acknowledged by the Centre after it drew severe criticism.

The second is the use of super credits. Battery EVs, plug-in hybrids, strong hybrids and flex-fuel vehicles receive additional weight in fleet calculations. While this encourages cleaner technologies, it also means that fewer actual low-emission vehicle sales are required to offset higher-emission models. Strong hybrids, which generally rely primarily on the ICE while using electric propulsion over relatively short distances and at lower speeds, also receive super-credit benefits despite offering only partial electrification.

The third mechanism is banking and trading of compliance credits. Manufacturers outperforming their targets can accumulate credits and sell them to others. In addition, the draft allows companies to buy credits directly from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) at administratively fixed prices if deficits remain

after trading. The BEE is therefore not a market exchange but effectively a seller of last resort.

In theory, this introduces efficiency into the system. In practice, it allows companies that are lagging to meet compliance requirements without upgrading their own technology. Moreover, the draft notification allows manufacturers to buy compliance credits from the BEE at ₹2,500 per gram of CO₂/km in FY2028, rising to ₹4,500 by FY2032. By comparison, the Energy Conservation Act prescribes additional penalties of ₹25,000 or ₹50,000 per vehicle depending on the extent of non-compliance. Expressed in CAFE terms, the lower penalty threshold is broadly equivalent to a little over ₹5,000 per gram of CO₂/km, implying that the proposed buyout price begins at less than half that level.

Finally, compliance is assessed over three-year blocks before shifting to two-year blocks, allowing manufacturers to average performance across multiple years rather than meeting targets annually. Therefore, delays in one year can be compensated in another.

The case of CNG

Taken together, these mechanisms significantly alter the stringency of these regulations. Which raises a fundamental question: What is the purpose of a regulation?

Regulation should shape markets rather than simply accommodate prevailing market preferences. India's own experience with compressed natural gas (CNG) illustrates the point. Once policy support aligned with regulatory certainty, manufacturers rapidly introduced CNG variants. Regulation can create markets as much as respond to them.

To put this in perspective: manufacturers' voluntary commitments already average nearly 20% EV share by 2030, with several original equipment manufacturers aiming for 30% or higher. In effect, the revised regulation attempts only half of what the industry itself has committed to. The timing also matters. India remains heavily dependent on imported crude, exposing the economy to geopolitical shocks, imported inflation and currency pressures. Strengthening fuel-efficiency standards is therefore not merely an environmental objective. It is an energy-security strategy, an industrial policy and a macroeconomic imperative.

These developments highlight the urgency and significance of revising India's CAFE norms, as they offer an opportunity to address a macroeconomic vulnerability while helping meet India's Glasgow commitment on energy efficiency.

India should seize this opportunity to position itself alongside the world's leading automotive markets in the transition to low-carbon mobility.

kunal.shankar@thehindu.co.in

AI's next test — reaching India's informal women worker

India's journey towards Viksit Bharat by 2047 rests on whether the productivity gains unlocked by artificial intelligence (AI) are broadly shared or concentrated among those already well-served. AI is reshaping value chains across agriculture, logistics, health care and financial services. The design choices in these systems, who they are built for, whose data they train on, and whose languages they speak, will determine whether this transformation amplifies India's inclusive growth story or adds a dimension to structural inequalities.

About 82% of working women in India are in informal employment according to a 2018 ILO report, spanning agriculture, home-based production, domestic services and micro-enterprises. The gender implications of AI adoption are, above all, a question of economic inclusion. India's AI Governance Guidelines, released in November 2025, set out seven guiding principles, including fairness and equity; translating these into gender-responsive outcomes is both a governance priority and a development opportunity. As UN Women has warned, AI is already reimagining reality for billions, but it is still getting women wrong; without gender-responsive design, testing and oversight, it risks amplifying stereotypes, discrimination and digital violence instead of expanding opportunity.

In agriculture and informal work
AI holds considerable promise for Indian farmers through precision agriculture applications, real-time advisory on crop health, input optimisation and market access. With 76.9% of rural women engaged in agriculture as in Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24 reporting, women are a primary constituency. Early evidence is telling: a 2024 study of Farmer.Chat, deployed across 12 States, found that 61% of women users reported improved quality of life within 45 days, with engagement levels two to three times those of male users. While the specific design features driving this outcome



S. Krishnan

Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India



Shoko Ishikawa,

Country Representative, UN Women India and part of Team UN in India

Artificial Intelligence (AI) must empower informal women workers for truly inclusive economic growth

require further documentation, the results suggest that when AI agricultural tools reach women, keeping in mind language, land access patterns, mobility constraints, and relevance, meaningful engagement follows. Building on this foundation, three areas merit focused attention as India scales its AI deployment.

Governance priorities
First, gender impact assessments. The India AI Governance Guidelines' principles of fairness and equity require operationalisation through proportionate gender impact assessments for AI systems affecting economic opportunity, welfare access or safety for women and girls. These should examine whether outcomes vary by sex, location, caste, disability and work status, and whether redressal mechanisms are accessible in regional languages. Where AI decisions on credit, employment or welfare cannot be explained, trust suffers disproportionately among marginalised groups. Similarly, Gender Responsive Budgeting offers a practical test for decisions on AI spend. For any significant AI investment, four questions can be applied: which women will benefit; which specific barrier (access, language, safety or capability) is being addressed; how outcomes will be measured; and which budget line will finance corrective action if results fall short.

Second, AI literacy as public infrastructure. Access to tools is a necessary but not sufficient condition for inclusion. Training programmes for women in informal work must be designed around their time constraints, literacy levels and livelihood contexts. Embedding AI literacy within Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Skill India, with linkages to Mission Shakti's Sakhi network, would allow trusted community infrastructure to carry new digital capability. The measure of success should be outcome-based: did this help a woman access an entitlement, navigate a platform, or move to

better-paid work? Third, digital safety as a condition for economic participation. Technology-facilitated gender-based violence, including deepfakes, online harassment and non-consensual imagery, creates a measurable "chilling effect", discouraging women from participating fully in digital economic spaces. The IT (Amendment) Rules, 2021 require grievance mechanisms for harmful content; the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)'s proposed mandatory labelling of AI-generated synthetic content adds further protection. Effective implementation, with accessible survivor-facing remedies in regional languages, is a prerequisite for women's sustained digital participation.

The National Commission for Women's review of cyber laws provides evidence-based recommendations warranting timely inter-ministerial action.

AI prosperity for all

India has built substantial AI infrastructure in a short period: the IndiaAI Mission, the BHASHa Interface for India (BASHINI) multilingual platform, the AI Governance Guidelines and targeted cross-sector partnerships. The India AI Impact Summit 2026 showed that these ambitions are matched by a growing ecosystem of practitioners, innovators and civil society.

The opportunity is to ensure that the productivity gains from this infrastructure reach those at the base of the economic pyramid, viz., women farmers, home-based workers, self-help group members, platform participants. This requires deliberate design: in procurement standards, training programmes, safety frameworks and the measurement of success.

By 2047, the measure of India's AI success should not be aggregate indicators alone, but whether women in informal work have gained meaningful, productive access to the tools and opportunities that AI enables. That is the standard consistent with Viksit Bharat, and it is within India's reach.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Beyond sympathy

It is amusing that the Prime Minister and the Home Minister have expressed deep concern for the students and youth of the nation, particularly after the government faced sustained protests under the banner of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP). If they truly

believe that students are important, should they not accept overall responsibility for unfortunate actions against students?

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

Now that the protest is over and a committee has been formed to recommend a

robust mechanism for conducting examinations, I presume the issue will gradually be pushed into the background. However, to ensure effectiveness and improve the quality of students we prepare, the government must focus on strengthening the foundation of education,

which begins at the school level. Instead of playing around with language and

historical facts, the emphasis should be on building a strong value

Corrections & Clarifications

Neha Bora is the All India President of the All India Students' Association (AISA), and not the "Delhi secretary of AISA" (Inside pages, "Hunger strike was challenge to govt., the movement is still on, says AISA secretary" (July 27, 2026).

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28576347/28576300; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

system and providing sound, science-based learning at all levels. The evaluation system, starting from the school level, also requires strengthening.

K. Soundararajan,
Chennai

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

To fix unemployment, fix the economy first

The Cockroach Janta Party’s movement has highlighted the political urgency for reforming the economy to create more employment for India’s youth. Fixing the education system alone will not solve the unemployment problem. The basic structure of the economy must be reformed.

China and India, the only two countries in the world with populations exceeding one billion, have the greatest need for meaningful employment. If citizens are not fully employed, and incomes of masses do not rise, their economies cannot grow. China has done much better than India in this regard; the per capita income of Chinese citizens has risen roughly eight times faster than Indians’ in the last 30 years.

India’s leaders find themselves in the middle of conflicting trends. First, they are pushing ahead with reforms for ‘ease of doing business’; diluting the rights of workers to organise; and weakening environmental protection. Second, they are promoting the wide-spread application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve ‘productivity’ (and other benefits) in agriculture, industry, health and education, with productivity defined, purely in economic terms, as more output with less human input. Third, they also see the need to change the pattern of growth and increase employment elasticity. Employment elasticity is the amount of meaningful employment created with each unit of GDP growth, in which India has been a laggard since the liberal market economic reforms of the 1990s.

Since India has the largest population of youth in the world, its economic growth should have the highest employment elasticity. However, the increased adoption of AI will only make it worse.

The China model

China has invested billions to become an AI superpower and has raced to integrate the technology



Arun Maira

Author of ‘Reimagining India’s Economy: The Road to a More Equitable Society’

The ‘ease of doing business’ must now become subordinate to the ease of living and earning for all citizens

across a range of industries. By 2024, more than two million robots were already working in Chinese factories. And in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen, Meituan, the nation’s largest food delivery service, has experimented with using small autonomous robots to deliver food. But China’s advances in AI have run headlong into a growing problem: anxiety over the workers who could be displaced.

China’s political and economic history reveals that, despite being an authoritarian country, the Chinese government is very attentive to what people are thinking and saying on the Internet. History has taught them that another revolution will form if disenchanted and educated youth rise along with the disgruntled workers and peasants. They know they must respond.

Unemployment has been increasing in China. The unemployment rate for migrant workers rose to 5.7% in March this year, which has been the highest in nearly three years for China, while youth unemployment stood at 16.3% in April. Moreover, 70% of unemployed young people are university graduates, with older laid-off workers facing prolonged periods of joblessness.

However, Chinese courts have been swift to act. A court ruled in May that a tech company had illegally laid-off a worker after replacing him with AI software. Another ruled that, “the development of artificial intelligence technology should be applied to liberating labour, promoting employment and improving people’s livelihood”. And yet another ruled that “companies that benefit from technology must, at the same time, adopt social responsibilities and protect worker rights”.

China’s Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security announced in January that it would roll out policies to address the impact of AI on jobs, including targeted support for key industries. In June, the State Council issued a plan on

implementing an “employment-first” strategy for the 2026-2030 period. Party officials have proposed sweeping government interventions such as requiring employers to offer training to help workers adapt to an AI-centric job market.

The Chinese government’s ‘people-first’ ideology has served China’s economy and its people well. China’s leaders have remained socialists; they have always put the needs of common citizens, and the stability of China’s society, above economists’ demands for deregulation of markets and prices, especially with respect to labour, food, education, health, and housing.

The road ahead for India

Indian income levels must rise rapidly – in agriculture, manufacturing, and services. The government has added ‘ease of living’ to ‘ease of doing business’ as the purpose of the reforms required for India to become ‘Viksit Bharat’ by 2047. To make it a reality, it will have to put more teeth into its policies to increase employment and incomes, and stave off the negative impacts that AI will have on employment. Policies must require that employers take more responsibility for training their own workers; they must be restrained from laying them off.

New policies must put workers’ rights ahead of capitalists’ rights, as China has done. India’s labour market reforms, with the four labour codes, are directed to improve ‘ease of doing business’, which is undoubtedly necessary. However, the ‘ease of doing business’ must now become subordinate to the ease of living and earning for all citizens.

India’s leaders would do well to learn from China’s leaders on how to navigate this moment in history. The rights of all workers must be firmly protected. While the views of financial investors must be heard, the views of workers and small-time entrepreneurs must be heard much more.

Rayalaseema: India’s new industrial hub

The TDP government has transformed the arid region into an economic hub

STATE OF PLAY

V. Raghavendra

Chronic drought and resultant famines have been an integral part of Rayalaseema, with the region having some of the driest places in India.

However, the economic landscape here has undergone a perceptible transformation in the last decade and a half, as some mega manufacturing industries have started moving in with huge investments. Except agriculture and horticulture, which flourished in isolated pockets, Rayalaseema never had any major industrial activity to boast of, but this is rapidly changing and in no small measure.

Numerous cotton ginning and pressing, textile mills, and mineral-based units were the earliest industries to come to the region in the mid-20th century. Multiple large-scale industries, including the State-owned Rayalaseema Thermal Power Plant, the cement plants of Dalmia Bharat and Zuari in the Kadapa-Kurnool belt, and a clutch of renewable energy projects such as the ultra-mega solar parks in the Kadapa and Kurnool districts, were established subsequently.

After a big gap thereafter, the stage has been set for yet another tranche of massive investments, the most prominent being the integrated steel plant being built by the JSW Group in Kadapa district; a string of defence sector projects namely the DRDO’s Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft integration and flight testing centre at Puttaparthi, Bharat Forge’s defence energetics facility in Madakasira, and a high-precision ammunition making unit of HFCL in



Sri Sathya Sai district; and the Royal Enfield manufacturing plant near Tirupati. Then there is the Space City poised to take shape close to the country’s only rocket launchpad at Sriharikota.

These are only a few projects turning parts of the Rayalaseema region into a manufacturing hub.

A gradual boom

Due to its location in the rain shadow area of the Deccan plateau and the consequent inability to fully capture the bountiful rains which the southwest and northeast monsoons normally bring, the Rayalaseema region had for centuries been starved.

However, over the years, the same vast tracts of barren lands, which entrepreneurs would not even look at, became beehives of industrial activity as the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government of 2014-19 and the present TDP-led ruling coalition offered attractive incentives and created the necessary infrastructure that brought about an industrial revolution of sorts in this resource-rich yet parched region.

The establishment of India’s only KIA Motors’ car manufacturing plant in Anantapur (the site is now in Sri Sathya Sai district) in 2019 was a trigger for the steady flow of big-ticket investments into this region. Royal Enfield’s entry into Tirupati from Tamil Na-

du, which is the only State where Eicher Motors is currently making the iconic motorcycles, complements the existing automotive ecosystem in Anantapur, positioning the region as a growing hub for vehicle manufacturing.

What clearly clinched all these projects is the government’s focus on ‘ease of doing business’, and its subsequent evolution into the ‘speed of doing business’, and the untiring efforts made by the government through the State Investment Promotion Board to promote Rayalaseema as an investment destination.

While going the whole hog in rolling out the red carpet to investors across the industrial manufacturing spectrum, the government now has its sights fixed on consolidating the region’s leadership in the production of horticulture crops. Accordingly, the food processing sector is being aggressively promoted.

Looking back, it was the JSW Group’s Rayalaseema Steel Plant, for which the foundation was laid on July 3, which gave a fillip to the industrialisation of this region; its investment roll-out for Phase-I is ₹4,500 crore (1 MTPA capacity) out of the overall proposed investment of ₹16,350 crore.

From then on, several new major industries started taking tangible shape in Sri City, adding up to the ‘core manufacturing sector’ in Rayalaseema that gained momentum.

The present government has essentially gone all out to woo investors to this region that was jinxed for decades and the positive outcome of its efforts can be seen in the fact that these projects which were once only on paper have started translating into reality.

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Why India’s youth compete fiercely for government jobs

While the student protests achieved accountability, India must work on reshaping investment and growth to build health, education, and employment

DATA POINT

Shipra Nigam

What began with a single leaked entrance exam paper became, in the student protesters’ own telling, a movement about unemployment, shrinking opportunity, and how much a young person’s future hinges on a handful of competitive examinations.

India has dramatically expanded school and higher education; today’s young Indian is far more educated than her parents. Governments across party lines have invested heavily in skilling, apprenticeships, and vocational training.

However, these investments have collided with a labour market incapable of absorbing the aspirations they helped create. Of about 307 million people aged 15 to 29, some 141 million are in the labour force and 127 million are employed. Yet only about 15 million, fewer than one in eight, hold a regular salaried job with a contract and social security – what most would regard as a ‘good job’ with fair pay, social protection, decent working conditions, and career progression. This scarcity creates two forms of distress, often mistaken as separate problems.

At one end are young people who leave school early. Among Indians aged 15-29, whose education is largely complete, about 39% have not finished secondary school and over half hold no qualification beyond Class 10. Most are employed; joblessness among the middle-educated is below 5%. However, they work in informal, low-paid, and often subsistence jobs as casual labourers; are self-employed; or are unpaid workers in family farms and businesses (Chart 3).

A worker who completed only Class 8 earns roughly ₹12,300 a month, and finishing secondary school adds barely another

₹1,000. For many young women, this arithmetic ends in withdrawal: with wages this low, marriage and unpaid care win. Over two in five are neither working nor studying, against fewer than one in 10 men.

At the other end are graduates. While conventional analyses often state that educated youth are rejecting work by holding out for comfortable jobs, the data says otherwise. Graduates face the highest unemployment rate of any group at 22.7%, more than three times that of those who never completed school (Chart 1). They are only 17% of India’s youth population, but 56% of all unemployed young people. While expectations matter, it is far lesser than what the “choosy graduate” narrative suggests. Only about 22% of the labour force earns more than ₹15,000 a month, with nearly 55% earning below ₹9,000. Only about 17 out of 100 graduates secure the salaried employment a degree promises (Chart 2).

India, then, has roughly 15 million meaningful jobs and 300 million young people.

The appeal of government jobs

Hence, the extraordinary importance of government recruitment examinations. They are among the few routes to secure work for first-generation graduates who do not have the money for elite or foreign degrees, and the networks of class, caste, and family that shape private-sector hiring networks which are far less open to marginalised households, regardless of talent. These exams promise to judge candidates by performance alone. In 2024, roughly 30 lakh candidates competed for about 17,700 government posts; about 170 candidates for every vacancy.

Part of the problem is that the transition from school to work is itself broken. Fieldwork by JustJobs Network particularly highlights the wage-expectation mismatch. Young people express clear ambitions but cannot name the course or occupation that would get them

there; and when a job appears, the entry-level pay of ₹10,000-15,000 a month falls well below the ₹20,000-25,000 graduates say they need even locally. Moreover, a job requiring migration is worth taking only at a pay of ₹30,000-₹40,000. Faced with no visible path, many rationally default to a general degree and the examination queue.

These failures are symptoms of a deeper structural problem. India’s economy has become efficient at generating output, but less so at generating meaningful employment. Through much of the 2010s, growth remained strong while employment stagnated; since 2019, much of the increase has reflected workers returning to low-productivity agriculture rather than moving into better-paying jobs. Investment has favoured capital- and technology-intensive sectors, with rising automation creating relatively fewer jobs.

Public investment has risen significantly, but it has flowed more into physical infrastructure than into health and education systems. India spends about 2.7% of its GDP on education, well below the national target of 6%, and about 1.9% on health, short of the 2.5% its National Health Policy set for 2025.

None of this is the fault of the young people who took to the streets. The school-leaver in unpaid family work and the graduate on her fifth attempt face the same shortage from opposite ends. Neither lacks effort. What is scarce is not determination but good quality jobs.

The students achieved what a protest can: accountability for an immediate failure, and national attention for a larger crisis. But no recruitment reform can change the arithmetic of 170 applicants for every vacancy. The deeper challenge is to reshape growth itself.

Until growth generates opportunity as fast as education generates aspiration, India’s young will keep waiting for the economy to catch up with their ambitions.

Chasing opportunity

Data were sourced from the Periodic Labour Force Survey, the Economic Survey and national accounts; and field research by JustJobs Network. Dr. Shipra Nigam is a Research Director at JustJobs Network



CHART 1: Graduates in the age group of 15-29 face the highest unemployment rate at 22.7%, more than three times that of those who never completed school

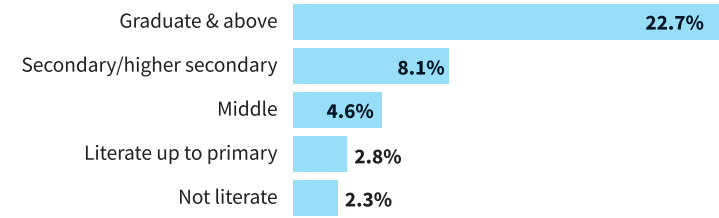


CHART 2: Education barely pays until one gets a degree, as the average monthly earnings of young workers by highest-level of education shows (In ₹)

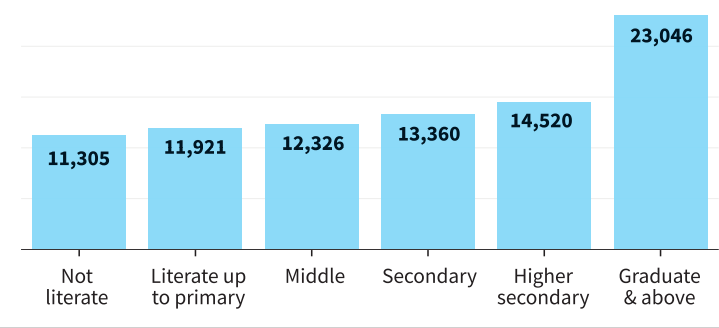


CHART 3: Only one in eight workers hold a ‘good job’. The share of employed youth (aged 15-29) by status of employment

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 28, 1976

Concordance of Indus script to be published

Madras, July 27: The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, will publish the Concordance of the Indus script by a new process, incorporating additional study material.

More than 9,000 “seals”, with signs and symbols of the Indus script have been found at the sites of Mohenjo Daro and Harappa (now in Pakistan) and in Kalibanga in Rajasthan. These valuable finds throw significant light on the Indus valley civilisation dating back to 4,000 years. Recently, Finnish scholars studied them and prepared a concordance, with the help of a computer.

The Russians have also brought out a publication in their own language.

An Indian scholar, Mr. I. Mahadevan is now trying to publish the same, using the computer technique, but adopting a new method. Under this “computerised photo composition printing” process, being attempted for the first time in India, all the basic symbols in the Indus script will be drawn by an artist and the same will be microfilmed. The text, the positions, the statistical analysis of signs and other relevant information, will be typed and recorded on electronic tapes. The entire matter will then be fed into the press.

Each sign will have a code number. The computer will select the appropriate signs from the micro-film and feed them into the press by the photo composition method. By this, the entire text of the concordance, brought upto date, running to about 700 pages, will be printed in a short time and made available at a comparatively cheap price.

The Finnish scholars adopted the computer plotting method in which the electronic gadget itself drew each and every sign. Under the new technique, one symbol in the micro-film can be used for several impressions.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 28, 1926

£6,800 for “Pilgrim’s progress”

London, July 27: The first edition of the Pilgrim’s Progress was auctioned at Sotheby’s for £6,800. The purchaser was Mr. Quaritch. Only four other perfect copies are known.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Income tax returns filed for assessment year 2026-27

4 in crores. More than four crore income tax returns have been filed so far for the 2026-27 assessment year, the Income Tax Department said. The department urged taxpayers to file ITR-1 (Sahaj) and ITR-2 before the July 31 deadline. ITR-1 is meant for eligible resident individuals with an annual income of up to ₹50 lakh from specified sources. PTI

Death toll in attack by armed assailants on Nigerian village

30 At least 30 people were killed when armed men attacked the Naridon village in Nigeria's Kaduna state, according to residents. The assailants reportedly opened fire and set houses ablaze during the overnight raid. Eight children were among those killed, while four others were injured. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. REUTERS

People charged alongside Hasina by Bangladesh tribunal

40 Prosecutors at Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal filed charges against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and 40 others in a crimes against humanity case linked to the 2013 police crackdown on a Hefazat-e-Islam rally in Dhaka. The tribunal also issued arrest warrants for the fugitives, while nine accused are already in custody awaiting trial. PTI

Pending consumer cases threshold for forum rationalisation

1000 disputes. The Supreme Court has allowed States with fewer than 1,000 pending consumer cases to abolish some district consumer forums and transfer those cases to serving judicial officers, subject to prior approval from the jurisdictional high courts. The direction aims to improve the dispute redressal mechanisms. PTI

Death toll from Ukrainian drone strikes on Russia

5 Ukrainian drone strikes on Russia killed five people, including a child, in the Rostov region, according to Russian officials. Moscow said that it intercepted 276 drones overnight, while Ukraine said it struck an export terminal in Rostov and oil facilities in the Yaroslavl and Udmurtia regions as part of its long-range attacks. AFP
COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The next chapter for Education Ministry

As Pralhad Joshi takes charge of the Education Ministry, several key 'reforms' remain under way, including the National Curriculum Framework, the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, the three-language formula, and new teacher-training initiatives in school education

EXPLAINER

M. Kalyanaraman

The story so far:

Pralhad Joshi, the new Union Minister for Education, inherits a range of structural changes to Indian education initiated by Dharmendra Pradhan.

Mr. Pradhan's exit as Education Minister has been under a cloud, but his five-year tenure was marked by a ramping up of efforts to implement the National Education Policy 2020, which the Union Cabinet had accepted a year before he took charge. Earlier, at the Petroleum Ministry, he had made his mark on programme implementation by delivering eight crore LPG connections to poor households in three years against a four-year target.

From the National Curriculum Framework, flexible learning and multidisciplinary, and the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill (VBSA), to PM SHRI, the three-language formula and new teacher-training initiatives in school education, his Ministry was constantly in the news for introducing "reforms." Common threads ran through them: performance evaluation and accountability, skilling-education convergence, promotion of a certain vision of Indianness, ambition undercut by implementation challenges, and a push for uniformity that critics called centralisation and a disregard for diversity. Almost all remain works-in-progress that the new Education Minister will have to carry forward.

NEP's recommendations on foundational literacy

Through Nipun Bharat, formally launched by Mr. Pradhan's predecessor on the heels of pandemic-era learning losses, the government was finally acting on decades of evidence from surveys by voluntary organisations that India's schoolchildren



Union Minister Pralhad Joshi took additional charge of the Ministry of Education on July 26. ANI

were lagging far behind in reading and math, despite formally graduating year after year. It seeks to ensure every child attains foundational literacy and numeracy – a concept advocated by NEP – by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27. ASER 2024 showed a seven-percentage-point gain in numeracy since 2018, and PARAKH 2024 found Grade 3 students who benefited from the mission's first three years, outperforming Grades 6 and 9 in language and math. Yet fewer than a quarter of students nationally could read a Grade 2 text, and Grade 5 levels remained roughly where they were pre-pandemic – a sign of implementation gaps that may well necessitate a Nipun Bharat 2.0.

The push to boost teaching quality

Though standards for teachers are common in advanced nations, the National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) is India's first initiative to assess and classify teachers – as proficient, expert or advanced – against uniform national standards, with career

progression tied to this ladder. The National Mentoring Mission, meant to identify mentor teachers to guide others up this ladder through nomination and volunteering, is being rolled out with online sessions, but awareness among the country's one crore teachers remains low and impact assessments are yet to be formalised. NPST itself has not been rolled out, leaving teachers little incentive to engage with the mentoring sessions.

Key changes attempted in higher education

Some initiatives drew sharper controversy. The 2025 draft UGC regulations on appointing teachers, Vice-Chancellors and staff faced strong opposition – notably for giving governors a decisive say in Vice-Chancellor appointments and for removing the cap on contractual professorships. Separately, the UGC's new undergraduate and postgraduate degree rules, built around flexibility and multidisciplinary to create a skilled workforce, have been formally in force since the 2025 academic year – but

institutions across States are still barely grasping radical concepts such as a commerce student studying science, or transferring credits across colleges via the National Credit Framework.

An example of education-skilling convergence is the Swayam Plus platform, which offers over 500 industry-developed courses across 15 sectors, including emerging technologies. Some 6.5 lakh have registered for these courses. The new modules under "AI for All" have reportedly drawn one lakh registrations. Courses such as AI for Physics, AI for Chemistry, AI in Accounting, AI for Educators, and AI/ML using Python are intended to be skilling courses for professionals that are supposed to make them job ready. The key gap is that most colleges that come under State universities are often resistant to changing the idea of giving a package deal and accept flexibility in accepting credits. There is an awareness gap, too.

While the higher education initiatives appear aspirational and sound grand on paper, there is little or no funding allocation to State universities to accomplish such flexibility. The VBSA in fact has no grant giving function – a key element of the University Grants Commission that it seeks to replace.

The controversy over language policy

Mr. Pradhan also pushed to steamroll NEP adoption – particularly the three-language policy – by tying central funding for primary education schemes to compliance by States. Tamil Nadu remains a holdout, though West Bengal's new government has accepted it. In CBSE schools, Mr. Pradhan directly mandated the learning of two *Bharatiya* languages from Classes 6 to 12, prioritising Indian languages over English. Some relief has been granted to current students, but the government has held firm on this as the norm going forward – even though NEP, in the same breath as it champions Indian languages, also emphasises the learning of English and other foreign languages.

THE GIST

▼ Dharmendra Pradhan's exit as Education Minister has been under a cloud, but his five-year tenure was marked by a ramping up of efforts to implement the National Education Policy 2020.

▼ Pradhan pushed to steamroll NEP adoption – particularly the three-language policy – by tying central funding for primary education schemes to compliance by States.

What is India's policy on urea production?

What are the key changes in the National Investment Policy for Urea 2026?

A. M. Jigeesh

Amid concerns of fertilizer shortage during the ongoing kharif season due to the situation in West Asia, greater demand because of *El Niño* and complaints of over-use of chemical fertilizers such as urea, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs recently approved the National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU)-2026.

The new policy is aimed at self-reliance in urea production, a sector which is dependent on imports. According to the Government, the policy will encourage new investments in the urea sector for setting up the gas-based urea manufacturing units in the country.

The key changes in the policy, compared to the existing policy, include the separation of fixed and variable costs for greater transparency, introduction of a viable Return on Equity (RoE) band with a floor at 12% and a ceiling at 16%, and

mitigation of foreign exchange risk through conversion of fixed cost into Indian rupees after four years based on prevailing exchange rates.

How has the urea policy evolved?

The Union Government had announced such a policy for urea sector in 2012, 2013 and it was amended in October 2014 to facilitate fresh investment.

Six new urea units have been set up under the 2012 policy, which includes four set up through Joint Venture Companies (JVC) of nominated PSUs and two set up by the private companies. At present, there are 33 operational urea manufacturing units with total reassessed/installed capacity of 269.42 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT), according to the Union Fertilizers Ministry.

"There is a need to increase the indigenous production of Urea. There is a gap in the indigenous production and demand of urea in the country which is filled by the import of urea," the

Government had said.

The Government amended the policy further in May 2015 for the existing 25 gas-based urea units and it led to additional production of urea by 20-25 LMT as compared to the production during 2014-15 annually.

From 225 LMT per annum during 2014-15, the current production from all these units has reached 314.07 LMT during 2023-24. "During 2025-26, 293.30 LMT of Urea was produced in the country," the Government says.

What is India's fertilizer subsidy bill?

The total fertilizers subsidy in 2025-26 is ₹ 2,17,281.10 crore. In 2024-25, it was ₹1,77,162.06 crore. Out of this, the urea subsidy alone for 2025-26 was ₹1,42,175.74 crore and for 2024-25 it was ₹1,24,319.50 crore. For phosphorus, and potassium, the subsidy component is ₹74,999.99 crore and ₹52,810 crore respectively. For promotion of organic fertilizers, the Government provided a subsidy of

₹105.37 crore and ₹32.56 crore in the last two financial years.

How is urea made available?

According to the data provided by the Government in Parliament, as on March 3, 2026, the country has the requirement of 370.84 LMT of urea for the kharif season. The availability is 432.44 LMT, out of which 381.59 LMT will be for sale under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system where all subsidised fertilizers will be sold to buyers is made through Point of Sale (PoS) devices "installed at each retailer shop and the beneficiaries are identified through Aadhaar Card, KCC, Voter Identity Card etc". In 2024-25, the requirement was 364.01 LMT and availability was 443.83 LMT.

The Government claims that it has taken steps to promote the balanced and efficient use of fertilizers. "The Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), which advocates the judicious and scientific integration of organic sources, chemical fertilizers, and biological inputs for efficient and sustainable nutrient management," the Ministry said adding that the INM aims to meet the nutrient requirements of crops in an economical and environmentally sustainable manner while maintaining long-term soil fertility. It had also experimented with Nano Urea, which is yet to get popularity among farmers, apparently after controversies over its scientific efficacy and result.

THE GIST

▼ The Centre recently approved the National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU)-2026, which is aimed at self-reliance in urea production, a sector which is dependent on imports.

▼ The Union Government had announced such a policy for urea sector in 2012, 2013 and it was amended in October 2014 to facilitate fresh investment.

CACHE

What can be done to address the CBSE evaluation controversy?

The Supreme Court's concern over 'frustrated young minds' has renewed focus on the unresolved CBSE On-Screen Marking (OSM) controversy. A simple SOP could still restore fairness, accountability, and public trust in digital evaluation.

Rajeev Kumar

India witnessed two major examination-related controversies in the summer of 2026–NEET and the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) On-Screen Marking (OSM) crisis. Both predominantly affected Class XII students. In both cases, the then Union Education Minister assured the nation that no student would suffer injustice. However, the national response to the two controversies differed sharply.

Alleged irregularities in NEET, involving admissions to about 1.4 lakh medical seats, rightly led to Re-NEET 2026, nationwide debate, judicial scrutiny, organisational restructuring, and policy reforms on an unprecedented scale. In contrast, the unresolved CBSE-OSM controversy, which affected nearly 18 lakh Class XII students, received comparatively little public attention despite its much wider academic impact.

Around 98 lakh answer scripts had already been digitised under OSM system. Yet only about 4 lakh students could access nearly 11 lakh evaluated scripts, leaving around 14 lakh students without a meaningful opportunity to verify their evaluation or seek correction of genuine errors. Complaints about portal glitches, payment failures, blurred scans, missing pages, mismatches in answer sheets, and other procedural deficiencies remained largely unaddressed. Even the limited scrutiny that followed revealed substantial mark revisions after re-evaluation, raising serious questions about the robustness of the review process.

The issue eventually reached the Supreme Court through a public interest litigation (PIL). Referring to the “frustration of young children” and the “creeping problems” in the OSM process, the Court highlighted concerns that went beyond individual grievances to the integrity of the evaluation system itself.

The central issue is no longer whether mistakes occurred. It is whether every student was given an equal opportunity to verify the evaluation, identify genuine errors, and have them corrected. This transparency gap can still be bridged through a simple, practical, and time-bound reform.

Why was re-evaluation uptake so low?

The limited number of students who reached the re-evaluation stage reflected structural flaws in the OSM review process. Unlike the earlier pen-and-paper system, where answer scripts had to be retrieved and digitised on request, every OSM answer script had already been digitised during evaluation. In principle, every student could therefore have been given immediate access to an authenticated digital copy of the evaluated answer script.

Instead, the OSM review process required students to apply, pay the prescribed fee, and rely on an online portal to access records that were already in digital form. They also had to verify the completeness and authenticity of their answer scripts before seeking re-evaluation. However, portal glitches, payment failures, delayed access, and overlapping verification and re-evaluation timelines left little time to detect and



Sparse attention: The CBSE-OSM crisis, which affected nearly 18 lakh Class XII students, received comparatively little public attention. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

report deficiencies before the review window closed.

As a result, access to re-evaluation depended more on overcoming procedural and technical barriers than on the merit of a student's grievance. While a small fraction of students completed the process, the overwhelming majority never had the opportunity to determine whether genuine evaluation errors had affected their results. In a digital evaluation system, transparency should begin with universal access to evaluated answer scripts, not with procedural hurdles that deny students an equal opportunity to seek redressal.

What remains unresolved in the OSM crisis?

The answer scripts that underwent independent scrutiny revealed serious concerns, including blurred scans, missing pages, mismatches in answer sheets, and substantial mark revisions after re-evaluation. In one widely reported case, a student's History marks increased from 74 to 97, and in another, a student was elevated to the position of a CBSE topper. Such outcomes demonstrate that the review process could correct significant evaluation errors – but only for those who managed to access it. If serious deficiencies emerged from this limited scrutiny, it is reasonable to ask what a universal review might have revealed, leaving open the possibility of a much larger Pandora's box.

The unresolved issue is the absence of equal opportunity. Students who could not access their evaluated answer scripts were denied the chance to verify whether similar errors had affected their own

results. In a digital evaluation system, transparency cannot remain selective. Unless every student has a fair opportunity to verify the accuracy of the evaluation, public confidence in the OSM system will remain incomplete.

Can the crisis still be resolved?

Since every answer script already exists in digital form, CBSE can still restore transparency through a simple ‘seven-day framework’. On the first day, authenticated digital copies of evaluated answer scripts should be made available to all students. The next three days should be devoted to verifying the completeness and authenticity of the scripts, including identifying blurred scans, missing pages, omitted supplementary sheets, and mismatches in the answer sheets. After rectifying any verified deficiencies, the remaining four days should be reserved for re-evaluation of genuine grievances.

At the end of the process, CBSE should publish anonymised statistics on verification requests, deficiencies detected, re-evaluations conducted, and mark revisions made. This framework requires no new technology or major expenditure. It simply ensures that every student has an equal opportunity to verify the fairness of the evaluation, thereby strengthening transparency, accountability, and public confidence in the OSM system.

Who is accountable?

The OSM controversy is no longer merely a technical issue; it is a question of governance and accountability. Responsibility rests with the CBSE, which was expected to design, monitor, and

continuously improve the evaluation process, as well as with the Ministry of Education for effective oversight. The inability to address systemic deficiencies and restore students' confidence points to shortcomings in institutional governance.

The Central Information Commission (CIC), exercising its powers under Section 25(5) of the RTI Act, had already advised CBSE to frame comprehensive SOPs, describing them as “the dire need of today's scenario”. Yet these SOPs remain unpublished. The priority now is to implement a transparent and robust framework that ensures every student has an equal opportunity to verify the fairness and accuracy of the evaluation.

What can be the way forward?

The new Union Minister for Education now has an opportunity to bridge the transparency gap in the OSM system. The proposed ‘seven-day transparency framework’ offers a practical, low-cost roadmap to ensure universal access to evaluated answer scripts, timely verification, and transparent grievance redressal.

The credibility of the OSM system will ultimately be judged by its ability to deliver transparency, fairness, and equal opportunity to every student. If these reforms are implemented with urgency, the Supreme Court's “frustrated young minds” can become millions of smiling faces, confident that their performance has been evaluated fairly, transparently, and justly.

(Prof. Rajeev Kumar is a former Computer Science Professor at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, BITS Pilani, and JNU, and a former scientist at DRDO and DST.)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of “not be up to scratch”? (M. Ganesh, Mysore)

When you say that something is “not up to scratch” it means that it is not up to the mark. It is not of an acceptable standard or quality. Here are some examples.

I find that Alok's designs aren't up to scratch.

The tests showed that the new recruits were not up to scratch.

This is an idiom that comes from the world of boxing. In the old days when boxing was still a primitive sport, a line was drawn in the centre of the ring. The line was called a “scratch”. Nowadays whenever a boxer is knocked down during the bout, all he/she has to do is to stand up before the referee counts to ten. During the early days of boxing, the contestant who had been knocked down had to demonstrate that he was in control of his faculties by walking to the line (‘scratch’) within 38 seconds. If the boxer was unable to come up to the ‘scratch’ within the allotted time, then he was considered unfit to continue the fight.

What is the question tag to be used for “I am a boy”? (K. Sathis Kumar, Kasargod)

The question tag that is normally used is “aren't I?”. This would be considered standard. In informal contexts one could also say “ain't I?”. The word “ain't” however is considered non-standard. It is also possible to say “am I not?”

What is the meaning of “carte blanche”? (B. Balaji, Pondicherry)

The first word “carte” is pronounced like the word “cart”. The “a” in “blanche” is pronounced like the “o” in “hot” and “cot”. The final “che” sounds like the “sh” in words like “should”, “shut”, and “ship”. As you have probably guessed, the expression comes from French.

When you give someone “carte blanche”, you give them total freedom to do whatever they want. The literal French meaning of carte blanche is “blank document”. Therefore when you are given “carte blanche” you are given complete freedom or authority to do whatever you think is right. For example:

The new Director was given carte blanche to do what he wanted.

Is it OK to say, “Australia's Northern Territory passed an euthanasia law”? (C. Selvamani, Bangalore)

We generally use the article “an” before words that begin with a vowel sound. Do not get confused between “sound” and “letter”. The words “university” and “unique” begin with a vowel – at least in spelling. But when you pronounce these two words they begin with a consonant sound. Therefore one has to use the indefinite article “a” and not “an” before these two words. We have to say “a unique person” and “a university”.

Similarly, the word “euthanasia”, though it begins with a vowel letter, when the word is pronounced, the first sound is a consonant one. Therefore the article that will precede it is “a”. It should be “a euthanasia law”. Euthanasia as you know is sometimes referred to as “mercy killing”. It is the act of painlessly killing an individual who has no hope of recovering from the disease that is slowly killing him. Euthanasia is illegal in most countries. Published in The Hindu on May 29, 2001

THE DAILY QUIZ

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

Apart from the Taj Mahal, which other properties from India were the first to be given UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 1983?

QUESTION 2

What is unique about the Khangchendzonga National Park inscribed to the list in 2014?

QUESTION 3

Name the inscribed property that is spread across Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and

Himachal Pradesh?

QUESTION 4

Name the two sites that were at different times part of 'World Heritage in Danger' list?

QUESTION 5

Which site is transnational, being shared with six other countries?

QUESTION 6

Inscribed in 2003, which site exhibits the earliest traces of human life in India?

QUESTION 7

Which Indian currency notes feature the Konark Sun Temple and the Sanchi Stupa?



Visual question: Name this World Heritage Site and the State in which it is located. GETTY IMAGES

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Vincent van Gogh's painting 'The Starry Night' depicts' the view from the window of this institution where he was staying. **Ans: The Saint-Paul-de-Mausole asylum in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France**

2. This fellow artist was invited by Van Gogh to live and work with him in the “Yellow House” at Arles. **Ans: Paul Gauguin**

3. Van Gogh was deeply influenced by Japanese woodblock prints, a style collectively known by this Japanese term. **Ans: Ukiyo-e**

4. Van Gogh's profession before he decided to become an artist. **Ans: He worked as an art dealer (and later also served as a teacher, bookseller's assistant and lay preacher)**

5. Van Gogh died in July 1890 in this French village. **Ans: Auvers-sur-Oise**

Visual: This is generally believed to be the only painting Vincent van Gogh sold during his lifetime. Identify it. **Ans: The Red Vineyard (The Red Vineyard at Arles)**

Early birds: Tamal Biswas| K.N. Viswanathan| Erfanally Oosmany| Piyali Tuli| Arun Kumar Singh

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

Word of the day

Corroborate:

to confirm or support something

Synonyms: endorse, verify

Usage: The findings corroborate earlier research on climate change.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/corroborate

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ke'ɒbəreɪt/

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

From Page One

CJP warns of protests over ‘promise breach’

“Under the guise of the Prayagraj protest, many students have been picked up by the U.P. Police’s special team in an unmarked vehicle. When the Union government had promised that no action would be taken against any student, then on whose orders is such deceit taking place,” Mr. Yadav wrote in a post on X, also posting a video news report in support of his claims. The Prayagraj police have registered two FIRs at the Civil Lines police station in connection with the alleged vandalism of two SUVs and attack during Saturday’s student protest.

Rajya Sabha MP and senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who addressed a press conference with CJP leaders on Monday, said if governments file FIRs against people who peacefully protested in different parts of the country, the CJP will create a framework to track the affected people. “They (CJP) will create a website where lawyers who are willing to provide help can register their names, location and the kind of help they can offer. I will personally contribute ₹1 crore... our lawyers will support them across India,” he said.

Addressing the press conference, Mr. Ranka reiterated the Centre’s assurances. “If the government does not share the written agreement by tomorrow, and if students, youth, and protesters who have been arrested or detained in different States are not released, the Cockroach Janta Party will once again be forced to protest,” he said, adding that multiple reports have emerged in Delhi about the detention of volunteers who supported the protesters with logistics.

On Saturday, the CJP called off a 36-day protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi after the Union government agreed to its three main demands, including the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as Education Minister. “We demand that all the FIRs against the protesters be immediately withdrawn, students be released and no future FIRs be filed by Delhi police/Central investigative agencies/police in BJP-allied States, failing which we will be forced to sit on protest again,” Mr. Ranka said. *(With inputs from Nikhil M. Babu in Delhi, Senjuti Sengupta in Kolkata, Mayank Kumar in Lucknow, Amit Bhelari and Amarnath Tewary in Patna)*

SC mulls guidelines for police conduct

“There has to be a protocol in place. Everyone has a right to protest so long as it is with due permission and at designated places. But if some anti-social elements have done anything, that can also be looked into,” the Chief Justice stated.

Meanwhile, retired Intelligence Bureau Special Director Yashovardhan Azad, along with two other victims of alleged pellet-gun injuries, moved the Supreme Court on Monday seeking a ban on the use of wholly or partly metallic kinetic projectiles fired from pump-action or projectile-action guns (PAG), or pellet guns, for crowd control by law enforcement agencies. The petition also sought exemplary compensation for all those allegedly injured by pellet firing during the July 20 protests.

“The use of such projectile-action guns (PAGs) or pellet guns loaded with wholly or partly metallic pellets for crowd dispersal fails the constitutional tests of necessity, proportionality and reasonableness. It amounts to an unconstitutional fetter on the right to freedom of assembly guaranteed under Article 19(1)(b) of the Constitution. The petitioners, therefore, pray that such weapons be decommissioned or banned from being deployed for crowd dispersal against civilian assemblies,” the plea states.

On July 24, the top court had agreed to hear on Monday two freshly instituted petitions alleging police excesses during the July 20 crackdown on student protesters in the national capital.

Sri Lankan groups voice support for Indian youth

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Nearly 200 activists, social movements, civil society organisations, and trade unions in Sri Lanka have expressed solidarity with students in India who were protesting and voicing serious concern over the NEET examination paper leak and broader issues facing the education sector.

“The voice of India’s youth has been unstoppable, despite ridicule from the highest authorities and brutal police violence,” the statement, issued on Monday, said.

A group of activists gathered outside the Indian High Commission in Colombo on Monday to condemn police violence during the protest.

Delhi police step up drive to take down posts on protests

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police are in the process of sending take-down notices to Instagram, in an attempt to remove several reels and posts that emerged during the youth protests at Jantar Mantar and elsewhere, officials said. A senior police officer said they regularly flag offensive social media posts with the authorities for removal.

Without specifying the time frame or the nature of the content, the officer admitted that a large number of such posts had recently been flagged and taken down. He also said that more than 400 social media accounts operating from outside the country and posting offensive content had been blocked.

“There is a dedicated social media team that con-

Policeman suspended for firing AK-47 at protesters

Bihar policeman’s action sparks political row, with Rahul Gandhi criticising Modi over students being subjected to ‘deadly attacks and brutality’; other Congress leaders too condemn use of force

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA/DELHI

The viral video of a Bihar policeman firing an AK-47 rifle during protests in Bihar’s Siwan triggered a political storm in Parliament on Monday, with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi demanding an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and action against those who “attacked” students.

The policeman has been suspended and a departmental inquiry ordered, Superintendent of Police (SP) of Siwan district Puran Kumar Jha said.

At least three protesters sustained gunshot injuries and were admitted to a private hospital in Patna, where their condition is stated to be stable. One of them was discharged on July 27.

Opposition hits out

In a post on X, Mr. Gandhi said “the entire system is downright murderous against students”.

“Reports are coming in that AK-47s have been fired at protesting students in Bihar, and hundreds have been arrested and booked



Screengrab from a video, posted by Tejashwi Yadav on X, of a policeman firing an AK-47 during protests in Siwan, Bihar.

under FIRs. Modiji, what happened to your promise that no FIRs would be filed against students and that they would be released? Instead, they are being subjected to deadly attacks and brutality,” he said.

“Pellet guns were used against students in Delhi, and AK-47s in Bihar. Whether it is Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, or Delhi – the pattern is the same everywhere. Reform is beyond its capability. It will renege on its promises and use every tactic to suppress the students’ voices,” Mr. Gandhi added.

Several Congress leaders also condemned the reported use of force. Congress general secretary

(organisation) K.C. Venugopal demanded an explanation from Union Home Minister Amit Shah, asking who had ordered the use of AK-47s in Bihar and pellet guns in Delhi. Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra questioned the deployment of such weapons against protesters.

Posting the video on social media, Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly and Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav demanded action against the officials responsible.

He warned that if the arrested students and his brother, Tej Pratap Yadav, were not released within 24 hours, the party would

launch a massive Statewide agitation.

The video of the policeman firing the AK-47 has circulated widely on social media since July 26. “The video surfaced late because Internet services remained suspended for 24 hours after the protest,” a journalist in Siwan told *The Hindu*.

Departmental probe

The policeman has been identified as Abhishek Kumar, attached to the District Intelligence Unit. “The policeman has been suspended and a departmental inquiry ordered,” Siwan SP Mr. Jha said.

Asked who had authorised the firing, Mr. Jha said the matter would be examined in the departmental probe. According to a police statement, the officer fired four rounds in the air near J.P. Chowk to protect government property and lives, and no one was injured in that firing. The three injured protesters sustained gunshot wounds at locations away from J.P. Chowk. They were shifted from Siwan Sadar Hospital to a private hospital in Patna after initial treatment. The police have registered an FIR against the three.

CBI counsel absent, fast-track court defers hearing in NEET case

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The first hearing of the specially designated fast-track court handling the NEET-UG examination paper leak case was postponed on Monday after counsel for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is investigating the case, failed to appear.

Special Judge Anu Grover Baliga was scheduled to hear the bail applications of accused Dinesh Biwal and Vikas Biwal.

“None appears on behalf of State till 10.45 a.m. to argue on the bail application,” the court order read.

The court also noted that counsel appearing for the accused, advocate A.P. Singh, too informed it that he had other engagements in Rohini Courts and hence could not wait for more time for the CBI’s counsel.

“In view of the above, the present bail application will now be taken up on 03.08.2026 at 10.00AM,” the court said, further directing the Director of Prosecution to ensure that a public prosecutor is deputed to appear before it in future proceedings.

Congress targets govt.

Criticising the adjournment of a matter by the

Congress questions govt. for ‘proclaiming fast-track courts as the solution’ to the paper leak crisis

fast-track court over the absence of a CBI lawyer, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, said, “In such a situation, with what face is the Modi government beating the drum, proclaiming fast-track courts as the solution to the paper leak crisis? Its own CBI does not appear to show any seriousness or initiative in investigating these cases or conducting the trials.”

Judge Baliga assumed charge of the designated fast-track court on Saturday. The Delhi High Court, through a notification issued on July 23, had declared her court a Specially Designated Fast Track Court to hear cases under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, along with related offences.

The adjournment of hearing by the fast-track court comes just a few days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that dedicated fast-track courts would be established to expedite trials in paper leak cases.

SC to seek guidance of task force on holding computer-based NEET

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday indicated that it would seek suggestions from the high-powered task force, to be headed by former UIDAI chairman the Nandan Nilekani, on transitioning the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for Undergraduate (NEET-UG) to a computer-based test (CBT).

A Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe was hearing a petition filed by Rashtriya Janata Dal MP Sudhakar Singh seeking sweeping reforms in the conduct of the examination, including a direction to examine a transition from the existing pen-and-paper format to CBT. The petition was filed

after the Union government and the National Testing Agency (NTA) cancelled the NEET-UG 2026 examination held on May 3 following a paper leak.

During the hearing, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, informed the Bench that the Union government had taken a “very serious view” of the matter and had constituted a high-powered task force. Justice Narasimha said the court would hear the matter on August 3 along with the other pending petitions on NEET reforms.

The top court had directed the Centre to file an additional affidavit outlining its road map for implementing the reforms, detailing the proposed cybersecurity framework.

Trust biggest challenge in tackling leaks: IIT-M Director

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The biggest challenge facing the high-powered task force as it recommends reforms to prevent exam leaks is “trust” V. Kamakoti, Director of IIT-Madras, said on Monday.

Professor Kamakoti is one of six domain experts on a multidisciplinary panel tasked with revamping the National Testing Agency (NTA) following the NEET-UG examination paper leak controversy.

“The only challenge is trust. We need teachers who we can trust, who will set the question paper and keep quiet,” he said.

The NEET-UG paper leak controversy arose from allegations that question papers were leaked by paper setters and translators.



V. Kamakoti

Professor Kamakoti emphasised that every individual and process in the exam hierarchy – from question generation to exam centre administration – must be held directly accountable through a clear organisational structure.

Limits of AI

“The second NEET exam happened without any issues. That means the sys-

tem has worked. However, trust is important for an entrance exam at this scale. We need to bring out clear processes. It is not that they don’t exist, but we have to relook at it and fine tune,” he added.

Addressing the role of AI in exam reform, Professor Kamakoti said: “AI may be able to generate questions, but someone still has to look at them and review them.

“NEET is very inclusive. The exam is conducted in 12 languages. Somebody has to translate it and also verify the translations. AI can certainly assist with translation, but someone must carefully examine them,” he said.

The high-level panel will release a report recommending measures to strengthen the NTA. *(With agency inputs)*

Rahul praises man for his Preamble recital at stir

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Monday met Mohammad Irfan, the youth who went viral for reciting the Preamble to the Constitution during the protest at Jantar Mantar.

Mr. Gandhi said Mr. Irfan’s outlook reflected the strength and promise of India’s youth. Coming from a slum settlement in Delhi, Mr. Irfan spoke about the hardships faced by workers in the unorganised sector and the need for accessible education, healthcare, and democratic rights.

Mr. Gandhi described him as “a young man from a Delhi neighbourhood whose mindset transcends his circumstances”.

Woman says she was shot in the ear during July 20 Delhi protest

Ashok Kumar
GURUGRAM

A 32-year-old woman has alleged that she sustained “gunshot” injuries during the students’ protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on July 20.

Nutan, working with a private firm here, has since returned to her home town, Ranchi in Jharkhand. She told *The Hindu* over phone that she was injured “quite severely” and “needed stitches.”

According to her discharge summary from Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital, she suffered “trauma to right ear by gunshot”.

“I can describe the spot – There is a fountain and a steel statue of a lion. I was standing right next to that, up in the higher part of the park. I was fired at from be-



A photo of Nutan’s injured ear.

low,” Ms. Nutan said.

“Two people had their guns aimed right at us. They were wearing blue uniforms. The person involved wasn’t wearing a name plate,” she said.

Delhi Police’s Public Relations Officer Ranjeev Ranjan said that according to Ms. Nutan’s medical legal report, the injuries were caused by a “blunt weapon”.

Govt. introduces paper leak Bill in Lok Sabha; debate likely today

Six hours allocated for discussion; 91 amendments moved by members, says Speaker as he brokers truce between govt. and Opposition, which demanded a discussion on police action on protesting students; Ram Temple, E20 issues may be raised

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Monday introduced in the Lok Sabha a Bill providing for harsher penalties and time-bound investigations into examination paper leaks amid a huge uproar by the Opposition members, who demanded a discussion on the police action on protesting students in the country.

The stalemate is likely to end on Tuesday, with Speaker Om Birla brokering a truce between the Treasury and the Opposition benches on Monday afternoon, sources said. The floor leaders of both National Democratic Alliance and Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) had been in touch since the morning.

Six hours have been allocated for the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, and 91 amendments have been moved by Lok Sabha members cutting across party lines, Mr.



Presiding officer Dilip Saikia arriving to conduct the proceedings of the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session on Monday. ANI

Birla announced in the House earlier.

The Bill seeks to amend the anti-paper leak law with stricter punishment of up to 10 years in jail and ₹50 lakh fine.

The proposed legislation, which seeks to amend an existing law, was first promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a midnight Instagram post last week in a bid to quell the students' protest at Jantar Mantar.

The Bill was introduced by Union Minister of State for PMO and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh even

as the Opposition protested and sloganeered over the police crackdown on students during the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)-led July 20 protest march to Parliament as well as in some States like West Bengal and Bihar.

No let-up in protests

The Opposition, which had been protesting since 11 a.m., when the House was convened, was unrelenting and did not let the Bill be taken up for discussion and passage despite repeated appeals from Mr. Birla as well as Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren

Rijiju. He said several members, including those from the Opposition, were prepared to participate in the debate but the Congress and "some of its friends" were causing disruptions and not allowing a debate. At 2 p.m., however, the Speaker said both ruling and Opposition sides should try and arrive at a decision by 5 p.m. till when the House was adjourned.

Senior Congress leaders are understood to have met the Speaker after this and agreed to the discussion being taken up on Tuesday.

"All political parties have agreed to discuss the anti-paper leak Bill on Tuesday. Following Om Birla's initiative and sustained dialogue, floor leaders of political parties have agreed to commence discussion on the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill 2026," sources said.

Opposition sources said they were now looking to widen the offensive by targeting the government over the alleged Ram Temple donation embezzlement

case and ethanol-blended fuel.

With the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election due in early 2027, the Samajwadi Party is seeking to use the Ram Temple issue to make inroads among the BJP's core support base of Ram devotees, while the Congress has held over 50 press conferences demanding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement on the alleged donation theft.

"We shouldn't allow the BJP to hijack our religion. We are all very proud Hindus and not political Hindus like them," a senior Congress leader told *The Hindu*.

The Opposition plans to highlight concerns over ethanol-blended fuel, which it believes resonate with the middle class, another key BJP constituency.

And with the CJP taking limelight for spearheading the Gen-Z protests and the government appearing intent on sidelining Opposition parties, these parties do not want to give much elbow room to the government.

Opposition set to maintain pressure on Shah, take part in debate on paper leak Bill

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

On the first day of Parliament after the students' protests were called off, the Opposition signalled that it would continue to target Home Minister Amit Shah over the use of pellet guns and excessive force by security personnel against protesting students.

At the meeting of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance on Monday, there were differences on whether to disrupt or participate in the debate on the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, though it was later resolved that the parties should present their point of view.

Samajwadi Party sources said the Opposition should demand a debate on the Ram Temple donation theft case. According to sources, Dharmendra Yadav, the SP's chief whip, said during the meeting that this issue should not be allowed to be buried.

However, a significant section of Opposition leaders was of the opinion that they should continue to fo-



Action plan: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi speaking at an INDIA bloc meeting in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

cus on policy issues such as education. Wading into the Ram Temple issue would communalise the narrative. "The students have done their job. We must not fail them," a top Opposition leader said.

The Opposition leaders shared the details of the instances of "police brutalities" in their respective States. It was decided that during the debate on the Bill, these instances must be highlighted. The Opposition has also resolved that its strategy should include coordination on agitations beyond Parliament.

Among those who pushed for participation in the debate on the Bill, known in common parlance as the "paper leak Bill", was Revolutionary

Socialist Party MP N.K. Premachandran. Speaking to *The Hindu*, he said, "This Bill is an eyewash. Beyond increasing the fine and the jail term, it introduces no substantive changes. In fact, the Centre has inserted provisions that effectively reduce States to spectators, including a clause enabling the creation of a task force to investigate paper leaks that reports exclusively to the Union government."

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, which has been skipping INDIA bloc meetings, has also expressed a similar opinion. "I would like to know what action has been taken so far under the existing Act," DMK Rajya Sabha floor leader Tiruchi Siva said.

How BJP, RSS are framing the protest and its aftermath

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

There is both a doubling down and a softening in the approach being taken by the government and the larger Sangh Parivar in its messaging after young protesters concluded their protest against the NEET exam paper leak.

Going by the statements made publicly, a few things spring immediately to the mind on how the BJP and the Sangh Parivar are framing the protest and its aftermath.

Former Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's letter announcing his resignation on X, addressed to "young friends" rather than the President, states that he takes responsibility for what happened under his watch, that he initiated action when informed of the leak, handed the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation, and conducted a re-test successfully. The reason he specifically provided for his resignation was: "However, even during this time, individuals in responsible positions attempted to create obstacles and mislead students, which caused me deep distress."

"Considering the situation at Jantar Mantar and across the country – with the aim of preventing anti-national forces from exploiting it, preserving national unity, ensuring that not a single Indian student's future gets entangled in legal complexities, and allowing our children to devote their time to studies and focus on building their careers – I have submitted my resignation to the Honourable Prime Minister," he said.

This frames the protest as something that could have hurt the security of India, and the government, by asking for the Minister's resignation, had sought to end the protest

Modi's reels, RSS chief's speech on role of mothers offer clues on the party's approach on matter

in the larger interests. Moreover, the Centre maintains it has administratively carried off all the required measures for the NEET paper leak. The letter and the government's statements thus try to make it seem the NEET exam paper leak was more an act of omission than commission, a matter on which the intent of the government should not be interrogated.

The support offered to Mr. Pradhan, both online and offline, by his party and government colleagues, demonstrate that he is likely to make a political comeback soon, possibly in the BJP's party organisation.

For the long run, one may look to the reels posted by Mr. Modi on Instagram, and the speech on the role of mothers, at the height of the protests in Delhi, by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat.

'A social issue'

He appeared to suggest that he viewed the protests as a social issue pertaining to young Indians and education. "There is a need to give the new generation a sense of belonging. We need to communicate. Not dictation, but discussion. Not orders but consensus," he said.

Mr. Modi's posts on Instagram can also be seen as a way of reaching young people, via the platform they seem to prefer. Whether these two simultaneously offered approaches, one aimed internally at the political class and the other a societal position, will hit the mark in the conundrum now facing the government and the Sangh Parivar remains to be seen.

'Gen Z' protests test the Sangh, raise uncomfortable questions

Nistula Hebbar
Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Protests by students over the alleged NEET paper leak appear to have hit closer to home for the BJP and the larger Sangh Parivar than previous agitations against the NDA government at the Centre.

After reports emerged that the daughter of Assam Minister Keshab Mahanta, Dibisa Mahanta, had joined the protests by students, other instances of disquiet among BJP members and those associated with the Sangh Parivar have also come to the fore.

News about Manika Rana, former president of the BJP's youth wing in Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal, also went viral on social media. Reports claimed that she had been expelled from the party after participating in the Cockroach Janta Party-led student protest at Jantar Mantar.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Ms. Rana confirmed that she had been to the protest and that she supported the students' demands. She, however, denied reports



CJP supporters celebrating after Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation at Jantar Mantar. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

that she had been expelled because of her participation.

"I was removed from the post of youth wing president in April as I was busy due to certain personal engagements. Yes, I support all demands made by students, including the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan but I am still with the party," she added.

Other concerns

Former Union Minister Murlu Manohar Joshi had expressed concerns over the police action against protesters on July 20, and after Mr. Pradhan's resignation, he posted, "Better late than never".

RSS member Ratan

Sharda, who is also a contributor to the RSS mouthpiece *Organiser*, has publicly argued that the BJP's communication machinery and IT Cell failed to effectively counter the narrative around the "Cockroach Protests", calling it a "spectacular failure".

In a post on X, which he clarified as "his own view" and had "nothing to do with the RSS", Mr. Sharda said the BJP's media team relied on memes and "whataboutery" instead of building a counter-narrative, and failed to gauge growing youth anger over issues such as NEET, lacking a feedback mechanism from the ground.

BJP MPs face Opposition flak for 'Pradhan Zindabad' slogan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan, who stepped down as Education Minister over the NEET controversy, was greeted by BJP MPs with slogans of "Pradhan Zindabad" in the Parliament complex on Monday.

This prompted some of the Opposition MPs, who too were protesting outside the main entrance to Parliament against the police crackdown on protesters, to counter their BJP counterparts with chants of "Chor Chor, Paper Chor [thief, thief, paper

thief]". The Congress termed the felicitation "grave insult" to the country's youth.

Calling Mr. Pradhan a symbol of "corruption and India's ruined education system", Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the system "claimed the lives of 26 children and forced millions of youth onto the streets".

"And today, the BJP is garlanding that same person in Parliament. This isn't any honour—it's a celebration of the destruction of millions of children's futures," Mr. Gandhi said in a post

on X. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the BJP was honouring Mr. Pradhan "as if he had achieved some great feat", despite the paper leak crisis, the collapse of the examination system and the police action against protesting students. He questioned whether the BJP believed Mr. Pradhan's tenure was "commendable".

Congress leader Pawan Khera alleged Mr. Pradhan was being celebrated because he had implemented the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's agenda through the Education Ministry.

RS adjourned again; Opposition MPs seek apology from Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha adjourned for the day on Monday for the sixth day in the Monsoon Session without taking up any business.

The Prevention of In-sults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 was listed for consideration and passing. But it could not be taken up as the Opposition demanded an apology from Union Minister Amit Shah for the police action against protesting students.

In the afternoon, when the House met at 2 p.m., Deputy Speaker Harivansh invited Minister of State for Home Nitayanand Rai to move the Bill. Opposition members Pramod Tiwari, John Brittas and Tiruchi Siva raised objections. While Mr. Tiwari and Mr. Brittas demanded a discussion on police atrocities, Mr. Siva said the Bill was against the Constitution.

The Deputy Chairman, however, denied the "point of order" raised by the members and Mr. Rai

moved the Bill for consideration of the House amid din. Opposition MPs were heard shouting slogans demanding that Mr. Shah must come to the House.

At 5.15 p.m., the Deputy Chairman invited Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju. He said the government was ready for discussions on the issue of paper leaks and requested the Congress to take up the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, for discussion. "Such an important Bill has been brought forward. We appealed to the Congress yesterday, we have been appealing to them since this morning, but they are not agreeing," he said.

Countering this, Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge said the Opposition did not shy away from discussion. "But before discussion, the Home Minister should come and make a statement," he said. When he was speaking, BJP MPs raised their voice and soon after the House was adjourned for the day.

BJP to mark Guru Ravidas' 650th birth anniversary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday said it would launch a nationwide "Samrasta Sankalp Abhiyan" (campaign for social harmony and resolve) from July 29, 2026, to February 20, 2027, to mark the 650th birth anniversary of the mystic poet-saint Guru Ravidas.

At a press conference held by BJP national general secretaries Tarun Chugh and Dushyant Kumar Gautam, it said 131 sacred urns would be sent across the country from Varanasi, the birthplace of Ravidas.

Initiatives for social harmony would be organised at 21,000 locations and processions, including a month-long yatra from Jalandhar to Varanasi, would be taken out, they said.

The government had undertaken several initiatives to preserve the saint's legacy, including the development of airports, special trains, his birthplace, pilgrim routes, and the restoration of sites linked to Ravidas, they said.

	NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES (Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India) NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110029
NBEMS DIPLOMA FINAL THEORY EXAMINATION – OCTOBER 2026	
NOTICE	
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the NBEMS Diploma Final Theory Examinations on 11th, 12th and 13th September 2026 .	
The online applications are being invited from 28-07-2026 (05:00 PM onwards) to 17-08-2026 (Till 11:55 PM) at NBEMS website:- https://natboard.edu.in/viewnbeexam?exam=diploma	
There is no other method for submitting the application other than the above online method. Applications submitted through any other medium will be summarily rejected.	
Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333	• Helpline Portal on applicant login page • Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

A ND-NDE

INBRIEF



Merck inks pact with 4 Indian drugmakers for HIV drug

Pharma major Merck has signed non-exclusive voluntary licensing agreements with Aurobindo Pharma, Cipla, Emcure and Viatris in India to enable supply of its investigational, once-monthly oral HIV pill Alimatravir. The royalty-free agreements with the companies will enable supply of generic alimatravir in 129 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) that account for a substantial majority of new HIV diagnoses globally, Merck said recently.

Thai FDA approves new treatment for gonorrhoea

Thailand’s Food and Drug Administration has approved Nuzolvence (zolitlodacin), a first-in-class oral antibiotic for the treatment of uncomplicated urogenital gonorrhoea for which Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories with support from The GARDP Foundation had led the priority review submission. Thailand is the second country to approve the new chemical entity. Six months ago the U.S. Food and Drug Administration had approved the drug.

Bondada acquires 60% in Maharashtra solar project SPV

Bondada Engineering has acquired 60% stake in Onix IPP, a special purpose vehicle implementing a 225 MW (AC) solar photovoltaic power project in Maharashtra under a government scheme. The acquisition aligns with Bondada Group’s plans to diversify beyond EPC execution into renewable energy asset ownership and creation, thus generating predictable annuity-based revenues and complementing its annuity income from Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) assets.

Dual immunotherapy from Bristol Myers to treat cancer

Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) unveiled RELOPDUO, a fixed-dose combination of nivolumab and relatlimab) in India following approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). According to the company the therapy is India’s first LAG-3-based dual immunotherapy and is indicated for adults and children aged 12 years and above with unresectable or metastatic melanoma.

Allana Consumer to boost frozen food business in India

Allana Consumer Products Ltd., a part of the 161-year-old Allana Group, one of India’s largest processed food products and agri-commodity exporters, said it will boost domestic frozen food business to cater to rising demand from households and hotels, restaurants and cafes by unveiling new products, a company official said. “Our objective is to make high-quality frozen food more accessible while building a reliable farm-to-freezer value chain,” said Parag Vishnu Gadre, business head, fruits, vegetables and ice cream division, Allana Consumer Products Ltd.

CIL’s Q1 net almost flat on costs, to pay ₹5.5 dividend

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

State-owned miner Coal India’s Ltd. (CIL) net profit in the June-end quarter stayed almost flat year-on-year (YoY) as cost of explosives and industrial diesel, among other essentials required for mining, cumulatively rose in double digits amid the West Asia conflict even as it sought to absorb the impact of the elevated pricing. Net profit stood at ₹8,850 crore, increasing by a marginal 0.7% YoY. Expenses climbed 27% YoY to ₹3,260 crore. The miner declared an interim dividend of ₹5.50 per equity share.

HDFC fines CEO and CFO ₹1 lakh each for ‘business overreach’

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

HDFC Bank imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh each on MD-CEO, CFO and group head, retail assets for ‘business overreach’ after an internal review into deposit arrangements with MSRDC. “The bank announces the conclusion of an internal review process pertaining to the arrangement with Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) for garnering deposits in 2017 and 2021. Based on the findings and recommendation of the Special Disciplinary Committee of Independent Directors, the board concluded the conduct of the

BSE adds ₹5.1 lakh crore as rupee appreciates, crude dips

Broad-based buying and improving global sentiment lead the rally; market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms surges ₹5.1 lakh crore to ₹480.8 lakh crore, following the rebound in equities

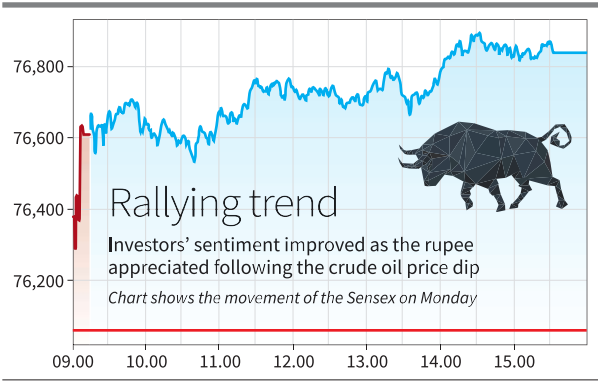
Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

A sharp fall in crude oil prices amid easing tensions in West Asia and appreciation of rupee, propped up India’s equity markets with Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) gaining more than 1%, adding ₹5.10 lakh crore in capitalisation.

The 30-share BSE Sensex closed 1.02% higher at 76,835.78 points and the 50-share National Stock Exchange (NSE) Nifty surged 228.50 points, or 0.96% to 23,995.95 points.

Broad-based rally More than 2,250 stocks increased of the 3,446 that traded on Monday and all the sectoral indices improved, suggesting a broad-based rally.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies surged ₹5.1 lakh crore to ₹480.8 lakh crore, following the rebound in equities.



lowing the rebound in equities. “The market has bounced back sharply from near the cluster support of around 23,600 (previous opening upside gap of June 15 and ascending trend line) and is now on the verge of breaking above the immediate resistance of 24,000-24,100 levels,” said Nagaraj Shetti, Senior Technical Research Analyst at HDFC Securities. The optimism can be attributed to the 61 paise ap-

preciation in the value of the Indian rupee, pushing it to ₹95.96 a dollar as crude oil dipped to \$86.5 a barrel, 6% below the previous session.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 96.18 and touched the low of 96.27 and high of 95.78 against the greenback during the session, finally settling at 95.92 (provisional) against the dollar, up 61 paise against its previous closing

level. According to forex traders, the local currency also support from a firm trend in domestic equities and weakness in the US dollar against major currencies. Further, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor said that Indian banks had drawn FCNR(B) deposits worth \$32 billion so far, which is at least half of \$50 billion to \$70 billion that the monetary authority plans to garner from NRIs, in a bid to reign in the rupee depreciation.

“Despite continued vulnerability to oil related volatility arising from geopolitical tensions, technical indicators have shifted materially. Spot USDINR has slipped below its ascending channel support, signalling potential continuation toward 95.60 and 95.40 in the sessions ahead,” said Dilip Parmar, Senior Research Analyst at HDFC Securities.

(With inputs from PTI)

‘Data centre capacity to jump to 12 GW as AI fuels demand’

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India’s operational data centre capacity is projected to jump more than five-fold to 12 GW by 2030 from 2.2 GW in 2025, driven by rapid adoption of artificial intelligence (AI), hyperscale cloud investments and the expanding digital

economy, according to a Wood Mackenzie.

AI-dedicated capacity is expected to rise multifold to 6,546 MW by 2030 from 275 MW in 2025, while data centre electricity demand is forecast to grow to 191 terawatt-hours (TWh) by 2040 from 10 TWh in 2025, its report said.

“India’s data centre mar-

ket becomes a structural investment thesis,” said Souhardya Pal, Research Associate at Wood Mackenzie. “The convergence of hyperscale capital, AI workload growth and a decade of policy support have created the conditions for India to rival any market in Asia-Pacific. The question for developers and inves-

tors is no longer whether to enter India, but where and how.”

Digital economy

India’s digital economy, valued at ₹32 lakh crore in 2025 and accounting for about 12% of GDP, together with more than 1.03 billion active internet users and around 22 billion monthly

TMB Q1 net crosses ₹400 cr; now eyes overseas expansion

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd (TMB) has reported a 34.97% year on year (YoY) increase in net profit to ₹411.51 crore for the quarter ended June compared with ₹304.89 crore in the corresponding quarter last year.

“This is the highest-ever net profit in the bank’s history. For the first time, we have crossed the ₹400 crore mark,” said Salee S. Nair, managing director and CEO of the bank.

The private sector lender’s net interest income increased to ₹765.08 crore from ₹579.55 crore, a growth of 32.01% YoY.

Net interest margin im-



Net interest income rose 32% YoY to ₹765.08 crore from ₹579.55 crore a year earlier.

proved to 4.29% from 3.84%, up 45 basis points.

Deposits rise 20%

The Thoothukudi-based headquartered bank’s total deposits rose 19.71% YoY, to ₹64,409 crore, while advances grew 27.01% YoY to ₹57,306 crore.

“As we move through FY27, our priorities remain centered on deepening customer relationships, strengthening our retail, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and agriculture franchises, expanding our deposit base and accelerating investments in technology and digital capabilities to enhance customer experience and operational efficiency,” Mr. Nair said.

“The bank still does not have an international presence, and that’s something we are seriously looking at. We are evaluating three specific territories like Malaysia. Singapore and West Asia particularly Dubai...but that’s in the future.”

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Digital insurance platform Policybazaar said it started offering U.S. dollar-denominated term insurance plans of partner insurers for non-resident Indians (NRIs) through the International Financial Services Centre, GIFT City, Gujarat.

This allows NRIs to pay premia and receive claim payouts in U.S. dollars, addressing one of the biggest but least discussed financial risks faced by Indians living overseas – currency depreciation, it said.

The launch reflects the growing role of GIFT City in bringing global financial products closer to the Indian diaspora. Over the last

BoB’s ‘critical data’ leaks on dark web, bank initiates probe

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has initiated a forensic investigation into breach of critical data that has reportedly leaked one TB (terabyte) worth of data.

“A comprehensive forensic investigation has been initiated, and the bank is working closely with the relevant authorities in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements,” the bank said in its statement, a day after the data leak was informed by people through social media posts.

Going by the posts, the critical data of the banks was leaked into darkweb, a private internet network where users’ location information cannot be tracked and is not indexed in the World Wide Web.

“The bank has robust information security protocols in place. The incident involved compromise of an employee’s email account,

resulting in unauthorised access to certain data. The matter was promptly identified, and immediate containment measures were implemented,” BoB said.

‘Core banking secure’

The bank’s core banking systems were not accessed and “continue to remain secure”, it communicated through a post on its official social media handle X.

The post seems to be in response to media reports and social media discussions claiming that over 1 TB of data, including personal Aadhaar details of customers, has been accessed in an unauthorised manner and posted on the dark web for free.

It was not immediately clear how many customers were affected.

The leak comes amid growing concerns over cybersecurity risks facing large companies and financial institutions that store vast amounts of customer and business data.

UPI transactions, is driving demand for data centre infrastructure. India’s domestic AI market is projected to reach ₹11.7 lakh crore by 2032.

Wood Mackenzie said Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu currently account for about 65% of installed IT load, but future investment is expected to expand into

A.P., Telangana, U.P. and Karnataka.

These emerging markets are attracting significant commitments from global hyperscalers, including Amazon Web Services and Google, alongside domestic operators such as AdaniConnex, which has announced a development pipeline of 2.6 GW.



New vistas: A general view of the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

few years, the IFSC enabled several banking, investment and insurance solutions traditionally available only via overseas financial centres. Global Indians can now access internationally-aligned financial products within India’s regulatory framework, Policybazaar added.

Chief business officer- Life Insurance, Policybazaar Vivek Jain said “GIFT City has created the foundation for a new generation of financial products for global Indians. Our role at Policybazaar is to ensure the opportunities reach customers in a simple and accessible manner.”

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA – DEPARTMENT OF SPACE CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC – SHAR SRIHARIKOTA – 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/CON/268715 Date: 24/07/2026

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:

Brief Name of work	Est. Value (Rs)
Miscellaneous works around the facilities and providing MS gates at Tiruchendur & Sattankulam Taluk, Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu.	74 Lakhs

Last date for sale (Tender documents can be downloaded) up to 03/08/2026 14:30 hrs. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website <https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html> and tender free view at <https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro>.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

CYBERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

O/o. The Superintending Engineer, STSQM (HQ), CMC, 2nd Floor, Cyberabad Municipal Corporation, NAC Building, Izzath Nagar-500 084.

e' Procurement Notice

NIT.No.16/SE(STSQM)/HQ/CMC/2026-27 Date: 27.06.2026.

S.No.	Name of the work
1	Expression of interest for Selection of agency for feasibility study for mechanized sweeping of roads excluding CRMP roads and adoption of mechanized road sweepers of suitable configuration for Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC).

Events	For works
Bid Download Start Date	28.07.2026 @ 11.30 AM
Bid Download End Date	12.08.2026 @ 11.30 AM
Last Date & Time for uploading of Bids	12.08.2026 @ 11.30 AM
Price Bid Opening Date	12.08.2026 @ 12.00 PM

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
DIPR R.O.No.6846-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Dt.27.07.2026 STSQM, HQ, CMC, (Ph.No.9121240341)

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

Tender Call Notice No. File No.: IDCO/HO-P&C/A-100927/04/2026/V-1 21392, Dated : 20/07/2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

Name of the Work : Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 11kV dedicated feeder for providing power supply to Industries at Indrapatna Industrial Estate, Choudwar, Cuttack ..

Estimated Cost put to tender : Rs.2,20,28,726.00

Period of completion : 5 (Five) Calendar Months

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C) IDCO, IDCO Tower, Bhubaneswar	Bid Identification No.:- P&C/EST/E-14/2026-27	17:00 hours of dt. 29.07.2026	17:00 hours of dt. 13.08.2026

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal www.Tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal as well as in IDCO website.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

4001/221/2627 OIPR-4001/4075/11/26-27/0076

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WBSETCL

E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS ARE INVITED:-

NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/ 315 MVA Trf./26-27/15 Procurement of 400/220/33 kV, 315 MVA Auto Transformers. Bid documents can be downloaded from 28.07.2026, 03:00 P.M. Bid submission starting date (online): 12.08.2026, 03:00 P.M. and bid submission closing date (online): 27.08.2026, 03:00 P.M.

NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/ 200 MVA Trf./26-27/16 Procurement of 220/132/33 kV, 200 MVA, 3 Phase Auto Transformer. Bid documents can be downloaded from 28.07.2026, 03:00 P.M. Bid submission starting date (online): 12.08.2026, 03:00 P.M. and bid submission closing date (online): 27.08.2026, 03:00 P.M.

NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/ 80 MVA-132-33kV-Trf./ 26-27/17 Procurement of 132/33 kV, 80 MVA Power Transformers. Bid documents can be downloaded from 30.07.2026, 03:00 P.M. Bid submission starting date (online): 14.08.2026, 03:00 P.M. and bid submission closing date (online): 31.08.2026, 03:00 P.M.

Visit the following websites - www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.

ICA-T13474(3)/2026

A ND-NDE

ON COURSE

Sachin, Ankush and Sakshi one win away from clinching a medal



PTI

Indian boxers Sachin Siwach, Ankush, *in pic.*, and Sakshi Chaudhary advanced to the quarterfinals of the Commonwealth Games. Sachin beat England's William Hewitt 4-1 in men's 60kg. Ankush outplayed Jan Zalaan of Antigua and Barbuda 5-0 in men's 80kg. Sakshi blanked Lethabo Modukanele of Botswana 5-0 in women's 51kg.

REWARD

Sports Minister Mandaviya fetes CWG bronze medallist Jhandu



PTI

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday felicitated para-powerlifter Jhandu Kumar with a cash prize of ₹10 lakh for his bronze medal-winning performance that opened India's account at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. The felicitation took place at the Minister's residence in New Delhi.

HIGH PRAISE

Sooryavanshi has the attitude and mindset to improve, says Laxman



AFF

Very mature. And that's what I really appreciate about Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. He was disappointed not to get a hundred, but we told him it's not going to be the first or the last opportunity he'll get. He's got a long career ahead, and he has the attitude and mindset to improve every day — Stand-in India coach V.V.S. Laxman.

CAREER-BEST FIGURES

Greaves' maiden five-wicket haul helps Windies gain slender lead



AFF

Justin Greaves claimed his maiden five-wicket haul as West Indies gained a first-innings lead of 29 runs against Pakistan on the third day of the first Test at Tarouba on Monday. **The scores:** West Indies 311 & 30/3 in 14 overs vs Pakistan 282 in 80.1 overs (Imam-ul-Haq 63, Shan Masood 109, Justin Greaves 5/27), **at tea.**

Gyaneshwari finishes with silver after a gripping duel

The Indian comes second best to Nigerian Didih in 53kg event despite successfully completing all her attempts; the latter secures the gold after setting both Commonwealth and Games records

CWEALTH GAMES

K. Keerthivasan
GLASGOW

There hadn't been a more gripping weightlifting contest at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games here than the women's 53kg event on Monday. In a battle that went right down to the final lift, Nigeria's Onome Omolola Didih edged out India's Gyaneshwari Yadav to claim the gold medal. Gyaneshwari lifted a total of 199kg, while Didih produced a total of 206kg — both a Commonwealth and Games record. The Nigerian also rewrote the record books in the individual lifts, establishing both Commonwealth and Games records in the snatch (93kg) and clean and jerk (113kg). Gyaneshwari had produced a flawless performance by successfully completing all her attempts with remarkable composure and precision. The duel reached its climax in the clean and jerk. Gyaneshwari opened with a successful 103kg lift, while Didih responded with 105. In the second round, the former confi-



Making a big impression: Gyaneshwari bagged a silver in her maiden Games. PTI

dently cleared 107, only for the latter stay ahead with 110. With the pressure mounting, Gyaneshwari raised the bar to 111 for her final attempt and nailed it, drawing loud cheers from the crowd. Didih, however, replied with an outstanding lift of 113 to seal the gold medal in dramatic fashion. The moment she completed the winning lift, the 22-year-old waved to the

spectators before turning towards the television cameras and shaking her head in celebration. Didih established her as one of Africa's leading lifters by winning the 55 kg gold in the African championships in Moka, Mauritius, last year. Later in 2025, she also won the Commonwealth championships in Ahmedabad in 53kg. With the gold here, Didih has firmly established herself as the pre-

mier lifter in the Commonwealth. Earlier, Gyaneshwari was on a roll in the snatch series, comfortably clearing 82, 85 and 88kg. Those effortless lifts suggested she was well poised for the clean and jerk. But Didih was a different beast altogether. Every challenge Gyaneshwari posed, Didih answered with an even bigger lift, staying one step ahead throughout the contest.

Bindyarani's bronze adds to India's haul

K. Keerthivasan
GLASGOW

India's Bindyarani Devi settled for bronze in the women's 58kg weightlifting event with a total lift of 199kg. The 27-year-old, who won silver in the 55kg category at the previous Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, could not reproduce that form here, even as Nigeria's Rafiatu Folashade Lawal claimed gold (229kg). The Indian lifted 83kg, 85kg and 87kg in snatch, followed by a best of 112kg in clean & jerk. Lawal, the reigning Commonwealth Games champion (59kg), broke three records on her way to the title. She lifted 103kg in snatch, a Commonwealth and Games record, before clearing 126kg in clean & jerk, also a Games record. Her total of 229kg was a new Games record.



Bindyarani. GETTY IMAGES



Wait ends: Raja, who returned to the Commonwealth stage after an eight-year gap, earned his first medal at the Games. PTI

Bitter-sweet silver for Raja; no stopping Aznil

K. Keerthivasan
GLASGOW

Throughout his interaction with the Indian media on Sunday night after winning silver medal in the men's 65kg weightlifting event of the Commonwealth Games at the Scottish Event Campus, Raja Muthupandi remained glum. Rated by Indian head coach Vijay Sharma as one of the country's bright medal prospects, the Tamil Nadu lifter finished with a total of 286kg, 13kg behind Malaysia's Muhamad Aznil Bin Bidin. Aznil clinched his third successive gold at the quadrennial event with a Games record of 299kg. The 26-year-old Raja, son of a truck loader and an employee of Southern Railway, never looked at his best. He successfully completed only two of the six attempts — 126kg in snatch and 160 in clean and jerk. In the snatch series, Raja failed to clear 126 in his first and 129 in the third

try. And in clean and jerk, Raja couldn't assert himself as he failed again in the first (158kg) and third (170) attempts. In contrast, Aznil produced a flawless display, setting Games records in the snatch (133), clean and jerk (166) and total. Raja did not shy away from admitting his disappointment. "My (Indian team) coach Vijay Sharma believed I could give my best for the gold. But I couldn't deliver," he said. Expectations were high after his National record-breaking performance at the Nationals in Modinagar in February, where he lifted a total of 302kg (130 in snatch and 172 in clean & jerk). He had finished sixth on his Commonwealth Games debut at Gold Coast in 2018 before an injury ruled him out of the Birmingham Games in 2022. Returning to the Commonwealth stage after an eight-year gap, Raja finally earned his first medal at the Games.

Sreeshankar, Sathyanathan, Shirse in final

Press Trust of India
GLASGOW

India's M. Sreeshankar qualified for the men's long jump final by breaching the automatic qualifying standard while Lokesh Sathyanathan advanced on the basis of his top-12 finish at the Commonwealth Games here on Monday. Sreeshankar jumped 8.01m to earn direct qualification from Group A. The qualification standard was set at 8m or at least the 12 best performers. Competing in Group B, Sathyanathan managed a jump of 7.77m in his first attempt. He finished fourth. Tejas Shirse became the first Indian to qualify for the men's 110m hurdles final at the Games, finishing sixth overall in the heats with a timing of 13.76 seconds. The 24-year-old finished third in Heat 1. **Other Indian results: Men: Athletics: 100m:** Gurindervir, 10.39s, second in Heat 4 and overall 28th. **Swimming: 200m butterfly:** Sajjan Prakash, 1:58.59s, second in Heat 2, made it to the final after finishing sixth overall. **4x200m freestyle relay (final):** Dhakshan Shashikumar, Aneesh Sunil Kumar Gowda, Aryan Nehra and Srihari Nataraj 7:29.84, finished sixth. **Lawn bowls:** Putul Sonowal lost to Anwar Hamada (Ken) 0.5-1.5, finished fifth in Section D. **Women: Artistic gymnastics (final):** Protistha Samanta, 12.883, ended up seventh.

Staying focused and strong do the trick for Anahat

SQUASH

Anirudh Velamuri

For four years, the World Juniors was Anahat Singh's ghost story — a quarterfinal exit here, a semifinal collapse there and an Egyptian racquet always standing in her way. She even called it a curse. On Saturday, in her final year as a junior, she buried it. Anahat won in straight games in the final against Ruqayya Salem, ended Egypt's run of 13 straight titles, and secured a first for Indian squash. "The score says 3-0, but it was definitely not comfortable. In a final, every single point feels like it's the last," she told *The Hindu*, in a virtual interaction facilitated by JSW Sports, on Monday. Anahat felt she had a real shot at the title after the first two games — until things got tight in the third game. She caught herself just in time, before the ghosts stirred again. In the end, she lost just two games in the entire tournament and showed why she was the top seed



On a roll: Top seed Anahat lost just two games in the entire tournament. WORLD SQUASH

and India's No. 1 ranked player. "The mental strength was always there, but I've not used it well. So I told myself to focus, get it done and then enjoy it all. Following a set routine really helped, and I think I have to follow it going forward." That said, her nerves actually eased as the competition wore on. "I was more stressed out in my first few rounds because you really need to get the momentum right. I

knew I was playing well and I was quite confident [going into the final]. I just wanted to get it over with because it was too stressful in the build-up to the tournament." Yet even history has its blind spots. The 18-year-old's one regret? The winning moment itself. "My celebration was really bad! Winning the title felt unreal, and so I couldn't think of anything in the moment," she added with a laugh.

Camaraderie will be an ally at the Olympiad, says Pragg

CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Camaraderie among the members of the Indian Open squad will help in the Olympiad title defence, Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa said while expressing confidence of a strong show. The 20-year-old felt the team was strong and had the experience to handle the pressure of being the defending champion. He said the core of the team from the winning campaign in 2024 was same time except for Nihal Sarin replacing P. Harikrishna. "I think we are all very good friends. Being friends helps a lot when you are playing a team event like the Olympiad," he told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of an event at D.G. Vaishnav College here. Asked if there would be huge pressure on India as the title-holder, Praggnanandhaa said, "There will always be pressure when you are representing the country. You want to do



Praggnanandhaa. FILE PHOTO

well. It's not about pressure from outside. It's more of an expectation from yourself that you will do well. We have experienced all this and are ready." He expected the home team Uzbekistan to be among the teams to beat in the Olympiad. **Backing Gukesh** About World champion D. Gukesh's below-par performances since winning the sport's biggest prize, Praggnanandhaa said, "He has won gold (board prize) and been part of a victorious Olympiad campaign. I don't know who else has done these things." "He has shown that he belongs at the top. Sometimes everyone has these bad phases. This is just one of those".

Wong sizzles as Malaysia shocks top seed India

TABLE TENNIS

Amol Karhadkar
NEW DELHI

Top seed India suffered a shock defeat to underdog Malaysia in the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships at the Thyagraj Stadium on Monday, serving an early reminder of the challenges that lie ahead this week and at the Asian Games in Japan in September. Earlier in the day, India had thrashed Zimbabwe 3-0. On paper, the India-Malaysia contest appeared one-sided. Four Indian paddlers are ranked inside the world's top 100, while Malaysia's highest-ranked player, Wong Qi Shen, is only placed 202. But rankings counted for little as Wong produced a captain's performance, defeating both Harmeet Desai and World no. 38 Manav Thakkar to script one of Malaysia's memorable victories over India. Manav had given India the ideal start with an easy win over Choong Javen, but Harmeet, returning to action after skipping UTT, was unable to match



Wong. AMOL KARHADKAR

Wong's consistency. The momentum swung Malaysia's way when Tey Hong Yu edged Manush Shah in a gripping contest, less than 24 hours after the Indian had guided U Mumba TT to the UTT-7 title in Goa. With India trailing, Manav needed to overcome Wong to send the tie into a decider. The Indian fought valiantly before going down in five games. The defeat is unlikely to derail India's campaign, with the top two teams from each group progress-

ing to the quarterfinals. "Malaysia played out of their skins and we were slightly off the mark. Perhaps you can call it a wake-up call, but I don't think we have too much to worry about. It was just an off-day for all three of our players," India coach Sourav Chakraborty told *The Hindu*. **Important results: Men:** Malaysia bt India 3-1 (Choong Javen lost to Manav Thakkar 3-11, 3-11, 4-11; Wong Qi Shen bt Harmeet Desai 8-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-7; Tey Hong Yu bt Manush Shah 11-13, 5-11, 11-5, 12-10, 11-7; Wong bt Manav 9-11, 11-8, 11-7, 3-11, 11-9); India bt Zimbabwe 3-0 (Manav bt Taenda Mumvuma 11-3, 11-2, 11-6; Harmeet bt Tapiwa Musarurwa 11-5, 11-4, 11-5; Payas Jain bt Vikram Singh 11-3, 11-3, 11-8); Malaysia bt Wales 3-0, England bt Cyprus 3-0, New Zealand bt Falkland Islands 3-0, Canada bt Scotland 3-0, Singapore bt Northern Ireland 3-0. **Women:** Singapore bt Sri Lanka 3-2, India bt Maldives 3-0 (Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Fathimath Dheema Ali 11-4, 11-2, 11-5; Yashaswini Ghorpade bt Aishath Rafa Nazim 11-2, 11-5, 11-7; Swastika Ghosh bt Mishka Mohamed Ibrahim 11-3, 11-5, 11-2), Northern Ireland bt South Africa 3-2, Australia bt Bangladesh 3-0, England bt Cyprus 3-0, Malaysia bt Scotland 3-0.

INBRIEF



Koivun holds off Scheffler for PGA 3M Open title

Jackson Koivun, playing only his third PGA Tour event as a professional, held off top-ranked Scottie Scheffler in Sunday's final round to capture the 3M Open in record fashion. The 21-year-old American fired a five-under par 66 to finish 72 holes in a tournament record 25-under par 259 at Blaine in Minnesota (USA) and defeat Scheffler by three strokes.

New Indian Football League season to begin on Oct. 16

The next season of the Indian Football League (IFL) will begin on October 16, the AIFF said on Monday. Also among the key decisions made during the Governing Council meet in New Delhi was the move to allow a maximum of three foreigners in a line-up. It is aimed at increasing game time for Indian players. "We also discussed the roadmap for the new season, including the proposed budgets," AIFF deputy secretary general M. Satyanarayan said.

Soumya Sarkar returns to Bangladesh's Test squad

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced a 15-member squad for the opening Test of the two-match series against Australia. The squad includes Soumya Sarkar, who returns to the Test set-up after last featuring in the format in 2021.

The squad: Najmul Hossain Shanto (Capt.), Soumya Sarkar, Shadman Islam, Tanzid Hasan, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Amite Hasan, Jaker Ali Anik, Mehidy Hasan Miraz (vice-capt.), Taijul Islam, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Syed Khaled Ahmed, Ebadot Hossain Chowdhury and Musfik Hasan.



Pirlo bitter over debate that cost him Italy coaching job

Former Italy playmaker Andrea Pirlo, who was favoured for the national coaching post, expressed his bitterness on Monday over the debate which has led to him no longer being a candidate. The 47-year-old had become the favourite to be tasked with reviving the national side's fortunes after it failed to qualify for the World Cup for the third successive time. Whilst Pirlo had a stellar playing career, his coaching CV is short on success. A contract with a Russian betting firm had only added fuel to misgivings.

Brilliant Lad may score an encore

RACING

HYDERABAD: The four-year-old gelding Brilliant Lad, who won in his last start, may score an encore in the Royston Rock Plate, the main event of Tuesday's (July 28) races.

1 SHAMIRPET TROPHY (DIV. II) (1,200m), Maiden, 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.10 p.m.: 1. Analysis (2) G. Naresh 60, 2. Cypress (1) Kuldeep Sr. 59.5, 3. Darling Spirit (7) Suraj Narredu 58.5, 4. Mysore Pharoah (2) Ajay K 58.5, 5. Divine Faith (6) B.R. Kumar 58, 6. Bold Indian (4) Md. Ismail 56, 7. Golden Aura (8) Abhay Singh 56 and 8. Midnight Beauty (5) Surya Prakash 54.

1. DARING SPIRIT,
2. DIVINE FAITH,
3. CYPRESS

2 SCARLET PRINCE PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.40: 1. Advait (8) Trevor 56, 2. Master Class (11) Gaurav 56, 3. Phoebus (12) Suraj Narredu 56, 4. Smashing Grey (14) P. Sai K 56, 5. Twilight King (7) P. Ajeerh K 56, 6. Vidyutprabhava (5) Md. Ismail 56, 7. Weseethes-amesun (13) Ajay K 56, 8. Wind Castle (9) Kuldeep Sr. 56, 9. Ane-mara (10) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 10. Kinship (6) B. Nikhil 54.5, 11. Love All (2) R.S. Jodha 54.5, 12. N R 1 Mega Power (4) Shivam 54.5, 13. Northern Sky (1) Rafique Sk. 54.5 and 14. Velvra (3) Akshay K 54.5.

1. ADVAIT, 2. MASTER CLASS,
3. TWILIGHT KING

3 FIRECREST PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) (No Whips), 2.10: 1. Dubai Touch (5) Neeraj 61.5, 2. Kalki (9) Surya Prakash 60, 3. Greif (2) P. Sai K 57.5, 4. Arjun One (8) B.R. Kumar 57.5, 5. Arthisha (4) B. Nikhil 55.5, 6. Tur-itya (7) Trevor 55.5, 7. Dashing

Esha guns down gold, Manu wins bronze in 25m pistol

The 21-year-old registers 40 hits to seal the crown while the Paris 2024 double Olympic-medallist fights through a tense shoot-off to finish with 28 hits as the two make it a double podium for India

SHOOTING

Press Trust of India
HANGZHOU

Esha Singh grabbed the gold by upstaging Olympic-medallist Manu Bhaker, who took the bronze to complete a double-podium finish for India in the women's 25m pistol event of the ISSF World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) here on Monday.

The 21-year-old Esha produced a commanding display in the final, registering 40 hits to seal the gold medal.

On the other hand, Paris 2024 double Olympic-medallist Manu fought through a highly competitive field, winning a crucial shoot-off before finishing with 28 hits to secure bronze.

China's Yueyue Zhang won silver with 37 hits. Manu topped the qualifying



On the podium: Yueyue, Esha, and Manu pose for a picture.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

standings with an outstanding score of 586-20x, closely followed by Esha in second place with 585-18x to comfortably advance to the eight-shooter final. Ra-hi Sarnobat posted 582-16x, while Simranpreet Kaur Brar (576-20x) and Abhidnya Ashok Patil (573-

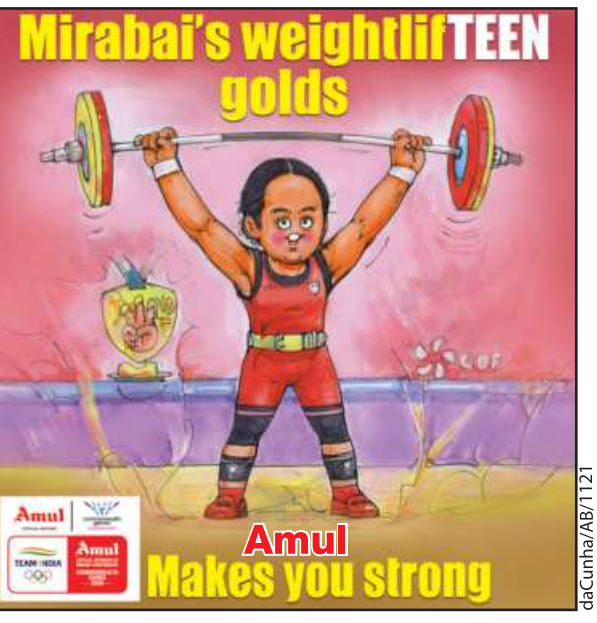
16x) delivered steady per-formances competing under Ranking Points Only (RPO) status.

Reflecting on overcoming the mental pressure following her record-setting World Cup gold in Munich earlier this season, Esha said: "This match was very pressure-riding for me because of the previous medal I had.

"The better you get in your event, the more you feel that weight of prestige you have to conquer. I'm happy that I was able to get past it today and grateful that I had the ability to endure it."

Another landmark
The gold medal adds another landmark achievement for Esha, who hails from Hyderabad.

Earlier this season at the ISSF World Cup in Munich, Esha set both the senior and junior world records with 43 hits in the final.



Veteran sports scribe Jaswinder Sidhu passes away

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Veteran sports journalist Jaswinder Sidhu passed away in a road accident on Sunday night. He was 54.

In a career spanning decades, Sidhu, always Jassi to his friends, worked primarily with *Amar Ujala* before branching out as an independent analyst.

A regular presence in most press boxes across India and overseas, Sidhu always kept the travelling press corps in good humour. He cracked one-liners, was helpful and forged a kinship with many sports writers, including those hailing from Pakistan's Punjab and Sindh.

The Sports Journalists' Federation of India (SJFI) expressed its profound grief and sorrow over Sidhu's demise. The Press Club of India condoled Sidhu's passing away through a post on X. "His dedication to sports journalism, unwavering professionalism and insightful reporting earned him immense respect across the media fraternity".



Jaswinder Sidhu.

U Mumba reveals in second title triumph

UTT

Amol Karhadkar
PANAJI

Winning an Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) title is special. Defending it, Lilian Bardet believes, is even more satisfying.

The Frenchman, one of only two surviving players from U Mumba TT's maiden triumph in 2025 alongside reserve paddler Akash Pal, felt Sunday's victory over Dempo Goa Challengers, unbeaten in the seventh season until then, was a testament to the team's resilience after a shaky start.

"The first time is always something new for the team, for the players. But to achieve it a second time in a row is even bigger," Bardet said after lifting the trophy at the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Panaji on Sunday.

"Teamwork from the first day until today [Sunday]... we are really proud of this victory," Coach John Murphy,



Resilient bunch: U Mumba showed its strength after a shaky start. BUTTERFLY UTT

who continued alongside Jay Modak after last year's title-winning campaign, believed this triumph was markedly different from the first.

"We lost the first two matches. We didn't panic. We built our way back into the league. We qualified and then hit the ground running in the playoffs," Murphy said.

"Last year, we ran on adrenaline and had some really big individual performances.

"This year was more calculated. I felt that the longer the tournament went on, the better we became."

That measured approach was exemplified by Manush Shah. Returning to UTT after missing the 2025 season due to international commitments, the ace Indian paddler grew into the tournament before producing decisive performances in the semifinal and final.

"When we saw that Manush was available in the auction, he was one of the players we wanted," Murphy said. "We were lucky enough to get him. Coming back after missing last season, he had to adapt again

because UTT is a different format. But good players find their way."

Murphy felt Manush's impact increased with every passing tie. "He never backed down. He was probably the one player who just got better and better as the tournament went on. In the end, he was probably the key."

Even so, Murphy insisted the title was built on collective consistency rather than individual brilliance. "But the team is a team. We wouldn't have got there if we weren't stable all the way through the league".

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Mohammedan Sporting began its 135th Durand Cup campaign with a convincing 4-0 victory over Baghpat FC of Banaras at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Monday.

Fardin Ali Molla gave the home side the lead in the 29th minute, helping Mohammedan take a solitary-goal advantage into half-time even as Baghpat put up a disciplined defence.

The Kolkata outfit stepped up the pressure after the break as substitute Lalremsanga Fanai doubled the lead in the 73rd minute following some attacking changes made by coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo. Israfil Dewan added a third in the 80th minute, before Fanai scored his second goal in the 84th, finishing off a long ball from goalkeeper Subhadip Pandit with an impressive solo run.

The result: Mohammedan Sporting 4 (Fardin Ali 29, Fanai 73 & 84, Israfil Dewan 80) bt Baghpat FC 0.

Diablo wins feature

HYDERABAD: Trainer K.S.V. Prasad Raju's ward Diablo, ridden by P. Sai Kumar, won the Anab E Shahi Plate, the main event of Monday's (July 27) races here.

The winner is owned by M/s. Ashok Ranpise, Seshadri Reddy Pochana, Teegala Sumant Reddy, Teegala Vijender Reddy, Satish Kumar Reddy Poondla, Giri Prathamesh Mahadev, Bollineni Krishnaiah & Teja Gollapudi.

Trainer R.H. Sequeria and jockey B.R. Kumar scored a treble each.

1. ADILABAD PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400M): PERCEPTION (G. Naresh) 1, Knight Crusader (B.R. Kumar) 2, Arabeska (Akshay K) 3 and Silver Act (P. Sai K) 4. 4-1/2. Neck and 1. Im. 25.70s. ₹54 (w). 18, 18 and 15 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 62, FP: 232, Q: 82, Tanala: 451. Favourite: Arabeska. Owner: Mr. Rakesh Reddy Kondakalla. Trainer: Robin R. Kondakalla.

3. ADILABAD PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100M): MY WAY MY RULES (Akshay Kumar) 1, Queen Eternal (B.R. Kumar) 2, Trishka (Rafique Sk.) 3 and You Tuber (Md. Ekram) 4. Neck, 2-1/4 and 2-3/4. Im, 7.61s. ₹43 (w), 12, 12 and 17 (p). SHP: 46, THP: 41, FP: 111, Q: 44, Tanala: 548. Favourite: Queen Eternal. Owner: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: Magan Singh.

4. CON AMORE PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400M): BHAIRAVA (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Certainty (Kuldeep. Sr) 2, Secret Saint (Trevor) 2 and Knight Regent (P. Sai Kumar) 4. 3/4, Dead Heat and 2. Im, 27.34s. ₹41 (w), 15, 22 and 10 (p). SHP: 22 and 16 (p).

McGrath backs Prasad to play a key role going forward

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Australia fast-bowling great Glenn McGrath felt that India's white-ball pace attack was in the midst of a natural transition, backing Prasad Krishna to emerge as a key figure at a time when Jasprit Bumrah is managing his workload and Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj are absent.

"It's always going to be tough to just pick up from where you left off. You've got Bumrah, who's a class bowler. Shami is world class as well.

"Siraj has been around for a long time and is very experienced. They bowl incredibly well, so you can't just expect to pick up straight from where you left off," McGrath said at MRF Pace Foundation on Monday.

The 56-year-old, however, believed that India's next-gen pacers were making encouraging progress. "I think they've been doing okay. I'm a big fan of Pra-



Masterclass: McGrath and Senthilnathan interact with MRF Pace Foundation trainees. R. RAGU

sadh as well. It's always a big ask to fill the shoes of Shami and Bumrah, so it's always going to be a transitional period."

McGrath reserved special praise for Prasad, saying that the seamer had matured a lot since he first saw him. "From seeing him when he was here (MRF Pace Foundation) to watching him play IPL cricket, he just seemed to mature – his pace and just the way he was bowling, the way he held himself.

"He's tall, bowls good areas, gets that bounce and pace. It's the whole package, really. He was very

much an enforcer when he bowled – just the way he went through the crease, the pace he was bowling at, the bounce, and the areas. Occasionally, he was a little bit short, but apart from that, he impressed me. He's really developed and put his potential into action."

Asked why Prasad tends to bowl too short at times, McGrath said that it could stem from his role as an enforcer. "I think his job is to be the enforcer and to really unsettle batters. It worked for him a bit in the IPL. Maybe, he just went with it".

R. Kaushik

Two series, six matches. Two half-centuries, one Player of the Match award, one Player of the Series honour. That’s Vaibhav Sooryavanshi’s international CV thus far after an exhilarating, whirlwind July when he took his first, firm steps towards moving from boy wonder to a man for all seasons.

The 15-year-old’s inclusion in the Indian T20I squads for the twin tours of Ireland and England was welcomed with more than a frisson of excitement and expectation. There ought to have been not a semblance of discussion on whether he should feature in the squad if not for his tender age, because especially in IPL 2026, he had showcased his exceptional talent with one bruising masterpiece after another. A season-high tally of 776 runs and the Orange Cap in his first full season should have, as it thankfully eventually did, been an automatic rite of passage to the national side. If there were any misgivings at all, it was because he was 15, not 18 or 19.

Sooryavanshi had battered the best bowlers in the world in the IPL, smashing them to smithereens and often instilling dread and fear as they ran in to deliver the little white orb because even the Cummins’ and the Hazlewoods, the Bumrahs and the Rabadas, knew that the margin for error was miniscule. His consistency reiterated that he was more than just a one-trick pony. He blazed to 15-ball half-centuries for fun, the sixes flowed as if there was an invisible, illegal spring in his bat (something Sanath Jayasuriya was hilariously accused of after his pyrotechnics in the 1996 World Cup) and for the first time in many years (since maybe 1988?), India was transfixed by the breathtaking audacity of a teen phenom.

Not just India, of course. Such is the reach, magnetic pull and popularity of the world’s most celebrated 20-over league that global audiences were treated to the Sooryavanshi magic. To see David take down Goliath is one of the time-tested endearing subtexts to any sporting contest. Tens of thousands willed the young lad to succeed not just for the novelty value but the sheer entertainment he provided, the joy he brought with uninhibited freedom which is often professed in the dressing room but hard to put into practice ball after ball, innings after innings.

Shreyas Iyer and Gautam Gambhir, the new leadership group of the T20I setup, chose to make the restless teenager wait for his baptism. Contrary to expectations that he would be blooded against the Irish in a series India were expected to dominate, Sooryavanshi watched from the sidelines as his colleagues crashed and

burned to an unprecedented, seismic 0-2 defeat, their first losses to the Irish in international cricket. He was eventually handed his India cap for the second of five T20Is against Harry Brook’s England, in Manchester on July 4. His maiden outing fetched only 14 runs (off 10 balls), but there were two sixes thrown in, including one off Rajasthan Royals teammate Jofra Archer, a brief first appearance that suggested that he wasn’t out of place in the bustling cauldron of

country vs country battle.

Sooryavanshi’s next two outings in England weren’t productive either - 13 off 5 balls in Nottingham, and 15 off 10 in Bristol – after which he was benched for the final game at Rose Bowl in Southampton. He must have watched with mounting frustration as, on an absolute belter, the hosts racked up 257 for three and India replied with a competitive but eventually woefully inadequate 201 for eight. There is no gainsaying how Sooryavanshi would have acquitted himself; whispers were starting to surface that the short ball into the body was a kryptonite of sorts, but there is little sustained evidence to support that theory. England brought the young lad 42 runs off 25 deliveries with one four and five sixes, hardly sensational but definitely not enough to write him off.

In Zimbabwe in the week gone by, however, the international game was privileged to witness the phenomenon reprise his IPL magic. Sooryavanshi has quite a tryst with the Harare Sports Club, where Shreyas’ bunch locked horns with the host nation in a three-match showdown. India had gone through seven winless games in Ireland and England, losing six with one game (the opening fixture against England) abandoned halfway through, and Shreyas desperately needed a victory against his name after a horror start to his T20I captaincy stint.

Happy hunting ground

He needn’t have worried too much, as it turned out. After all, he had the ace in his pack, a young man who dug into his memory bank, dredged up happy thoughts of his time at the Harare Sports Club, and brutalised a solid Zimbabwe pace attack spearheaded by the towering Blessing Muzarabani and the left-armer, Richard Ngarava.

Muzarabani, more than his left-handed counterpart, had played a big part in Zimbabwe making it to the Super 8 of the T20 World Cup earlier this year at the expense of fancied former champions Australia. Standing six feet eight inches (203 cms) in his socks, he used his height to great advantage, fusing bounce with movement to resemble a one-man wrecking ball. Muzarabani finished as the joint second-highest wicket-taker of the tournament; his 13 scalps (only one behind Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakaravarthy) came in only six bowls, his strike rate of 11 balls per wicket bettered among the top-five wicket-takers only by Shadley van Schalkwyk (6.84) of the United States, who also ended up with 13 wickets. He was expected to give India’s batters, who had a miserable run in England, a torrid time, but Sooryavanshi had other plans.

In February, at the same venue, Sooryavanshi had made the Under-19 World Cup final against England a ridiculously one-sided affair well before the halfway stage of the contest. After Ayush Mhatre chose to bat, the left-handed opener went

India’s youngest international cricketer, male or female, became the youngest half-centurion in all T20Is when he lashed an even 50 in the first encounter against Zimbabwe

Sooryavanshi’s tryst with Harare

In Zimbabwe, in the week gone by, the international game was privileged to witness the phenomenon reprise his IPL magic



on the rampage, tearing into the shell-shocked English boys with utter disdain.

Boundaries cascaded off his bat with remarkable regularity; he reached his 50 off 32 deliveries, took only 23 more to bring up his century, and went from 100 to 150 in a mere 16 balls. By the time he was dismissed, gloving a slog-sweep to the wicketkeeper, he had hurtled to 175, from just 80 deliveries, with 15 power-packed fours and an equal number of towering sixes. He had accounted for 69.72% of the runs India had scored (251) till he was at the crease. Sooryavanshi’s blitzkrieg ended off the third delivery of the 26th over, just past the halfway stage of the Indian innings. Who knows what he would have finished with had he batted for even a half-hour more.

In Sooryavanshi’s corner on that occasion was Hrishikesh Kanitkar as the head coach, with former India left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi too travelling as the bowling/spin coach. And, of course, there was V.V.S. Laxman , the wonderfully affable and positive-talking Hyderabad who has quietly elevated the profile of the Centre of Excellence (previously the National Cricket Academy) without getting either his due or craving for approbation and plaudits, who travelled for the second half of the Under-19 World Cup as the team’s mentor, among other things.

While Kanitkar wasn’t in Harare this last week, both Laxman and Joshi were. With Gambhir and his support staff taking a break ahead of the Test tour of Sri Lanka beginning in a little over a week’s time, Laxman stepped in as the interim head coach, like he has done quite a few times in the past, with Joshi for support. Perhaps, the familiarity with the ground, previous dizzying success at the venue and a sense of ease around the coaching staff that has overseen his progress over the last year and a bit helped calm Sooryavanshi down. He was clearly in his elements, reprising the destructive avatar that made him such a compelling attraction during the IPL.

India’s youngest international cricketer, male or female, became the youngest half-centurion in all T20Is when he lashed an even 50 in the first encounter on Thursday, July 23. The half-century came off only 18 deliveries, though he saw off the Muzarabani threat with commonsense rather than bravado. India were chasing a modest target of 126 and Sooryavanshi’s early blitz powered them to a commanding victory with 40 deliveries to spare, though the Player-of-the-Match award went to pacer Mayank Yadav for his spell of two for 18. After a whirlwind nine-ball 20 in Saturday’s game two, Sooryavanshi went into overdrive in the final, dead rubber on Sunday. In the clearest indication yet that he has a terrific cricket brain nestled in that young, still developing head, Sooryavanshi batted with tremendous maturity and intelligence on a worn surface where the bounce was uneven and where the ball didn’t exactly gush on to the bat.

Laxman believes that Sooryavanshi will progress and break all records at the international level as he has the potential and ability to do that

No half-measures

Sooryavanshi picked the balls to attack with care and diligence, but when he went on the offensive, he didn’t hold back. There were no half-measures, his commitment to the stroke indisputably maximal. Abhishek Sharma fell cheaply again and the normally fluent Ishan Kishan struggled for timing, but Sooryavanshi seemed immune to the vagaries of the pitch.

His fifty appeared measured, yet it came off just 31 deliveries; as he raced into the 80s, visions of a maiden century loomed until he fell to a wonderful catch in the deep by Brad Evans. His final returns - 81 off 49, eight fours, four sixes. As India completed a comfortable 35-run victory to seal a 3-0 series sweep, there was only one candidate for both the match and the series honours. Welcome to the world of international cricket, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. And what’s the fuss all about, right? Laxman’s personality doesn’t lend itself to hyperbole, so when he says something, you know that that’s precisely what he means. He was glowing in his praise of the young lad, extolling his maturity and cricket smarts not just during the last week but over the last six months, from the Under-19 World Cup onwards.

“He’s got a long career ahead, and he has the attitude and mindset to improve every day,” the magician with wrists of steel proclaimed. “I’m sure he will progress and break all the records at the international level. He’s got all the potential and ability to do that.”

Over to you now, young man, to prove the great man right.

THE GIST

Sooryavanshi needn’t have worried too much, as it turned out. After all, he had the ace in his pack, a young man who dug into his memory bank, dredged up happy thoughts of his time at the Harare Sports Club

Sooryavanshi picked the balls to attack with care and diligence, but when he went on the offensive, he didn’t hold back. There were no half-measures, his commitment to the stroke indisputably maximal

Laxman was glowing in his praise of the young lad, extolling his maturity and cricket smarts not just during the last week but over the last six months, from the Under-19 World Cup onwards

How a political term can majorly fix urban India’s water woes

Over the past few decades, Indian cities have depended more and more on distant rivers and groundwater; this has rendered higher energy bills, political disputes, greater vulnerability to drought and contamination; a focused agenda for one political cycle can stabilise urban water services

Manish Dubey
K.V. Santhosh Ragavan

How much can realistically change within the span of a single political term? The answer matters because India’s wider growth and development ambitions now hinge on how its cities handle water.

Urban India is expected to drive the bulk of GDP growth this decade – yet many city water systems remain fragile. Utilities lose more than 30% of the water they produce before it reaches consumers or is billed, a measure known as non-revenue water.

Only around 27% of sewage is treated, leaving significant potential for reuse untapped.

Many utilities also recover less than 55% of their operation and maintenance costs through user charges, limiting their ability to maintain networks and improve services.

In effect, India is trying to build a ‘Viksit Bharat’ on top of a leaky and crumbling urban water system.

Fortunately, a focused agenda for one political cycle can stabilise urban water services, especially for those who are currently worst-served. Such an agenda comes to light by answering four questions: Where does the water come from? How efficiently is it moved and used? Who receives what? And how is it paid for?

Where does the water come from?

Over the last few decades, Indian cities have steadily depended more and more on distant rivers and groundwater. This has rendered higher energy bills, political disputes over allocations, and greater vulnerability to drought and contamination. Within one political term, cities are unlikely to abandon these sources altogether but they can reduce their dependence.

This starts with a simple change in mindset: treating rainwater and treated wastewater as mainstream sources rather than as fringe add-ons. Most large cities receive enough rain on their roofs, roads, and open spaces to make a meaningful contribution to local demand if it is captured.

Similarly, a significant volume of wastewater can be treated to a standard suitable for non-drinking uses, such as industrial cooling, construction, landscaping, and flushing.

Practically, this means three kinds of policies over the next few years: stricter enforcement and incentivising of rainwater harvesting in large buildings and layouts; a clear plan to route treated wastewater to high-demand users who do not need drinking-quality water; and realistic targets to meet part of the city’s non-potable demand from these sources.

A city that meets even a quarter of these needs through rain and reuse will be less at the mercy of reservoirs and over-stressed aquifers.

How efficiently is water moved?

Many urban water providers are public utilities or departments that face familiar political, regulatory, and capacity constraints. They often operate with high non-revenue water, limited wastewater



Utilities lose more than 30% of the water they produce before it reaches consumers or is billed, a measure known as non-revenue water. GETTY IMAGES

treatment and reuse, and weak revenue collection. These are important reasons why supply is intermittent, pressure is low, and expansion into poorer neighbourhoods is delayed so often.

Over a single term, then, three steps are achievable to good effect. First, clarify responsibility. A clear mandate and support from the State government and formal coordination mechanisms with shared standards and joint planning can significantly improve service delivery.

Second, get serious about measuring and managing losses. In most Indian cities, a large share of water is lost before it ever reaches a tap, due to leaks or unbilled consumption. Over a four- or five-year horizon, utilities can map their networks into district metered areas, install bulk meters at key points, and run sustained leak reduction programmes in the worst-performing districts.

Third, modernise basic customer-facing services. This includes universal metering for larger consumers, better billing and collection systems, and accessible grievance redress mechanisms.

When people know how much they use, what they pay for, and where they can raise complaints, honest conversations about tariffs, service levels, and equity are easier to have. Better information also helps utilities manage operations and plan investments.

Who receives what?

Current approaches for coverage, delivery and affordability have not closed the equity gap. Free standposts and *ad-hoc* tankers are important safety nets but they often coexist with tariffs and subsidies that benefit those already connected to the network. The result is a pattern where poorer households may pay more per litre – through time, health and informal payments – than those receiving piped water at low, flat rates.

Most water providers operate with high non-revenue water, limited wastewater treatment and reuse, and weak revenue collection; these are important reasons why supply is intermittent, pressure is low, and expansion into poorer neighbourhoods is delayed

A one-term reform agenda can start to change this by making it smarter.

One strand is to rethink service benchmarks. National per-capita norms have their place but cities can use local data to prioritise a guaranteed minimum amount of safe water for every resident – regardless of neighbourhood or tenure. This may mean investing in last-mile connections, shared infrastructure, and better pressure management in low-income and informal areas, rather than only in network extensions to new real estate.

Another strand is to redesign tariffs and subsidies so that they protect basic needs while discouraging waste. This is often framed as a technical exercise but at heart it is a political choice: should scarce public support be spread thinly across all users or focused more on those who need it most?

Over a term, cities can pilot and refine tariff structures that combine lifeline blocks, cross-subsidies from higher consumption, and targeted support for the poor, backed by transparent communication about why these changes are being made.

Who pays for it?

A one-term agenda can also change how water investments are chosen and evaluated. Too often, decisions focus on

construction costs while neglecting long-term operation, maintenance, and the broader benefits of good water management, including lower health costs and less flood damage.

Before approving major projects, cities should ask three questions. (i) Have all reasonable options for reducing demand or losses before adding new supply? (ii) Have the full lifetime costs, including energy, maintenance, and adaptation to climate risks been considered? (iii) Have environmental and social impacts of choices such as protecting wetlands versus piping water from afar valued?

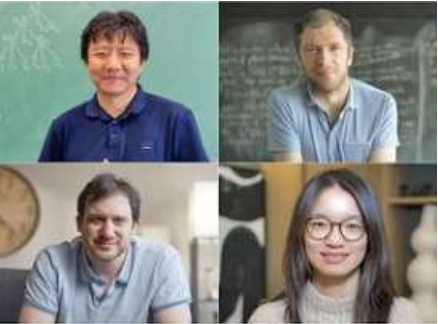
Answering these questions does not require new laws. It requires better guidance, capacity-building, and a willingness to learn from successful examples. Over a term, States and cities can build these habits into appraisal processes, perhaps starting with a few ‘lighthouse’ projects that explicitly test and demonstrate better ways of planning and financing.

Towards a single system

None of these changes will be simple. There will be entrenched interests, capacity gaps, and the ever-present temptation to announce something big and visible rather than fix what already exists. Yet these reforms are not utopian. They fall squarely within what an aligned city-State combination can start and significantly advance within a single political cycle.

Overall, India must shift from counting connections to managing performance and resilience, treating water, energy, finance and institutions as a single system, and investing equally in operations and local capacity.

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(Clockwise from top-left) Yu Deng, John Pardon, Hong Wang, Jacob Tsimerman, winners of 2026 Fields Medals. INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL UNION

Hong Wang makes history by winning Fields Medal

Vasudevan Mukunth

The Fields Medal – one of the top honours in mathematics – for 2026 was awarded to Yu Deng, John Pardon, Jacob Tsimerman, and Hong Wang. The Medal is awarded every four years and recognises important contributions to mathematics research by people who are younger than 40 at the time they receive it.

Of this year’s laureates, Wang has become the third woman to win the Medal in its 90-year history, after Maryam Mirzakhani (2014) and Maryna Viazovska (2022). Wang and Deng are also the first Chinese nationals to win since Shing-Tung Yau in 1982.

Deng, currently a professor of mathematics at the University of Chicago, solved one part of a problem that the German mathematician David Hilbert had in a list of problems that will define the 20th century. In the course of this work, together with Zaher Hani and Xiao Ma, Deng also built some of the strongest

Wang is the third woman to win the Medal in its 90-year history; the first was won by Maryam Mirzakhani in 2014; Wang and Deng are also the first Chinese nationals to win since 1982

bridges to date between the physics we can observe – like water flowing down a stream – and the mathematics that is supposed to explain it, like the rules governing how individuals particles bounce off each other.

Pardon solved a 30-year-old problem – on the distortion of knots– while still an undergraduate student at Princeton, winning the Morgan Prize for it in 2012, and got his Ph.D. from Stanford in 2015 under Yakov Eliashberg. Like Eliashberg, Pardon works in symplectic geometry: mathematics used to describe how physical systems move, e.g. how a rock rolls down a hill or how planets orbit stars. He won the Fields Medal for solving the 20-year-old MNOP conjecture, about counting the number of curves on complicated geometric shapes called Calabi-Yau 3-folds.

Born in 1991 in Guangxi, Wang entered Peking University to study earth and space sciences at 16 years and switched to mathematics a year later. Currently a professor at the Courant Institute, Wang has been feted for solving the three-dimensional Kakeya conjecture with Joshua Zahl. Say a needle is lying on a flat surface. What’s the least amount of area you’d need to be able to rotate it so that, at some point, it points in every possible direction? Mathematicians figured out the answer on a flat surface but the 3D problem was so hard that it lacked a full solution for half a century. Wang and Zahl published their 127-page solution in 2025.

Born in 1988 in Russia, Tsimerman moved along with his family to Israel in 1990 and to Toronto in 1996. Tsimerman’s work lies at the intersection of number theory (the study of whole numbers and their properties) and algebraic geometry (using geometric shapes to understand equations). Early in his career, he helped prove the André-Oort conjecture with Jonathan Pila and Ananth Shankar, winning the SASTRA Ramanujan Prize in 2015.

In his Fields Medal-winning work, Tsimerman found ways to apply a tool called o-minimality from the field of mathematical logic in algebraic geometry and number theory, and proved Griffith’s conjecture.

On the day his Fields Medal was announced, Tsimerman announced he would be joining the Safety Research group at OpenAI.

For feedback and suggestions for ‘Science’, please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject ‘Daily page’

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Work that won the Fields Medal

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Name the 2006 laureate who won for the theorem named for him and Ben Green. The theorem says that prime numbers can contain arithmetic progressions of any length one likes – i.e. equally spaced sequences like 5, 11, 17, 23 – even though the numbers get more sparse further down the number line.

QUESTION 2

In 2022, _____ won the Medal for showing that there are infinitely many pairs of primes that stay within some fixed, bounded distance of each other forever, no matter how far out you went on the number line. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3

Name another 2006 laureate who won for proving the Poincaré conjecture: that any shape without holes that is also closed and three-dimensional is secretly a sphere, just possibly stretched or dented. The laureate proved this using Ricci flow, a process that smooths out a shape’s geometry the way heat diffusion smooths out temperature differences.

QUESTION 4

In 2018, Alessio Figalli won a Medal for a theory of _____. Specifically, Figalli showed that given a pile of dirt and a hole to fill with it, there is a mathematically ‘best way’ to move the dirt while minimising the total effort required. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5

Klaus Roth won the Medal in 1958 for his work on the _____ approximation. Fill in the blanks with a term named for the ancient Greek mathematician considered by many to be the inventor of algebra. Fill in the blank.

Answers to July 21 quiz:

- Element whose gas form with trifluoride is highly reactive – **Ans: Chlorine**
- Gaseous uranium compound used during centrifuge enrichment – **Ans: Uranium hexafluoride**
- Free-radical gas whose formula spells an English word – **Ans: NO (nitric oxide)**
- First that the helium hydride ion marked – **Ans: Universe’s first molecule**
- Noble element whose difluoride form is highly radioactive – **Ans: Radon**

Visual: Osmium

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Prem Nath Tiwari | Anmol Agrawal | Pankaj Gharde | Tamal Biswas



VISUAL: Name her. She became the second woman to win the Fields Medal, for finding the densest possible way to pack identical spheres in 8-dimensional space and proving no arrangement can do better. EPFL SWITZERLAND