

Shrimansi Kaushik
NEW DELHI

Waseem, a delivery person, echoed similar views. "I had to travel four kilo-

“It is a matter of discipline that the whole family follows and not just the person undertaking the pilgrimage. Everything, from how the Kanwar is to be carried to the food and drink the *Kanwariya* consumes, is defined by rules. Teenagers consuming alcohol and dancing to vulgar songs will not understand this. It shows immaturity to indulge in these things, and indiscipline to let violence prevail,” he said.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

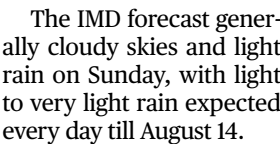
Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday visited a Kanwar Yatra camp in east Delhi's Dilshad Garden and said the Delhi government had taken all necessary measures to ensure a smooth pilgrimage.

Ms. Gupta welcomed the

A wall at a private parking facility in Deoli area collapsed following incessant rainfall, damaging vehicles; (below) pedestrians navigating the rain and traffic in Delhi on Saturday. PTI, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

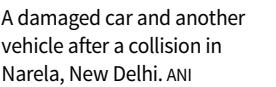
Rain also resulted in a wall collapse of a private parking facility in south Delhi's Deoli Gaon Nai Basti, damaging eight vehicles. No one was injured, said officials. Residents said they heard a loud noise around 5 p.m. on Friday before finding several vehicles buried under the rubble. Sewer pipeline work was under way in the area, and residents raised concerns

Waterlogging and the heavy volume of traffic affected movement across several parts of the city, though the situation was better than on Friday. Traffic was severely affected on the Sarita Vihar-Noida route at Jasola Vihar, Shaheen Bagh and Kalindi Kunj, with the impact extending to Greater Kailash, Defence Colony and South Extension.



Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The woman, identified as Urmila, a resident of Mampurpur, was caught between the vehicles and sustained fatal injuries. She died at the scene, a senior police officer said. The other car driver suffered minor injuries and was provided medical treatment. No other serious injuries have been reported so far.



Investigators are examining the sequence of events leading to the crash, including the position and movement of the vehicles involved. They are also analysing CCTV footage and recording statements from the driver and eyewitnesses.

devotees by showering flower petals and interacted with them about their journey and the arrangements at the camp.

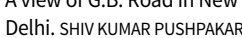
“During Sawan, thousands of devotees undertake the Kanwar Yatra..., Every *kanwariya* is revered, and a large number of women are also participating this year,” she said.

A photograph showing Delhi CM Rekha Gupta, a woman in a purple and white sari, smiling and clapping. She is surrounded by other people, including a man in a white shirt and glasses, and another woman in a pink sari. They are all holding large, round, pink flower garlands. The background is a simple wall with a red and white striped pattern.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta at a 'Kanwar Seva' camp in Dilshad Garden on Saturday. ANI

Suruchi Kumari
NEW DELHI

None of the 14 women interviewed were in touch with their families, making it impossible to verify their details in the previous SIR. They have never attended school and possess only



“So, if I don’t have a birth certificate or if I never took a matric exam, I cannot vote? Will we be asked to leave Delhi?” she said. Among the 100 returned forms, the BLO said fewer than five electors had been mapped in the previous SIR. “The names of those who turn the form will be included in the draft roll. If mapping has not been done, they will be asked to submit any of the 12 documents listed by the EC. However, most of these women lack such documents, including a birth certificate. Their

(*Names changed on request)

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

14th ANNIVERSARY



VUMMIDI KANNAN
23.11.1930 - 09.08.2012

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Mrs. Vummidi Manjula (Daughter in law)
Mr. Vummidi Rahul Krishna (Grand Son)


VBKS
Vummidi Bangaru
Kannan and Son
Ph: 044 - 2829 3727

Govt. of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board
 Science & Technology Campus, Sirkha Toli, Namkum-Tupudana Road, Namkum, Ranchi - 834010
 Website : <https://jeeceb.jharkhand.gov.in> • e-mail : jeeceboard@gmail.com

Advt. No. :-JCECEB/46/26 - 50 ,Ranchi/Dated: 08/08/2026

Indicative Information Regarding Submission of Online Application Form for Preparation of the Merit List on the basis of NEET(UG)-2026 Result and conduct of the 1st,2nd,3rd & Stray Vacancy rounds of online counselling for admission to M.B.B.S. course
PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Online application forms are invited from NEET (UG)-2026 qualified candidates for preparation of the Merit List to conduct online counselling for admission to All India & NRI Quota seats in the M.B.B.S. course offered by Private Medical Colleges in the State of Jharkhand.

Detailed information pertaining to the age criteria, educational criteria, registration/application fee etc., is available in the Press Communique titled "**Important Information Regarding Submission of Online Application Form for Preparation of the Merit List on the basis of NEET(UG)-2026 Result and conduct of the 1st,2nd,3rd & Stray Vacancy rounds of online counselling for admission to M.B.B.S. course**", uploaded under the "**Important Notice**" section on the Board's website: <http://jeeceb.jharkhand.gov.in>

Online Application form can be submitted by candidates from 09.08.2026 to 12.08.2026 for inclusion of their names in Merit List for 1st round of online counselling. The 1st,2nd,3rd & Stray Vacancy Rounds of online counselling will be started as per counselling schedule.

By the order of Controller of Examination,
 Sd/-
(Officer on Special Duty)

PR 387043 (Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board) 26-27 (D)

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As of Saturday, 5,14,460 women had registered on the portal, of whom 2,18,728 had completed the application process, according to official data.

She said verification of the applications was under way and that the government aimed to release the first instalment on Raksha Bandhan.

'2017, 2018, 2020-21... 2023': students flag recurring paper leaks

CM
YK

INBRIEF



Amit Shah offers prayers at Arunachaleswar temple in T.N.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah offered prayers at Arunachaleswar Temple and Sri Ramana Ashram in Tiruvannamalai town on Saturday. Mr. Shah arrived by helicopter and the convoy proceeded towards the temple along the Girivalam path. Officials said devotees were not allowed to enter the temple during Mr. Shah's visit. Later, he visited Sri Ramana Ashram, a spiritual centre, on Girivalam path and offered prayers before proceeding towards Puducherry.

'Yagna' on JU campus sparks row; teachers' body opposes it

A symbolic 'yagna' organised on the Jadavpur University (JU) campus by RSS-affiliated Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh has triggered a controversy, with a teachers' association opposing the holding of religious programmes on the premises, stating it could spark competitive events by other groups. The 'yagna' was organised on Friday in front of the administrative building, Aurobindo Bhavan, as part of a protest by BMS against what it described as "administrative irregularities" in the university. The organisers defended it, saying there was nothing wrong with holding a ritual for the "welfare of the university". PTI

Ajmer jail warden suspended after inmates' video call

Press Trust of India
JAIPUR

A jail warden posted at the Central Jail in Ajmer has been suspended after a purported video showing inmates making a video call from inside the prison to a person lodged outside has surfaced, officials said on Saturday. The video allegedly shows three inmates talking to Nafees Chishti

through a mobile phone in the office of jail warden Saddam Hussain. Chishti was awarded life sentence by a POCSO court in the harrowing Ajmer gang rape and blackmail case of the early 1990s, involving over 100 school and college girls. However, the High Court last year suspended the sentence and granted bail to him and three other convicts.

SPOTLIGHT

Radheshyam Jadhav

ed her abdomen. Neelima Renge ached to scream her heart out in anguish and anger. She was eight months pregnant when her husband Moreshwar died by suicide. Crushed under the burden of debt, he decided to end his life. In that haze of grief, anger and pain, she decided never to remarry. "That decision was correct," she asserts, standing in the corner of her dingy two-room mud house in Zadgaon, a remote village in Yavatmal district of Vidarbha region, the epicentre of Maharashtra's farmer suicide crisis. Married in 2011, Neelima was unable to complete her secondary school education. Her husband, who cultivated the family's land, struggled with alcoholism. She says she made every effort to persuade him to stop drinking, but failed. Barely three years into their marriage, he died by suicide, leaving her widowed at the age of 26. A month after his death, she gave birth to a son. In the years that followed, marriage proposals came through her parents and relatives, while several suitors expressed interest in marrying her, both directly and indirectly. According to Kishor Tiwari, leader of the farmers' advocacy and social action group Vidarbha Jan Ando-

lan Samiti, western Vidarbha recorded 30,969 farmer suicides between 2001 and 2024 across Akola, Amravati, Buldhana, Washim and Yavatmal districts. Agrarian distress remains acute, with Yavatmal alone recording 102 farmer suicides between January and May 2026, according to Kishor. At times, social activists act as matchmakers, helping widows and prospective grooms connect. Yet, for widows such as Neelima, whether a man has been married before matters far less than whether he treats her as an equal partner. She did not believe she would find such a relationship and has therefore remained single. Alongside women widowed by farmer suicides, rural Maharashtra is also home to many never-married farmers who struggle to find wives because of unstable incomes. While prospective grooms initially hesitate to consider widows, many eventually do after repeated rejections from previously unmarried women and their families. Many widows also turn down proposals from farmers, most of them over the age of 40. They are unwilling to give up their autonomy or risk reliving the trauma of an earlier marriage. Navigating life Neelima's in-laws declared that she was no longer part of the family and had no claim to its land. They were

Day after meeting PM, Akali Dal backs women's quota Bill linked to delimitation

In April, Sukhbir Badal had opposed the proposed delimitation of Lok Sabha seats; speculation about a renewed alliance between Akali Dal and BJP intensifies ahead of Punjab Assembly poll

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal on Saturday demanded the immediate implementation of the women's reservation Bill and called for an equitable delimitation process to ensure equal representation for all States. The development comes a day after party president Sukhbir Singh Badal met Prime Minister Narendra Modi amid intensifying speculation of a potential alliance between the Akali Dal and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly election. In April, Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal had opposed the proposed delimitation of Lok Sabha seats. "Under the guise of the women's reservation Bill, the population-based delimitation exercise is brazenly discriminatory against Punjab," he had said. A united Opposition on April 17, defeated the



Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal chairing a party meeting in Chandigarh on Saturday. ANI

Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which sought to redistribute Lok Sabha seats on the basis of the 2011 Census to expedite the implementation of women's reservation. Mr. Badal's statement was welcomed received by Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju. "I wholeheartedly welcome this very important decision taken by Shiromani Akali Dal following the example set by Shiromani Parbandhak Committee. We must come

together to empower women with a fair and equitable delimitation that ensures equal representation," he said in a post on X. In a meeting of senior leaders, presided over by Mr. Badal here, the party demanded the immediate implementation of the women's reservation Bill in the country, in addition to supporting the Union government's proposal to increase parliamentary seats by 50% in all States. "Akali Dal stood for a fair and equita-

ble delimitation exercise that ensured an equal increase in representation for all States. This will ensure justice is done to all States," said Mr. Badal.

Poll preparations

Meanwhile, Punjab BJP president Kewal Dhillon and State organising secretary Mantri Srinivasulu were reportedly summoned to Delhi by the party's central leadership. The meeting is expected to focus on strategy for the upcoming Assembly poll.

Abhishek's PA grilled for hours by police

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Two days after the Supreme Court granted the arrest of Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee's personal assistant (PA) Sumit Roy, he appeared before the West Bengal police on Saturday. Mr. Roy has gone into hiding after the defeat of Trinamool Congress in the West Bengal Assembly poll. Several cases of fraud, including a land grab case at Salboni, were registered against him. He appeared at Bhabani Bhawan, the



Sumit Roy exiting Bhabani Bhawan after questioning on Saturday. PTI

West Bengal Police headquarters, around 10 a.m. and was questioned till late in the evening. The questioning of Mr.

Roy assumes significance as he was closely linked to Mr. Banerjee. There are 16 FIRs against Mr. Banerjee after the change of regime in West Bengal. A few weeks ago, a team of Salboni Police tried to break into a south Kolkata residence of Mr. Banerjee, looking for Mr. Roy. Other than the Salboni land grab case, there are at least two more cases against Mr. Roy. Earlier this week, Mr. Roy approached the Calcutta High Court seeking urgent hearing of the cases. Justice Saugata Bhatta-

charyya dismissed the petition and said that the hearing will be held as per the list. Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Ritabrata Banerjee said that Mr. Roy is a crucial link to Camac Street (often referred to as the office of Mr. Banerjee) and soon the investigators will reach Mr. Banerjee. Meanwhile, former Trinamool Congress MLA Sanat Dey was on Saturday arrested over allegations of extortion and post-poll violence from North 24 Parganas district, police said.

Vidarbha's farm widows who refuse to remarry

In drought-prone Maharashtra, widow remarriage is slowly shedding its social stigma. Yet as more unmarried farmers struggle to find partners amid low incomes and agrarian uncertainty, many widows are choosing financial independence and personal autonomy over remarriage



Vanita Shende and other women farmers walking through the field in Tirzada village where she has developed a multi-cropping pattern. RADHESHYAM JADHAV

also resentful that the government compensation released after her husband's death had been deposited directly into her account rather than theirs. Neelima took shelter at her parents' home in Hinganghat, about 55 km from her marital village. She began working as a tailor. Her parents urged her to remarry, arguing that it would be difficult for a young woman to raise a

child alone without a man's support. But even as marriage proposals came her way, Neelima remained convinced that she did not want to step into that "trap" again. When her in-laws once again refused to accept her and her son, she insisted on claiming her husband's share of the land and demanded a meeting of village elders to "do justice".

Eventually, her in-laws agreed to let her cultivate a three-acre plot. However, they made it clear that its legal ownership would pass only to her son once he attained adulthood. Her in-laws and fellow villagers feared that if Neelima remarried, the land would eventually go to her new husband. "I was not bothered about what they thought. My priority was to secure a

foothold on the land and begin cultivation," she says. Just 22 km from Zadgaon, Chhabutai Waghade, Kusum Aaglane and other women farmers gather at Vanita Shende's home in Tirzada village. All of them lost their husbands to suicide and have walked a path similar to Neelima's. They are waiting for the remaining members of their self-help group to arrive. Together, they plan to discuss loan schemes that could support them. "Life must revolve around men; otherwise, it has no value. That's what I was taught, and I experience it every day," says Chhabutai. Her husband died by suicide after repeated crop failures and mounting debt. Her two daughters are now married. Her brother-in-law seized her land, arguing that a woman without a son "had no need for it". Living with her widowed mother and having no brothers, Chhabutai says she has spent the past 15 years being reminded that she needs a man's support. "Yet I have managed well and fought back in my own way," she says. The other women in the group agree that remarriage often brings more complications than relief. "Women like us have suffered in marriage, carrying heavy emotional and financial burdens. The thought of remarriage raises one overriding fear: what if the second hus-

band is like the first? That is simply moving from one trauma to another," says Vanita. Many young widows, she says, were married as children and denied even a basic education. Becoming mothers at a young age and then widows, Vanita adds, "There was no room for dreams. Here, girls are raised only to marry and bear children." Kusum and Chhabutai silently affirm her words with a nod. The men and markets In Buldhana district, social activist D.S. Lahane runs the Manas Foundation, which supports widows and single women seeking remarriage. Working in a region marked by severe agrarian distress, he has observed that many women who approach the foundation eventually decide against remarriage. Among those open to a second marriage, almost none are willing to marry a farmer, even if it would be the man's first marriage. Lahane says this reflects a deepening crisis across agrarian Maharashtra. Neelima says choosing to remain single comes at a price. "You can live alone only if you have the courage. It requires tremendous resilience and a strong support system of family and friends. Otherwise, women should remarry," she says. By choosing to remain single, Neelima, Vanita, Kusum, Chhabutai and many others have challenged

deeply entrenched social norms. When Neelima and Vanita took their soybean and cotton harvest to the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) at Ralegaon for the first time, they found little encouragement from traders. "They asked why I had come to the market myself instead of sending the produce through a middleman. I told them I wanted to know the market price of my soybean directly and decide for myself whether to sell it," Neelima says. She adds that the sight of women—whether married, widowed or single—selling their produce directly at APMC markets remains unfamiliar and, for many traders and market officials, uncomfortable. Yavatmal-based activist Madhuri Khadse, who works with Prerna Gram Vikas Sanstha to help farm widows rebuild their lives, says many widows approach her seeking help to find a husband. "I ask them why they want to remarry, and the primary reason they give is protection from persistent harassment and unwanted advances," she says. However, widows who have built resilient and independent lives must summon additional strength simply to navigate everyday life. (Those in distress can contact Tele MANAS at 14416 to seek help) radheshyamj@gmail.com



Discussing delimitation: Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay chairing a meeting of Tamil Nadu MPs in Chennai on Saturday.

Meeting of T.N. MPs calls for freezing Lok Sabha seats at 543

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A meeting of MPs from Tamil Nadu, convened by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Saturday to discuss the proposed delimitation exercise, called for maintaining the status quo by freezing the number of Lok Sabha seats at the existing 543, and retaining the current representation of the States.

Only 19 MPs attend

It was decided that a government resolution should be adopted in the Tamil Nadu Assembly to protect the rights of Tamil Nadu and other southern States. The meeting was held at Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai. Of the total 57 MPs – 39 in the Lok Sabha and 18 in the Rajya Sabha – from Tamil Nadu, only 19, including senior Congress leader and former Union Minister P. Chidambaram, took part in the meeting.

A total of 30 MPs (22 in the Lok Sabha and eight in the Rajya Sabha) from the DMK, four from the AIADMK, and one each from the DMDK, MNM and PMK boycotted the meeting, while Congress MP from Mayiladuthurai R. Sudha did not participate in the meeting as she was in Karnataka due to party-related work. According to an official release, during the meeting, it was decided that all parties should oppose and vote against the proposed Constitutional Amendment Bill on delimitation.

The participants of the meeting also objected to giving sweeping powers to the Delimitation Commission and said Parliament should have the final authority, the release said. Mr. Vijay appealed to MPs belonging to all political parties to work together to protect the rights of Tamil Nadu, according to the release. The meeting lasted for more than one and a half hours. After the meeting, Congress MP Karti Chidambaram said the number of MPs in the Lok Sabha must be frozen at 543. He said all the MPs unanimously opposed any move to increase it and said Tamil Nadu's 39 Lok Sabha seats must also be protected. Mr. Karti said increasing the total strength of the Lok Sabha to 815 or 850 and giving Tamil Nadu representation proportionate to the increase would not benefit the State in any way. "The BJP government had already drastically reduced the number of sitting days of Parliament, leaving MPs with inadequate time to speak. Increasing the number of MPs would further reduce the opportunity for MPs to speak," he said. Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi president Thol. Thirumavalavan said the proposed delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies should be dropped. The existing Lok Sabha strength must continue and its allocation among the States must also remain unchanged.



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2	140.47	117.45	₹ 82,000	₹ 21,000	₹ 11,30,854	₹ 23,03,708	₹ 80,62,978	₹ 1,15,18,540
3	160.22	133.96	₹ 82,000	₹ 21,000	₹ 12,92,804	₹ 26,27,608	₹ 91,96,628	₹ 1,31,38,040

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- वृत्तचित्र, फिल्म महोत्सव एवं भव्य ड्रोन शो
- स्वतंत्रता सेनानी विरासत विषयगत प्रदर्शनी एवं कला-शिल्प प्रदर्शनी
- झारखण्ड की चित्रकला शैलियाँ एवं 5D इमर्सिव जोन
- जतरा
- आदिवासी साहित्य एवं पुस्तक मेला

झारखण्ड आदिवासी महोत्सव

9-10 अगस्त
मोरहाबादी मैदान, रांची

2026

❖ मुख्य अतिथि ❖

श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार

माननीय राज्यपाल, झारखण्ड

❖ विशिष्ट अतिथि ❖

श्री हेमन्त सोरेन

माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड

तथा

माननीय मंत्रीगण, माननीय सांसदगण, माननीय विधायकगण एवं अन्य गणमान्य अतिथियों की गरिमामय उपस्थिति में

दिनांक: 9 अगस्त, 2026

समय: अपराह्न 01:30 बजे से

स्थान: मोरहाबादी मैदान, रांची

**समारोह में आपकी
उपस्थिति सादर प्रार्थित है**

संतोष कुमार गंगवार
राज्यपाल, झारखण्ड

हेमन्त सोरेन
मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड

सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड



According to the police, the bus had veered too far, suggesting the driver may have felt drowsy and lost control. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Two killed as Kerala RTC bus overturns on its way to Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two people were killed and 25 injured after a Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus bound for Bengaluru toppled after ramming a signboard on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Highway near Avaragere Gate in Bengaluru South district on Saturday.

The deceased have been identified as Arun N.M. and Midilesh K., the driver and conductor of the bus. Both were from Kerala and in their 40s.

A senior police officer from Bidadi, Karnataka, told *The Hindu* that one of the 25 injured is in a critical condition after suffering severe head injuries.

Rescue and probe

According to the officer, the incident occurred around 6.30 a.m. when the bus veered to its left and crashed into a directional signboard before toppling. A passenger alerted the police, following which the Bidadi police, along with the fire department, launched a rescue operation. “Injured passengers were sent to nearby hospitals,” the officer said.

The officer said the driver may have felt drowsy as the vehicle had veered too far to the side, indicating a loss of control. However, a detailed probe has been launched.

Kerala Transport Minister C.P. John said the government would examine whether KSRTC employees were being made to work excessively long hours and said the Transport Commissioner would conduct a post-crash inquiry into the accident within five days.

(With inputs from PTI)

Kerala rains persist, hundreds in relief camps as floods recede

Press Trust of India
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Rains continued in several parts of Kerala on Saturday, with floodwaters receding only gradually in many areas and hundreds of people still staying in relief camps as several roads and houses remained inundated.

The Upper Kuttanad and Kuttanad regions of Alappuzha and interior areas of Kottayam district continued to bear the brunt of the flooding, though water levels had started receding at several places, officials said.

Floodwaters were receding only marginally in some areas and several residents remained stranded or affected as their houses and roads were still underwater.



Senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal during his visit to the flood-affected regions of Kuttanad and Alappuzha Lok Sabha Constituency on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Major roads, including the Alappuzha-Changanassery road, remained inundated, disrupting traffic in the region. Small boats were being used to ferry people and shift essential belongings from water-logged areas.

With the flood situation yet to normalise completely, hundreds of people con-

tinued to stay in relief camps in several south and central districts.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod districts for Sunday. An orange alert refers to very heavy rainfall.

Kanwar Yatra example of unparallel devotion and unity, says Adityanath

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday in Meerut welcomed *kanwariyas* by showering flowers on them on the auspicious Dashami Tithi of the holy month of Shravan.

The CM standing on a stage with Meerut Lok Sabha MP Arun Govil and other public representatives showered rose petals on the pilgrims. Flowers were also showered from a helicopter all along the Kanwar Yatra route.

“The Uttar Pradesh go-



Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath showering flower petals on *kanwariyas* in Meerut on Saturday. ANI

vernment extends a hearty welcome and greetings to all *kanwariyas*. We are fully prepared to serve and protect you,” said the CM,

He described the Kanwar Yatra as an “unparallel example of devotion, dedication, social and national

unity and harmony”.

Before reaching the venue, the CM surveyed the Kanwar Yatra by helicopter, and directed the administrative officers to ensure proper arrangements for regular security, and facilities for the *kanwariyas*.

Outgoing NALSAR students don't want CJI at convocation

The dissent is over the CJI's recent conduct and statements during the NEET protests; students have asked administration to reconsider the tradition of having CJI as chief guest at the event

B. Pradeep
HYDERABAD

A large section of students of the outgoing 2026 batch at the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, do not want Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant as the chief guest at their convocation ceremony.

The university is yet to announce the date of convocation or confirm the chief guest's presence. But, for NALSAR, the CJI delivering the convocation address has been a tradition.

The students' dissent is over the CJI's recent actions and statements during the NEET protests in New Delhi.



Students of NALSAR in a demonstration in solidarity with the NEET protests in Delhi on its campus in Hyderabad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The NALSAR's solidarity with NEET protesters and activist Sonam Wangchuk was first visible on the campus on July 20. The solidarity took shape as a collective protest when the CJI-led Bench declined to initiate *suo motu* proceedings against the alleged

police excesses during the Cockroach Janta Party's march to Parliament. The CJI's remarks, such as “We are not interested in videos. We don't have time to watch them,” and “Don't waste our time, and don't waste your time,” among others, went viral.

On July 23, the batch of 2026 wrote to the university's Vice-Chancellor and the administration, asking them to reconsider the CJI as the chief guest of the convocation.

By July 25, classes of 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, and 2031, comprising about 380 students, had expressed support for and endorsed the representation initiated by the class of 2026.

University officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, indicated that holding the convocation this month appeared unlikely, as the later weeks would coincide with mid-semester examinations for certain classes.

Pinarayi slams UDF over quiz question on Savarkar in schools

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Leader of the Opposition in Kerala Assembly Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday accused the Congress-led UDF government of opening the door for the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to indoctrinate impressionable young children in profoundly divisive Hindu nationalistic ideology.

Mr. Vijayan in a press conference in Kannur said that the UDF government had callously allowed a pol-

itically loaded question whitewashing RSS ideologue V.D. Savarkar's “treacherous role” in the Independence struggle in a quiz for lower primary school students. The question in the “Freedom Quiz” for school students in the run-up to the Independence Day celebrations sought to test the knowledge of children by asking “which freedom fighter received the most punishment from the British.” The answer key identified the “freedom fighter” as V.D. Savarkar.

Tahsildar suspended for lapse in transport of rescuer's body

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Land Revenue Commissioner in Kerala, H. Dineshan, has suspended Payyanur tahsildar Paul K.P. from service in connection with the transport of the body of rescue volunteer R. Rajesh from Kannur to Chavakkad in Thrissur in an ambulance without freezer facility.

Revenue Minister A.P. Anil Kumar said a decision should have been made taking into consideration

the condition of the body that had been recovered after three days and that it had to be transported a distance that would take 10-12 hours. “Anyone would know what would happen if the body were kept that long without freezer. This was the reason for the suspension,” he said.

Rajesh from Thiruvananthapuram had died during rescue operations in the Kariyangode river at Meenthulli on August 1. His body was recovered after three days.

E-Procurement Notice NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)					
1.The Executive Engineer HPPWD Arki Distt. Solan H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system in 2 cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department					
Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Starting date for down-loading Bid	EMD (Rs.)	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Restoration of Rain damages on Mangu Malawan road km. 0/00 to 12/400 (SH- C/o R/wall at RD 10/510 to 10/552 and 10/480 to 10/485)	4,68,392/-	14.08.2026 From 10.30 AM	9,500/-	19.08.2026 at 18.00HRS
2.	Restoration of Rain damages on Danoghat Seri road km. 0/00 to 3/00 (SH- C/o R/wall at RD 2/647.50 to 2/660.50)	2,71,204/-		5,500/-	
3.	Restoration of Rain damages on Kainth Ka Pani Chandpur road km. 0/000 to 2/300 (SH- Providing and laying Bitumenious concrete in km. 0/000 to 1/650)	29,17,273/-		60,000/-	
4.	Restoration of Rain damages on Paoghatti Seri Sangli road and Buila Koel Sanog road km. 0/000 to 28/000 (SH- Providing and laying bitumenious concrete in km. 22/000 to 23/600)	29,13,539/-		60,000/-	
5.	Restoration of Rain damages on Reota Kulawan road km. 0/000 to 4/000 (SH-Providing and laying bitumenious concrete in km. 0/000 to 2/400)	38,83,669/-		80,000/-	
6.	Restoration of Rain damages on Cheod Khad to Jaghoun road and Surajpur Bhumi road km. 0/000 to 18/000 (SH- Providing and laying Bitumenious concrete in km. 0/0 to 5/350)	97,08,727/-		20,000/-	
7.	Restoration of Rain damages on link road from Banlighatti to Baighat Pajena road km. 0/00 to 4/500 (SH- C/o R/wall at RDs 2/881.80 to 2/886.10, 2,886.10 to 2/890.60 and 2/923.80 to 2/929.20)	4,52,933/-		10,000/-	
8.	Construction of link road Mahia Ghatti to Panzall km. 0/00 to 0/500 (SH- P/L WBM G-I & P.C.C 1:2:4 in km. 0/00 to 0/323) G.P Plania (DMFT Deposit).	8,49,865/-		17,000/-	
9.	Restoration of Rain damages on Jainagar Kathla Bayala road km. 0/00 to 2/00 (SH- C/o B/wall at RD's 0/730 to 0/755 & 0/680 to 0/705)	4,82,518/-		10,000/-	
10.	Restoration of rain damages on Jabal Manlogkalan Ukhoor Panjali Jainagar road km. 0/000 to 24/765 (SH- Construction of Retaining wall at RD 23/660 to 23/674)	4,90,215/-		10,000/-	
11.	R/R damages on Arki Dhundan Bhararighat road km. 0/00 to 18/00 (SH- C/o R/wall and B/wall between RDs 6/675 to 6/895 and 10/300 to 10/315)	20,02,133/-		40,100/-	
1.The Bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department Executive Engineer website www.hptenders.gov.in HPPWD Division Arki, Distt. Solan H.P 173208 e-mail ee-ark-hp@nic.in					
HP / 2491/26-27		HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh			



JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE
DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU
0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F),
email-sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in



Hue and Cry Notice
Rule No. 712/191

SHO P/S Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu has intimated that accused person namely Madan Lal @ Mundri @ Bittu S/O Munish Ram @ Krishan Lal R/O Palliantan, Udhampur is evading his arrest/wanted in case FIR No. 21 /1996 U/S 454/380 RPC of P/S Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu. Despite repeated raids/efforts the accused could not be traced /still absconded. Moreover, the Hon'ble Court has also issued General Warrant of arrest U/S 512 Cr.P.C in respect of said accused person. It is therefore requested that Hue and Cry Notice of above mentioned accused is beingpublished for the information of Police establishments / Public in general having any clue related to the whereabouts / present location of above named accused, kindly communicate the same on the below

Description Roll :-
Name : Madan Lal @ Mundri @ Bittu S/O Munish Ram @ Krishan Lal
S/O : Munish Ram @ Krishan Lal
Address : Palliantan, Udhampur

Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-
1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2605949
4. SP City South : 0191-2433778
5. SDPO City East : 0191-2474700
6. P/S Bagh-e-Bahu : 0191-24559777

Sr. Superintendent of Police
Jammu

DIP/J- 7621/26, Aug 07 2026



JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE
DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU
0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F),
email-sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in



Hue and Cry Notice , Rule No. 712/191

SHO P/S Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu has intimated that accused person namely Madan Lal S/O Bel Ram R/O Bahu Fort Qilla, Jammu is evading his arrest/wanted in case FIR No. 75/1986 P/S Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu. Despite repeated raids/efforts the accused could not be traced/still absconded. Moreover, the Hon'ble Court has also issued General Warrant of arrest U/S 512 Cr.P.C in respect of said accused person. It is therefore requested that Hue and Cry Notice of above mentioned accused is being published for the information of Police establishments / Public in general having any clue related to the whereabouts / present location of above named accused, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact / Telephone numbers.

Description Roll :-
Name : Madan Lal
S/O : Bel Ram
Address : Bahu Fort Qilla, Jammu

Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-
1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2605949
4. SP City South : 0191-2433778
5. SDPO City East : 01912474700
6. P/S Bagh-e-Bahu : 0191-24559777

Sr. Superintendent of Police
Jammu

DIP/J- 7622/26, Aug 07 2026

 UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION GANDHI NAGAR JAMMU								
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER								
Short e-NIT No. DGN/56of 2026-27 Dated 05-08-2026								
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works :-								
S. No	Name of Work	Name Of Division	Advertised Cost (₹ in Lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for Complete -on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6			
1	Improvement of existing infrastructure at Govt. High School Chowadhi Jammu (Under M.H-UT Capex Budget 2026-27)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	26.33	600	52660 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	03 Months	(1200 Hrs) on or after 18-08-2026	'A' & 'B' Class
2	Fencing of FPF HQ Complex excluding front side by way of providing and fixing of Y-Shape angle iron concertina wire on existing boundary walls, repair of boundary wall, painting, whitewashing along with allied works at FPF HQ J-0 1 F / S J a m m u (FORSS2627100124) Under M. H - C a p e x B u d g e t 2026-27)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	14.54	600	29080 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	03 Months	(1200 Hrs) on or after 18-08-2026	'A', 'B' 'C' & 'D' Class
3	Improvement / Up-gradation of roof by way of water proofing, tiling, plastering, repair of ducts and allied electrical and other works at FPF HQ complex Narwal J a m m u u n d e r (FORSS2627100124) Under M.H-Capex 2026-27)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	7.76	600	15520 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Months	(1200 Hrs) on or after 18-08-2026	'A', 'B' 'C' & 'D' Class
4	Improvement / Up-gradation of Computer Lab of Joint Director Office Jammu regarding the deteriorated wooden cabins by aluminium cabins, installation of Network cables, installation of AC, installation of inverters in Planning Section, DD J-01, AD HQ along with allied works (FORSS2627100119) Under M.H-Capex 2026-27)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	5.60	600	11200 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Months	(1200 Hrs) on or after 18-08-2026	'A', 'B' 'C' & 'D' Class
5	Repair and renovation of the Office Chamber of the Deputy Commissioner of Stamps, J a m m u (U n d e r M. H "Maintenance Repair").	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	5.60	600	11120 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	02 Months	(1200 Hrs) on or after 18-08-2026	'A', 'B' 'C' & 'D' Class

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.tenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, If :-
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/G/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.tenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.
- Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.**
 - The department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission due to any reasons.

(Er. Karanjeet Singh)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar
DIP/J-7617/26

Classifieds

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL
BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
Classification Common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms
ASSAMESE
AWADHI
BENGALI
BHOJPURI
BIHARI
CHHATTISGARHI
ENGLISH
GUJARATI
HARYANI
HINDI
KANNADA
KASHMIRI
KONKANI
MALAYALAM
MANIPURI
MARATHI
MARWARI
NEPALI
ORIYA
PARSI
PUNJABI
SAURASHTRA
SINDHI
TAMIL
TELUGU
TULU
URDU
ADVOCATE
BUSINESS
DEFENCE
DOCTOR
ENGINEER
FINANCE/ BANKING
GOVERNMENT/ QUASI-GOVERNMENT
IAS/ ALLIED SERVICES
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MBA/ CA/ ICWA
NRI
COSMOPOLITAN
DIVORCEE
PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED
MARRIAGE BUREAUS
WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

BENGALI

BENGALI, KAVASTHA ,Girl,33,170 Cm., B.Tech fair pretty working MNC Bangalore. Non veg. never married, seek educated groom working in Bangalore. 70447 16088

COSMOPOLITAN

BEAUTIFUL VEGETARIAN 32, 163cm, thoughtful, accomplished, UK-based (can relocate). Seeks compatible groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER in USA & well settled. Telugu Age 34 yrs, height 173cm.Looking for Groom working in USA with Green card/ under process / any valid Visa. CNB Ct:9533166777.

34YRS BTECH (NIT) MBA IIT working in MNC Chennai 24 LPA Fair looking for suitable match CNB Ct:9940507235

DIVORCEE

HINDU NADAR family, well settled in Chennai invites alliance for their daughter: 41years, 158cm, wheatish, B. Tech in Biotech, M.S in Life Science(USA), self-employed, short marriage: no child, from a well educated, settled, professional groom from the same community with good family background, preferably a divorcee with no child; below 45years. WhatsApp groom's Profile & horoscope/ call: 9444958563.

SAIVA MUDALIYAR BE., 160 Cms, Aged 35 Years, Working in MNC Company @ Chennai, No Issues. Seeks Only Tamil Vegetarian. Ct: 6380723290

WARM, BEAUTIFUL 49, sincere, responsible, progressive professional. Seeks kind, loyal, compatible groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365.

DOCTOR

✓ **ROMAN CATHOLIC, MD** (Anaesthesiology), Reputed College, 27 Yrs, Fair, Highly Educated Family in Chennai, Seeks Doctors Catholic groom, WhatsApp Profile – 7550065082

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar, South Tamil Nadu, MBBS MD (Clinical Subject), 29/154, cheerful, pretty seeks same sect. Groom: PG / Student preferred. Send Bio-data 9487452271, 6381784394.

MUKKULATHOR SEPT 94/155, MD, Asst. Prof.– Medical college, Chennai, seeks PG groom. 9445252125/ 9600192125

ENGLISH

HINDU DEVENDRAKULAVELLALAR girl 31yrs 164cms 65Kg.B.Tech(IT), MSc (Psychology), Father Reald GM IOC Mother home maker, son preparing for UPSC. Upper middle class, seeks grooms with well qualified clean habits with good family values. Caste No bar. Contact 9444401218, 7550307487.

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

WANTED GROOM
Hindu Reddy fair girl, 30 years, Height 5'2" B tech from IIT, chennai, presently undergoing training as IFS officer. preferred; IAS/IPS/IFS and other central govt Group A&B officers. preferably General & OBC category.

Contact what's App
9160666670
Mail ID
y.ram.ssa@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

RC LADY 62/165cm Children Abroad searching Life Partner Doctors, Engineers, Businessman. 74484-36044.

SC GIRL, 38, MBBS, Central government Group A officer. Caste no bar. 8589881011.

HINDU VANIYA girl, Trivandrum, 28, 159 cm, M.Sc., Central Govt. job, JSK, DPS, Dept. of Atomic Energy Kalpakam, Tamil Nadu, Ph: 9448160297.

KERALA CATHOLIC BRIDE

28/157, Fair, God-fearing, ACCA, IBM, Senior Auditor in Dubai, from a reputed joint Business family in Kochi. Seeks Catholic Groom, professionally qualified or one from a business background (preferably Dubai-based), from a respectable family: God-fearing and teetotalter.

Mob: 702583117
Email: georgematt2568@gmail.com

TAMIL

RC.NATHAMAR, 28/163 MA.UGC Net Asst Prof Reputed RC College, Seeking Suitable Chennai Groom Ct 9443995144

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 1994 born PG Employed fair beautiful Girl, Chennai seeks fair, well settled, Religious boy born after 1991. Ct: 9840345969

CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN, MSC, MBA, Divorced, looking for a 2nd marriage groom for my daughter from any sub-caste from 35-39, 8137001255

RC, UDAYAR, divorced, Masters in technology, looking for a groom in any European Countries from 31-36, 8137003516

CSI, 25, 7Crores, BE, looking for a entrepreneur. Business. USA. UK PR profiles from 25-29 in CSI and Christian Nadar, 8138009214.

MUSLIM 31/168 MS Gen Surgery Seeks Prof Qualified groom Ct : 8220042091 mdullahsafi@gmail.com

SINGAPORE TAMIL Muslim girl, aged 35yrs looking Engineering/ overseas studied lawyer etc., overseas working/experienced boy whatsapp details/photos to +6581399152/ +6592720042

BORN AGAIN Christian, 45yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai. CT – 9500189067

RC VANNIYAR, 33/157, good looking / (MD Anesthesia) CMC Vellore, Ardent Christian, God-fearing & cultured. Parents in glory. Caste No Bar. Seeks well-educated, God-fearing, responsible Christian groom from respectable family. Contact/ WhatsApp: 9381725825

MBBS 31 Christian DKV Govt MBBS PG Doctors Grp1/2 Officers preferred 7904678043

ROMAN CATHOLIC, Private, searching for a groom from 27-31 from any subcaste anywhere in India.8138990487

CATHOLIC, DIVORCED, M.Sc., looking for a groom from 35-41 from any Christian from 2nd marriage profiles, 8137001255

CSI, PHD, Seeking for a groom from 28-32 from equal caste in Tamilnadu, 8137001247

TAMIL

MUDALIAR 27/160 BE MBA Fair Girl Chennai Working seeks Upper Middle Class amiable Professional Handsome Mudaliar Pillai NV Groom WA 9382554608

MUDALIYAR 98 born a very charming and pretty divorced girl with strong family bonding and values, affluent family background seeks suitable groom Mob: 7560814329

Chettiar, 28 years IT Job Chennai 5 lakhs PA, Divorcee, seeks suitable bridegroom (CNB) Ct: 94870 33503

ALLIANCE INVITES My Daughter, Hindu Mudaliar, 43yrs, +2 Diverse, NO Child. Ct: 7708700879 / 9841817000

MUDALIAR 26, B.com, ACA 162cm Good looking Well Settled Family Seeks Groom CNB Ct. 8778514465/7200866346

VANNIYAR, B.Tech, Canada, looking for equal caste groom from 31-36 NRI profile, 8138900575

SC, B.Com, UAE, Financial professional, 70 lakhs PA, searching from any caste groom from 32-38, 8138900487

GROOM WANTED Mudaliyar, 32yrs, BE, MS, working in Bangalore, Affluent family Ph:6385293227

GROOM WANTED CSI Nadar 25 yrs.B.com.M.Sc elite business family Ph: 9380791999,9841329471

GROOM WANTED Naidu,29yrs, MBBS, MS, well Educated business familyPh: 9384772710

MUDALIAR, 44/163CM, MCA USA Remarriage 19 years Daughter Seeks US Profiles only CNB Geetham 984858014

ADDRAVIDAR, 26/168CM, BPharm Remarriage shortlived Seeks Wellsettled Profile CNB Geetham 984858014

SC PALLAR Divorcee 38, Caste No Bar, B.E.MS Seeking a Suitable Groom. Call/whatsapp 7539985037.

VADAMAL IYER alliance invited for Revathi, Srivathsam Gothram, bride V.S. Aarthi, 25 years, 160 cm, B.E. (CS), SDE-II, Amazon, Bangalore. Seeking professionally qualified Iyer groom, 27–30 years, preferably based in Bangalore. Horoscope matching essential. Contact 9500012747/ gthr.sathish@gmail.com.

HINDU SC 38 Yrs, BE,MBA, 80,000 pm, Divorcee No Children. Looking for Groom in Chennai under 42, well settled Job.9445111214/ 9840429449

PILLAINAIDU 31/160 MBBS MS MRCS Doing Mch Bangalore Seeks PG Doctors Ch, Bangl ok CNB Geetham 9848458014

CHETTIAR (CNB): 28/ V.Fair, MBBS, Preparing for PG, Father Business, Elite Family, Seeks groom Doctor / Business – 9866285839, 8925019776

VELLALAR, AGE-38, MBBS MD, StarMagam, Never married, Well settled, Sub Caste ok 7305460763/ 8754756329

VANNIYAKULA SHATHRIYAR, BDS, 29 Yrs, Pooram, Employed in Chennai, Looking for Groom Govt, Bank officer and Professional. CT : 9841550165.

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliar,28yrs, MBA, Running own industries in Chennai. Ph:9952619776

HINDU SC/AD, Age:45, 153cm, Ashwini (Mesha, Rasi) B.Sc. MBA Fair & Good Looking girl from Well to do Family. Seeking Engrs/Doctors/ Grade-1 Officers. Ct: 9994219315 / 9943629339

SC PR, Divorcee no issue, 32yrs, B.E CSC, fair, well settled in Madurai, seeks suitable groom from reputed family. 97901 27249, 75399 28516

NADAR 35/5'6" MBA working in Chennai Elite Family Seeks qualified Groom working in Cennai, only Hindu-- 9962991979

BRIDEGROOM WANTED For a well-to-do hindu family's bride age 43, first marriage, degree-MSW, want from (FC, BC, MBC), working within India. Ct: 90803-59664.

GROOM WANTED Naidu,27yrs, Divorce, MBBS, MS,Well Educated Family in Chennai Ph:6385293227

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliar,27yrs, MBBS, MS, Well Educated family in Chennai Ph:7200187009

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar 28yrs,BE,SWE-1.5L p/m, well educated family Ph:9841329471, 9380791999

HINDU, MBC, Divorcee 38,M.tech. Caste no bar. Seeking a suitable Groom. Call : 99524 38211 / 73588 24670

✓ **ALLIANCE INVITED** For 26 year-old, Tamil, SC, well educated, postgraduate daughter, working with a leading corporate law firm dealing in Capital Markets, advising reputed companies and banks on IPOs and major financial transactions. Intelligent, family-oriented with a modern outlook and strong values. Seeking a well-educated, professionally accomplished groom, from a respectable family. Ph 9444413358

MUDHALIYAR, MBA, Entrepreneur, Looking for a groom from 28-33 in same caste from Rich/affluent family, 8138900412

MUDALIYAR, RICH/AFFLUENT, Divorced, MA, Business, 49, looking for good looking profile from 48yrs, 8138900312

PILLAI, MD, 30, looking for a groom from 30-35 from TN and Karnataka.Highly educated,8137003516

SC, NRI, Nursing Professional, Looking for a groom from 29-34 in any caste, 8138009214

TAMIL

46 YRS /165 cm. Smartha Iyer, BE MS, Divorcee from short marriage, working in reputed MNC seeking issueless, professionally qualified vegetarian groom, 45–51, never married / divorced, earning 40L+ p.a. WhatApp: 9500015455

MUDHALIYAR, ENTREPRENEUR, MBA, looking for Rich/affluent business groom from 29-33, 8137001247

VANNIYAR Chettiar, 29 yrs beautiful, C.A.working in MNC Bangalore. We prefer Hindu Groom with C.A/Financial Executive/M.E.M.Tech only working in Bangalore or Chennai Tamil speaking Non-Vegetarian from Chettiar Mudaliar and Pillai.Please send horoscope & other details only to WhatsApp-No.9444587465.

TELUGU

VB TELUGU bride, 1992, 5'6", fair, M.A., working in Digital Media. Seeks Telugu groom, 34 to 37 yrs, 5'9" above Ph: 9866970713 / 8106366930.

NAIDU 27/160 Beautiful, ME, Garments Manufacturer, 6000000.PA, Elite, 100 Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

URDU

URDU Muslim MBBS 25/169cm Fair Well settled Family seeks MBBS/MD Groom 27-29 from TN.Ph:7845029582

SUNNI MUSLIM 27y 171cms B'tul Doctor Girl doing DM Endocrinology fm affluent family. Seek Doc/Professionally q'lf'd match. WA/call 9449871312

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

SMART, SUCCESSFUL 44, well-read professional. Never-married. Seeks well-educated compatible bride. Caste/language no bar. Call/WA 9345634365

37YRS, B.TECH mgr govt Bank salary 1.5 LPM owning properties in Ch. Seeking alliances CNB. 9940507235

DIVORCEE

SUCCESSFUL, HARVARD-EDUCATED, calm, outgoing professional, 37, Cultured family. Seeks compatible bride. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365

IYER, 2ND Marriage, 44, B.E, Mirugaseerdam, MNC Chennai, Suitable Vegetarian bride wanted. 7418006626

Nair Chennai Settled 42/177, B.Tech, Masters, Own Business, Divorced, NO Child. No Bar. Phone: 9841757356

DOCTOR

RC CHRISTIAN Nadar (28, MBBS, MD Doctor) seeks a Fair Doctor or a Bride from a Business Family. Alliance invited from Hindu/Christian Nadar, Mudaliyar, Pillai, Vellalar, Sozhiya Vellalar, Thuluvu Vellalar, and Agamudayar castes. Contact: 9500085244

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

KERALA CHRISTIAN, 26/175cm, B. Tech, Bank Manager, Chennai, seeks educated bride, good family. 9444734779

Alliance invited for Hindu Nair groom, 32/168, NIIFT, M.Sc. (Saxton), well-settled professional in the Netherlands, never married. Seeking educated, family-oriented Hindu Nair bride. Horoscope preferred. Contact:7012904828.

Bangalore Railway Senior Section Engineer Thiyya 34 yrs seeks Bride. Contact - 9495691105

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN TAMIL 44/175cm BE, MBA Australia MNC, Divorcee No issues, seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 9094677765

RC CHRISTIAN, 43yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT– 9500188067

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, MBBS, PGDCC-P (NI), Cardio - Physician, Divorcee issueless, 38yrs/178cm, lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified / divorced bride. Ct: 90039 83230

PENTECOST. B.ARCH, Business.10 C P.A. looking for a bride for our daughter from 23-28 in TN,Karnataka, Pondi, 8137003550

WANTED BRIDE-MT(TAMIL),IT/ENG background,Caste no bar.Groom details –61",Rohini-padam 1 (Rishabam)Vary fair,31 yrs,Vanniyar Chettiar,Indo-Newzealandar, B.Tech.(Civil),M.S.(Construction Mgmt), Sr.Project Er,NZ Ph:9941594545.

BRIDE WANTED RC,30yrs, MBA (UK), Elite business family Ph:6385293227

MUDALIYAR, MD, Doctor, searching for a 2nd marriage groom, Chartered Accountant from equal caste 8138901383

MUDALIYAR, NRI, MBA, Aviation, looking for a bride who wish to settle in abroad from 27-34, 8137003550

AUDITOR/47 Chennai/ Seeks Any Vegetarian Hindu Girl. Contact : 9848398109

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED Rc Nadar 32yrs.B. tech, SWE 1lp/m, educated family Ph:9380791999,9841329471

BRIDE WANTED Mudaliyar,26yrs,BE, Elite business family in Chennai Ph: 6385293227

BRIDE WANTED Naidu, 32yrs.MBA, Own Constructions,Elite business family in Chennai Ph:9952619776

BRIDE WANTED Mudaliyar, 28yrs.B. Tech,Elite business family in Chennai Ph: 9384772710

NAIDU GROOM Aug 81 born Surgeon BDS & UK MBA seek suitable compatible PQ DR Engr or IT working in India or Abroad CNB. Groom working in Bang as CEO of Hospital. 98867 82390/ 99622 46305

BRIDE WANTED for Yadava, Konar boy 1996/190cm B.Tech/MBA, handsome, clean habits, Bangalore based, currently working as VP in JPMC, USA. Open to come back to India, seeks bride from same cast, bangalore based or educated in bangalore. Regularly with horoscope, photograph. Ct: 9880343417.ramakrishnan737@gmail.com

VANNIYAKULA KSHATHRIYA Tamilnadu **Boy 32 Yrs USA based Seeks Girl below 30 USA based**. Ct: 9597937384

BRIDE WANTED Naidu,32yrs, BE, Elite business family in Chennai, Landlord Ph: 6385293227

HINDU-BE.SWE,35YRS,172CMS,33LPA,AYI LLAM-KADAGAM.SETTLED IN Bangalore, financially stable .Looking for suitable Bride. Ph 9845401461.

THEVAR, 39 yrs/178 cm, B.Tech, M.S. Biotech Consultant.Working in NewZealand, Planning to relocate US,Remarriage.No Issue.WA +919176329069

BRIDE WANTED Tamil Mudaliar 33yrs BE MS (USA) working in Kuwait as Engineer seeks suitable bride. Ct : 8056229298

VELLALAR 38 C.G Officer swati Thulam 14L PA seeks bride 2nd marriage 9840666103

Hindu, Tamil, Thuluvu Vellala, (Non-veg), only Son, 29yrs, 173 cm, Fair, MTech., PhD., Gold Medalist, Employed, well settled affluent Family. Seeking Bride Good Looking, at least 3yrs younger, well Educated with Family and Traditional values, from well settled affluent family of Thuluvu Vellalar/ Sozhiya Vellalar/ Pillai/ Mudaliar. Contact: 9445083410

IYER / Koundinyam / Avittam June '88 B.Com / MBA working in Chennai seeks working bride. Ct: 9443132445.

MBA BRAHMIN iye,r age 33.Srivatsa Gothram Star Swathi working in CMA CGM 14.25lacs/annum. Any brahmin bride. 9363213996

IYER, POURUKUTSYA Gothram, Poosam, 27, tall, fair, slim, Masters in Data science, E&Y Data Scientist, SSM ID 250513, seeks Brahmin vegetarian bride, God fearing, ph: 9884753643, email: shsrmmn23@gmail.com

IYER ASHTASAHS Kasyb divorcee, Barani 40/180, double Masters (India, US) Ph.D (thesis, Germany) Employed Germany seeks qualified unmarried, divorcee short lived marriage No issues bride, employed Europe or Indian willing to relocate Germany. 9444551216/ 8122892822/ 044-28861097

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom
Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only
CT: 93842 76066

BRIDES WANTED
Issai Vellalar, 28/ 175, Avittam, Smart, Handsome Advocate, Reputed Law firm 12 Lakhs PA. Seeks good looking, well educated girls. Sub Caste no bar
Ct: 91769 62752

Matrimonial
South Indian, Brahmin groom based at A'bad, 77 born (Never Married) Height-5.10" MBA-Finance earning very Decent income. from Working as CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Ahmedabad, based Pharmaceutical Organisation seeks suitable vegetarian Brahmin girl from Respectable, Cultured upper middle Class home. (Marriage Bureau & Divorcee Please do not call us.)
Contact Cell: **96382 33444**

WANTED BRIDE
Seek suitable bride (18 to 22 years) match for Hindu Reddiyar boy 24 Years / 5'8" MBA, working in Pvt . residing in Chengalpattu
Contact: +91 9150640800

TAMIL

MUSLIM, NEVER married, 1985 born, Education - Master of Science, (U.S.A.) working as Scientist in U.S.A, parents based in Tamilnadu, seeks bride. Contact No: 96262 68383

31 /156 cms / Masters/ Professional/ Vishwakarma/ well settled/ Looking suitable Bride. (080-69072053)

Tamil Boy 1992 Born/ 183 cms/ Masters from UK / Business/ Looking suitable match (CNB). (080-69129296)

32/156 cms /Mudaliar Groom/ Industrialist Family/ looking for suitable Bride Contact No: (080-69129268)

TELUGU

NAIDU 29/181 Handsome, MS, Pharma Manufacturing, 8000000.PA, Elite, 200 Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

GAVARA NAIDU Boy 29 MS USA Seeks fair Tamil speaking Naidu Girl with Professional Degree below 28 yrs. Subsects no bar. Ct: 9443724961.

From Page One

Over 1.5 cr. names off rolls in latest SIR phase

In Andhra Pradesh, which has the highest deletion in absolute numbers, 44.89 lakh (10.78%) names have been deleted with the draft now shrinking to 3.71 crore from 4.16 crore electors. Among the deletions, 22.30 lakh accounted for shifting or being absent at the address while 15.22 lakh were reported dead and 7.37 lakh were enrolled at multiple places.

The SIR exercise has already been conducted in Bihar, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. In Assam, due to legalities of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), a “special revision” was conducted.

The process has triggered acrimony between the Opposition and the Election Commission, and has been challenged in courts as well.

In March, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the constitutional validity of the EC’s move to carry out SIR.

The States and Union Territories where the third phase of SIR is being carried out are Delhi, Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Telangana, Punjab, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Tripura, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

Keep questioning, seek solutions, PM tells youth

Ahead of the convocation, police and paramilitary forces deployed multi-layered security, including barricades and temporary metal detectors, as well as surveillance measures. The surrounding airspace was heavily monitored, restricting the use of remote-operated or unmanned aerial objects.

Addressing the rapidly shifting geopolitical and strategic global landscape, the Prime Minister identified the relentless speed of technological advancement as the primary catalyst for these massive global transformations. He framed this era of rapid change as a dual landscape of unprecedented challenges and vast new opportunities. “The one who continuously learns is the one who will win,” Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister presented honours, including the President’s Gold Medal, Director’s Gold Medal, Shankar Dayal Sharma Gold Medal, and Perfect Ten Gold Medals to meritorious students. Mr. Modi also remotely inaugurated Param Pragya, an AI-powered high-performance supercomputing facility established at IIT-Delhi’s Sonipat campus.

The Prime Minister noted that an IIT qualification goes far beyond a high CGPA or a lucrative placement offer, acting instead as a definitive global certification of advanced problem-solving capabilities. “Your degree tells the entire world that you know exactly how to solve highly difficult problems,” he noted.

Highlighting the growth of the space sector following strategic government reforms, Mr. Modi lauded young engineers who are now actively designing and launching their own rockets.

He also highlighted critical emerging sectors such as Artificial Intelligence, data centres, critical minerals, deep sea exploration, quantum computing, and energy security.

Manipur CM reopens National Highways

The announcement came a day ahead of a total shutdown threatened by a coalition of 14 civil society organisations seeking an Assam-like exercise to update the National Register of Citizens.

“The boundaries of Manipur were formed and have been protected by all communities over 3,000 years. Some vested interest groups are trying to create confusion among us, but there is a solution to every crisis,” the Chief Minister said, after holding meetings with community leaders in Kangpokpi as part of the government’s ongoing peace-building and reconciliation efforts.

He underscored the need for all communities to identify themselves as Manipuri first and move freely to each other’s domains.

The Deputy Chief Minister sought the support of civil society organisations, public leaders, intellectuals, and others to bring about lasting peace in the State. “Manipur can achieve complete development only when both the valley and the hill areas progress equally,” she said.

Economic lifelines

Mr. Kipgen, the Saitu MLA, said NH-2 has been the lifeline of all communities in Manipur since the Second World War. Manipur and Nagaland formed a key theatre of that war 82 years ago. “It is high time for all communities involved in the [ongoing] conflicts to forget the past and return to normality,” he said.

Manipur’s topography is like a sport stadium, where the Imphal Valley is the central playfield, the surrounding hills are the galleries, and the highways are crucial passages through the galleries to and from the playfield. This specific geography made the highways, specifically NH-2 and NH-37, lifelines of the State. NH-2 connects Imphal and Kohima to the north, while NH-202 connects Imphal to Nagaland’s Mokochung via Manipur’s Naga-dominated Ukhrul district.

CID summons three serving JPSC members over Jharkhand exam row

The investigation agency is looking into the grounds on which TDPL was selected to conduct examinations for JPSC despite being blacklisted, sources say; CID has already questioned former JPSC chairman, and 19 people have been arrested so far

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Amid protests by aspirants alleging irregularities in the conduct of competitive examinations in Jharkhand, the State Crime Investigation Department (CID) has issued summonses to three serving members of the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC).

According to sources, the investigating agency, probing the case of alleged irregularities in examinations for government recruitments in the State, has asked Ajita Bhattacharya, Anima Hansda, and Jamal Ahmed of the JPSC to appear before it on August 10, 12, and 14, respectively.

The CID, sources said, wants to know how TSR Data Processing Private Limited (TDPL) – the agency that conducted the examination – was empanelled and selected despite having been previously blacklisted.



Security personnel at the State Guest House in Ranchi, where a student delegation met government officials on Saturday. ANI

TDPL is a Lucknow-based company and was blacklisted by the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC) in May 2025 over allegations of irregularities in conduct of examination. Despite this, the company continued to conduct examinations for bodies like the JPSC.

The CID has already questioned former JPSC chairman L. Khyiangte four times as part of its in-

vestigation, and 19 people have been arrested in connection with the case so far.

Among the key demands of the aspirants, who have been protesting for more than two weeks, is the cancellation of the Preliminary Test (PT) of the 14th JPSC Civil Services Examination, and a review of exams conducted through agencies, including TDPL.

During the questioning of Mr. Khyiangte, it was revealed that the signatures of the three members were not obtained before releasing the results for the PT, and the former JPSC chairman clarified that, as per the rules, the signatures are not required for the PT exam results. Now, the investigating agency wants to know whether the members agreed to this process.

The agency is also searching for more details about the monitoring, administrative functioning, and data security of the JPSC. According to sources, the former chairman may be summoned for a fifth time after matching the statements with the three current members.

Employees arrested

Several TDPL employees have been arrested in the case, including Director Ramveer Singh, Marketing Manager Abhay Tiwari, Accountant Rakshak Singh, and technical program-

mers Usman and Ebad.

On the JPSC side, Deputy Controller of Examinations Shweta Kumari Gupta, staff member Sonu Kumar, and computer operator Dharmendra Kumar have been arrested, and interrogation is under way. Mr. Dharmendra Kumar was questioned for the second consecutive day on Friday. The investigating agency is gathering information about his role, responsibilities, and the specific officials whose emails he managed.

TDPL accountant Rakshak Singh was also interrogated about contacts with candidates, alleged tampering with OMR sheets, and financial transactions.

Four candidates who passed the exam fraudulently and three middlemen have also been apprehended. The agency expects that new facts may emerge following the interrogation of the three serving members.

It was never a prestige issue for me, says Pradhan

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Former Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday said he had personally sought permission from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to agree to the demands of the protesters led by Cockerroach Janta Party recently at the Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. Mr. Modi had agreed and also interacted with the youth, Mr. Pradhan said.

The BJP MP from Odisha, who stepped down from his Cabinet post following the youth protests, claimed it was never a prestige issue for him. “The incidents that took place show that some people tried to mislead the Gen Z or the new generation of youth. Who are Gen Zs? I believe they are our own. It was never a matter of personal prestige for me,” he said, addressing a gathering attended by Padma Shri awardees in Sambalpur, Odisha. He said the hopes of the younger generation should be upheld.

Meta restricts post about Kashmir pellet victim on Instagram

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Meta has restricted access in India to a report on Insha Mushtaq, a pellet victim in Jammu and Kashmir, from its platform, Instagram.

“We restricted access to this content pursuant to legal requirements under India’s Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules,” reads the message on a link to the post on *The Hindu’s* report, as on Saturday afternoon.

The use of pellet guns has come under scrutiny in the wake of alleged police excesses during the youth protests led by the Cockerroach Janta Party (CJP) at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. The Supreme Court was also hearing petitions challenging its use.

The renewed focus on pellets spurred the Jammu and Kashmir government



Insha Mushtaq. FILE PHOTO

to announce an LPG dealership for Ms. Mushtaq to sustain her livelihood. She was hit in July 2016, while preparing for her Class 8th examination by the window of her home, when security forces chasing protesters opened a barrage of pellets. Dozens of pellets struck her eyes, blinding her for life.

Over 6,000 civilians suffered pellet injuries in 2016 when street protests broke out after the killing of a Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani in an encounter in south Kashmir.

Karnataka CM to visit Delhi today for portfolios, Cabinet reshuffle talks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is all set to visit Delhi again on Sunday to seek the Congress high command’s approval for filling the vacancy in the Karnataka Cabinet by accommodating a woman legislator, allocating portfolios to 19 Ministers and finding ways to pacify former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is reportedly upset over the denial of a Cabinet berth to Basavaraj N. Shivannavar, Byadgi MLA.

The Chief Minister’s Delhi visit comes days before the Monsoon Session of the Karnataka Legislature, scheduled to begin on August 13.

He is keen to resolve the differences within the party and ensure that the Congress Legislature Party presents a united front when the Opposition mounts attacks during the session.

Meanwhile, a Minister said on Saturday that portfolios were likely to be allo-



D.K. Shivakumar’s Delhi visit comes days before the Monsoon Session.

cated on Monday. Mr. Shivakumar on Saturday said he would go to Delhi but did not specify the day.

With several senior leaders lobbying for key portfolios, Mr. Shivakumar is expected to seek the high command’s intervention on the induction of one or two Ministers through a minor Cabinet reshuffle and the finalisation of departments.

‘No Siddaramaiah’

Sources indicated that Mr. Siddaramaiah may skip the Monsoon Session if his candidate, Mr. Shivanna-

var, is denied a Cabinet berth. Late on Friday night, Mr. Shivakumar met Mr. Siddaramaiah at the latter’s residence in Bengaluru. The two leaders held a closed-door meeting and are understood to have discussed ways to pacify disgruntled senior leaders before the Assembly session.

Mr. Shivakumar also visited the residence of former Minister T.B. Jayachandra, who has agreed to serve as pro-tem Speaker until the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. G.S. Patil and A.S. Ponnanna are expected to be elected Speaker and Deputy Speaker, respectively.

‘Issue resolved’

Mr. Jayachandra had rejected the pro-tem Speaker’s post following the denial of a Cabinet berth. He, however, said the issue had now been resolved and that he would resume his duties as Speaker.

Meanwhile, M. Krish-

nappa, Vijayanagara MLA, and his son, Priya Krishna, MLA, have continued to demand a ministerial position for one of them.

The Chief Minister appears reluctant to antagonise Mr. Krishnappa, a fellow Vokkaliga leader, particularly in Bengaluru, ahead of elections to the five city corporations.

Earlier on Saturday, Ministers N. Cheluvarayaswamy and H.C. Balakrishna met Vokkaliga seer Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji and sought his blessings.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy said it was not proper for one Minister to be dropped to accommodate another, apparently indicating his opposition to dropping Mr. Balakrishna to make way for Mr. Krishnappa.

Mr. Balakrishna, meanwhile, continued to maintain that he was ready to sacrifice his ministerial position in the interest of the party, hoping that such a gesture would yield dividends in the coming days.

IAF officer held for ‘leak’ of sensitive information

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

An Indian Air Force Wing Commander was arrested in May this year for allegedly sharing sensitive defence-related information with a Pakistani intelligence operative after he was allegedly honey-trapped through social media, officials said on Saturday.

The officer, who was posted at a field unit on the Western Front, came under surveillance by the IAF intelligence wing, which later alerted the security agencies, after his interactions with a woman on social media raised suspicion.

The officer was arrested on May 30 following a complaint by the IAF, according to the Delhi Police. He has been booked under relevant provisions of the Official Secrets Act.

Local entrepreneurs account for 90% of new industrial units in J&K: parliamentary panel

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

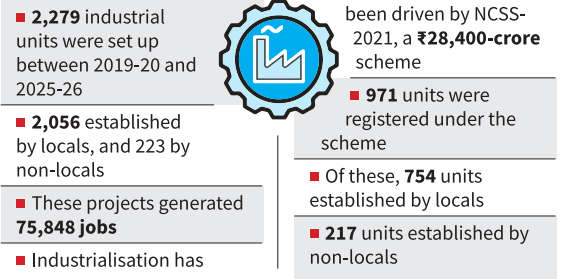
Nearly 90% of the industrial units established in Jammu and Kashmir since 2019 are owned by local people, according to a report by a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, which was tabled in Parliament on Friday.

Between 2019-20 and 2025-26, 2,279 industrial units were established in J&K, the report said. Of these, 2,056 units were set up by local people and the remaining 223 units by others. Together, these projects attracted investments worth ₹16,598.97 crore and generated 75,848 jobs, the report said. J&K’s Budget for 2025-26 pegs total expenditure at ₹1.12 lakh crore.

Following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution on August 5, 2019, the National Demo-

Industrial landscape

90% of industrial units established in J&K since 2019 are owned by local people, a Parliamentary panel says



cratic Alliance (NDA) government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre claimed that the move would bring in development and open opportunities for business investments in J&K.

The data mentioned in the Standing Committee’s report show that local entrepreneurs account for more than nine out of every 10 new industrial establishments.

The committee noted

that industrialisation has been driven by the New Central Sector Scheme-2021 (NCSS-2021), a ₹28,400-crore incentive programme notified by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

Under the scheme, 971 units were registered in J&K, including 754 units established by local people, and 217 units set up by others. Employment figures suggest that projects esta-

blished by non-local people tended to be larger. The 754 NCSS-linked units established by local people proposed 20,629 jobs, while the other 217 units proposed 31,268 jobs.

Under NCSS-2021, 3,338 incentive claims worth ₹951 crore had been approved, the report said, while ₹814.68 crore had already been disbursed.

The committee, led by the BJP’s Radha Mohan Das Agrawal, described the progress in industrial development as significant and said the participation of both local and non-local entrepreneurs reflected improving investor confidence in the region.

‘Encouraging sign’

“The active participation of both local and non-local entrepreneurs” is an encouraging sign, the committee said, adding that sustained policy support would be necessary to

maintain the momentum of industrial growth.

The report added that J&K had achieved a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 1.5, below the national average of 1.9. The Union Territory administration told the Parliamentary Standing Committee that the achievement reflected “sustained efforts towards strengthening maternal and child healthcare services, expanding access to family planning, improving female literacy, enhancing institutional healthcare delivery and promoting socio-economic development”.

The report noted that 90.3% of women in J&K marry at the age of 21 years or above, against 72.9% nationally, while female literacy stands at 77.3%, higher than the national average of 71.5%. It attributed the decline in TFR to improvements in female education and awareness.

‘BJP, RSS did nothing for freedom fight, we are the real patriots’

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday stepped up his attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), questioning its contribution to the freedom struggle. He accused the BJP and its ideological mentor of “lecturing” the Congress on patriotism despite having played no role in the fight against British rule.

Addressing a rally in Haldwani, Uttarakhand, Mr. Kharge sounded the poll bugle for the 2027 State Assembly election. Invoking Mahatma Gandhi’s call to “do or die” on August 8, 1942, the Congress chief said the Quit India Movement had united Indians against British rule and ultimately led to their departure from the country.

“It is an auspicious day today and we have sounded the conch shell for victory from here. This will usher in change and the Congress will form the government here,” Mr. Kharge said, linking the historic occasion to the Congress rally.

He said no genuine BJP



Mallikarjun Kharge

or RSS member had gone to jail during the freedom struggle. “The BJP and the RSS have done nothing for the country’s freedom struggle. The truth is, we are the real patriots. They are the deserters.”

Mr. Kharge also accused the BJP and RSS of “looting in the name of religion”, referring to alleged irregularities involving temple donations. He named Kedarnath, Badrinath, and the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, alleging that those accused of taking devotees’ offerings were now branding their political opponents as being against God.

Taking aim at the BJP government in the State, Mr. Kharge also questioned its “double-engine” governance model and alleged that ₹1,000 crore was being spent annually on publicity and propaganda.

Rahul and Rijiju spar over linking delimitation to women’s quota law

Country is stunted if women cannot express themselves, says LoP; in response, Union Minister challenges Cong. to support quota Bill ‘unconditionally’; Congress already supported it, now implement the 2023 law without any conditions, says Rahul

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, on Saturday, sparred over the implementation of the women’s reservation law after a fresh delimitation exercise, with Mr. Gandhi questioning the Centre’s decision to link the two.

The exchange on X began after Mr. Gandhi posted a video speaking of harnessing the “energy” of India’s women and freeing them from patriarchy.

Mr. Rijiju responded by describing it as a “positive message” and said there was a “visible change of heart” in Mr. Gandhi. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister challenged the Congress to support the Bill “unconditionally”.

Hitting back, Mr. Gandhi said the Congress had already supported the legislation and asked why its implementation had been held up for three years.

“Why has it still not been implemented even af-



ter three years, and why do you now want to unnecessarily link it to delimitation?” Mr. Gandhi said in a post on X, adding, “Implement the 2023 law. Without any conditions.”

Responding to Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Rijiju said the Opposition leader knew that the reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies was provided for under the Constitution

(106th Amendment) Act, 2023, or the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Its provisions, he said, would come into effect only after a delimitation exercise based on Census figures published after the Act’s passage in 2023. Since the figures for the ongoing 2026 Census – including caste enumeration – could take substantial time, implementation could be delayed until at least the 2034

General Election, he said.

Mr. Rijiju argued that if women’s reservation was to be implemented from the 2029 general election, delimitation would have to be undertaken at the earliest, using the latest available census figures. “The implementation methodology has been proposed under the Delimitation Bill, 2026, introduced in the Lok Sabha along with the amendments to the Constitution. However, the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, introduced for the purpose, was defeated in the Lok Sabha,” he said.

In his video, Mr. Gandhi said India could not become a successful country without women being able to express themselves freely. “Our country is stunted and incomplete without the expression of women,” he said, calling for women to be able to question their parents, husbands, and brothers, and to speak without fear.

In a response to the video, Mr. Rijiju said: “Now, I hope the Congress party will support the Women’s

Reservation Bill unconditionally.” The sharp exchange between Mr. Rijiju and Mr. Gandhi came amid the government’s renewed effort to push through the delimitation package.

In April, the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc voted against the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, which sought to increase the strength of the Lok Sabha to 850 seats and reserve 33% of them for women after carrying out a fresh delimitation exercise.

Political representation Opposition parties had raised concerns over the implications of a fresh delimitation exercise for the political representation of States that have successfully pursued population control. Though the government failed to secure the two-thirds majority mark of 360 in the current 540-strong Lok Sabha (there are three vacancies) on April 17, 2026, the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has added more members to its fold since then.

DMK, AIADMK boycott CM’s delimitation meeting

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

All the 30 MPs of the DMK boycotted the meeting on delimitation convened by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay in Chennai on Saturday. Besides the DMK, the AIADMK was also absent at the meeting. DMK parliamentary party leader K. Kanimozhi on Saturday termed the all-party meeting as nothing more than a “political drama” intended to divert public attention from the ongoing Cauvery water crisis. “When the whole State was protesting for Cauvery water, with the political parties insisting that the government convene an all-party meeting on the Mekedatu dam issue, the TVK-led government remained silent on the demand,” she said.

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami said his party would hold demonstrations on August 14 across the State to criticise the State government for having “deceived” the farmers on the crop loan waiver issue, being “lax” on the Mekedatu dam controversy, and “not having attempted” to secure the State’s rightful share of the Cauvery water.

Assam needs ‘national solution’ to floods: CM

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister said finding a “national solution” to the State’s annual flooding was more important than declaring it a national problem.

Assam has a history of major floods up to five times a year, killing scores of people and animals and damaging crops and assets worth more than ₹1,000 crore annually. The floods this year have killed 98 people so far, most of them in three eastern districts –Sivasagar, Charaideo, and Jorhat.

For decades, the All Assam Students’ Union and



Villagers being evacuated by NDRF personnel from the flood-hit Panbesa village in Sivsagar district of Assam. RITU RAJ KONWAR

other organisations have been asking the Centre to declare the State’s flood and erosion crisis as a “national problem”.

“Declaring floods a national problem is not going

to work. We need a national solution with scientific interventions. We need concrete schemes on how Assam can protect itself if water comes downhill from Nagaland,” the Chief

Minister said on Saturday night.

“We can approach Prime Minister Narendra Modi for funds to implement the interventions required to solve this problem based on what the IITs, IIMs, Dibrugarh University, and Gauhati University can tell us,” he said.

He said Assam has long relied on embankments and geo-bags for flood management, but lacks a scientific mechanism to tackle the issue. “Merely declaring floods as a national problem will not suffice,” he insisted after visiting some flood-affected areas in Mangaldoi in

north-central Assam’s Darrang district.

Mr. Sarma also visited Bengabara to take stock of the flood situation and assess the condition of the affected areas. He inspected the breached portion of the embankment along Noa River near Bengabara village and reviewed the ongoing repair works.

He also visited relief camps set up at the under-construction anganwadi centre at Bengabara village and Outala HS School, and interacted with people taking shelter there. He enquired about their well-being and assured them of all possible assistance.

(With inputs from PTI)

Murshidabad NCPI MPs meet Adhikari, rule out joining NDA

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Two members of Parliament (MPs) of Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) from Murshidabad district, West Bengal, called on Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari at the State Secretariat. Abu Taher Khan, MP from the Murshidabad Lok Sabha seat, and Khalilur Rahman, Jangipur MP, met Mr. Adhikari on Saturday. They, however, asserted that they will not join the BJP or the NDA.

Speaking to media after the meeting, Mr. Khan said they raised issues concern-

ing Muslims in the district, such as deletion of names during the Special Intensive Revision exercise and restrictions on use of microphones in mosques. He said that as public representatives, they wanted to raise issues affecting the district’s minority population.

There have been several meetings between NCPI MPs and the BJP leadership over the past few days. However, the stand taken by the Murshidabad MPs has raised questions about unity within the party.

Murshidabad has a Muslim population of 70%.

Three Lok Sabha MPs – Abu Taher Khan, Khalilur Rahman, and Yusuf Pathan – had indicated they would not join the NDA, unlike 17 other NCPI MPs.

On Friday, rebel Trinamool Congress MLAs led by Leader of the Opposition Ritabrata Banerjee met the Chief Minister. Thirteen MLAs, including 11 from the minority community, were present.

After the party’s defeat in the Assembly polls earlier this year, 20 Trinamool MPs parted ways with party chief Mamata Banerjee and merged with the little-known NCPI.

Protectors are now predators, says BJP on Punjab AAP govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday accused Punjab’s AAP government of exacerbating the State’s law-and-order situation, alleging “those who were made protectors have themselves become predators”.

At a press conference, BJP leader Tarun Chugh criticised the government, saying it had become “the country’s biggest example of misuse of State machinery”, with illegal mining, censorship, paper leaks, drug abuse, extortion, and employee mistreatment allegedly creating an atmosphere of fear.

He alleged illegal mining was continuing across Ravi river, Chakki river in Pathankot, and Kandli region of Anandpur Sahib, Hoshiarpur, Ropar, and Garhshankar. He also said that while AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal had promised that a new mining policy would bring ₹20,000 crore annually into the treasury, only ₹800 crore to ₹900 crore was actually reaching the exchequer. Mr. Chugh also alleged that a “Mann Tax” of ₹3,500 was being collected



Tarun Chugh

from every truck carrying illegally mined material, in a reference to the Chief Minister, Bhagwant Mann.

He further said Punjab was facing “undeclared censorship”, with newspapers, news agencies, and even small YouTube channels being harassed.

Referring to the sanitation workers who have been protesting since May 6, seeking regularisation, higher wages, and restoration of the old pension scheme, he said they had been “welcomed with batons in Barnala” on July 22.

He demanded a judicial inquiry into the Barnala lathi-charge, a CBI probe into mining-related irregularities, and a high-level inquiry into disputed recruitment exams, re-exams, and the State Education Minister’s resignation.

A BJP alliance may help Akali Dal reclaim its lost ground in Punjab

NEWS ANALYSIS

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Even as ‘Panthic’ politics, a political mobilisation surrounding the Sikh community’s collective identity, continues to be the cornerstone in Punjab’s electoral space, the resitching of an alliance between the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the BJP, could work in favour of the century-old SAD, which has been struggling to stage a political comeback in the State.

If the Akali Dal’s “core support base” sees a genuine prospect of returning to power in 2027, through this alliance with the BJP, that itself could become a rallying point drawing voters back to the SAD led by Sukhbir Singh Badal, who has served as the State’s Deputy Chief Minister in two separate stints.

Gradual downfall

Over the past decade, the SAD witnessed a gradual and significant downfall in Punjab’s politics, where Sikh identity and their issues have long been central to the political dis-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal. FILE PHOTO

course and different Akali groups have been fighting among themselves to capture the ‘Panthic’ space.

In 2025, the SAD saw a virtual split following the rebel faction forming a new outfit – Shiromani Akali Dal (Punjab Surjit).

Separately, the outfit ‘Waris Punjab De’ led by Lok Sabha MP and pro-Khalistan propagator Amritpal Singh, who is currently in Dibrugarh jail in Assam under the National Security Act, has been steadily building support within the ‘Panthic’ space, a trend observers link to the weakening of the SAD.

Another party, the SAD (Amritsar) led by Simranjit Singh Mann, a known hardline Sikh leader, has periodically stirred up Pun-

jab’s electoral politics. Mr. Mann’s victory from Sangrur parliamentary constituency in the 2022 by-election pointed to the fragmentation within the ‘Panthic’ political space.

While the battle to garner ‘Panthic’ support among different political and other outfits has been going on, political observers feel that the underlying strategic shifts amid speculation of a renewed SAD-BJP tie-up ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections could reshape the electoral landscape in the State.

Strong ‘tribal instinct’

Analysing the social engineering of Akali politics, Kehar Singh, former head of the Department of Polit-

ical Science at Punjabi University, believes that the traditional agrarian Jat Sikh electorate functioning as the core support base of the Akali Dal possesses a strong “tribal instinct”, and maintaining unity within this core support base is inherently difficult without a viable path to authority.

“Power is the glue which can keep them together, otherwise, they’ll just split into various groups and different loyalties. If they see that there is any prospect of coming to power through an alliance with the BJP, it becomes an attraction point to rally around Sukhbir Singh Badal,” he said.

“Without an alliance, neither the BJP nor any individual Akali faction represents a standalone viable political option in Punjab. While formal announcements are yet to be made, a revived SAD-BJP partnership would fundamentally alter the dynamics of the upcoming contest as their contesting individually would give an advantage to the Aam Aadmi Party and the Congress. Their joining hands will bring the SAD-BJP both into the reckoning,” he said.

PM has time to meet ‘traitors’, but not the youth, says Uddhav

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of finding time for “traitors” while being indifferent towards protesting youth and having no time to attend Parliament.

Mr. Thackeray was referring to a recent meeting of Mr. Modi with Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde and

six new MPs. It took place after a breakfast meet with MPs from NDA constituents on Friday.

“You can’t meet the youth on whom your government did lathi-charge, but you are assuring traitors who robbed Shiv Sena that you have their back,” Mr. Thackeray said. He also asked whether the meeting was a message to the Supreme Court, which is hearing a case related to the split in the party.

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E-NOTICE INVITING BID No. 09/2026-27
Bid for 01 no. works of total Rs. 544.79 lacs in Sikar District are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM on date 24.08.2026. other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> of the state and <http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>.

बिड संख्या	UBN No.
09/2026-27	PHE2627WLOB03356

Superintending Engineer,
PHED, Circle Sikar.

DIPRC/13691/2026

INBRIEF



U.S. Vice-President dials PM Modi; discusses strategic ties

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance on Saturday dialled Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed ways to expand the India-U.S. comprehensive global strategic partnership. Mr. Modi congratulated Mr. Vance and Second Lady Usha on the birth of their son. “We discussed ways to further deepen India-U.S. Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership across key areas,” he said on social media. Mr. Vance’s call to the Prime Minister comes a day after Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan signed a mutual defence pact that was widely seen as a signal of a new regional alignment amid the West Asia conflict. PTI

Four militants of two banned outfits arrested in Manipur

Four militants of two banned outfits have been arrested in two Imphal Valley districts of Manipur, police said in a statement on Saturday. All the insurgents were arrested on Friday for their alleged involvement in extortion. Two cadres, aged 25 and 27 respectively, of the banned outfit SOREPA were arrested from the locality of their residence in Kakching district, the statement said. Another 52-year-old cadre of SOREPA was apprehended from Imphal East district. A 25-year-old cadre of the militant outfit People’s Liberation Army (PLA) was apprehended from Seijang Awang in Imphal East district. PTI

30 judges appointed to High Courts across country

Thirty judges were appointed to four High Courts on Saturday. Twenty of them are advocates and the rest are judicial officers. A statement from the Law Ministry said that 15 judges were appointed to the Madras High Court and eight were appointed to the Calcutta High Court. Six judges have been appointed to the Karnataka High Court and one judge has been appointed to the Madhya Pradesh High Court. Advocates and judicial officers (judges of lower courts) are appointed to High Courts. Those appointed as additional judges are usually elevated as judges (or permanent judges as they are commonly called) in two years. PTI

Amarnath Yatra suspended in J&K amid inclement weather

The Amarnath Yatra was suspended from Jammu on Saturday amid inclement weather, a forecast of heavy rain over the next few days and decline in pilgrim arrivals, officials said. No fresh batch of pilgrims was allowed to leave the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Kashmir Valley this morning, they said. Officials said the administration is monitoring the situation and will review the movement of pilgrims based on the weather and the condition of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country. Over 4.75 lakh pilgrims have visited the 3,880-metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath since July 3. PTI

SUDOKU

		6	7					4
	9	7	1					8
	1			2	4	9		
2								
			5	1	8			
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1					9	8	2	
9				3	7			
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆								

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Reels of a lost Manipur to undergo digital revival in Italy

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

In the age of fast storytelling with short vertical videos on smartphones, Manipur is rewinding to an era of elaborate reel-making less than a century ago.

A collection of 15 rare and fragile 8mm celluloid reels, believed to contain rare footage shot mostly between the mid-1930s and early 1960s, is set to undergo professional inspection, cataloguing, and preservation digitisation in Italy.

The Imphal-based S.N. Chand Cine Archive & Museum (SNCCAM) is collaborating with the Home Movies Foundation-National Family Film Archive in Bologna to digitise these reels for posterity.

These reels, each up to 10 minutes long, are believed to contain rare footage shot by Maharaj Kumar

Priyabrata Singh and Kong-brailatpam Ibohal Sharma, long before Manipuri cinema found its footing. They were among 25 reels X-Cine donated to the SNCCAM.

A film production company established by K. Ibohal Sharma, X-Cine is now run by his son K. Bimol Sharma, a cinematographer, editor, and filmmaker.

‘No facility in India’

“There is no facility in India to digitise such vintage reels, and digital preservation abroad involves a lot of money. So, we prioritised the digitisation of the 15 reels on Manipur’s native life, cultural traditions such as boat race, and landscapes, including Loktak Lake,” Sunzu Bachaspatimayum, the secretary of the Manipur State Film Development Society (MSFDS), told *The Hindu*



Johnson Rajkumar (left), with Paolo Simoni, inspecting a rare 8mm reel of M.K. Priyabrata Singh shot in the 1930s. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

on Saturday. The society manages the SNCCAM.

The MSFDS established the SNCCAM in April 2021 to mark the commencement of Manipuri cinema’s golden jubilee celebrations. The idea was to build an institutional framework to preserve the State’s film heritage despite financial constraints, limited man-

power, and the logistical difficulties of handling ageing film materials.

The project was fast-tracked after Johnson Rajkumar, SNCCAM’s principal film conservationist, participated in the FIAF Film Restoration Summer School 2026 and the 40th Festival II Cinema Ritrovato in Bologna from June 19

7 killed as bus overturns on Himachal Pradesh hill road

Death toll could rise as passengers may be buried under wreckage; investigations under way to determine cause of accident; 78 people have died in road accidents in State this monsoon season

Press Trust of India
SHIMLA

Seven passengers were killed and 11 others injured when a private bus overturned and plunged onto a lower road in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh on Saturday morning, police said.

The accident occurred when the bus was on its way from Bairagarh to Chamba on the Bairagarh-Tissa road, a treacherous 27-kilometre mountain route in the remote Churah Valley known for its narrow paths and steep drop-offs. It serves as a key stretch on the way to the high-altitude Sach Pass.

Chamba Superintendent of Police Vijay Saklani said that the exact number of people on the bus is not yet known. He said upon hearing passengers’ screams, locals rushed to help and informed police.

Rescue operations are



People gather after a private bus overturned and plunged onto a lower road, in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh on Saturday. PTI

under way with a search-and-rescue team comprising personnel from NDRF, Police, Home Guards, Fire Services, and the Revenue Department at the scene, police said.

Of the 11 injured, six with serious injuries have

been referred to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Government Medical College and Hospital, Chamba. Police said investigations are under way to determine the cause of the accident.

Police said the death toll could rise further as pas-

sengers could be buried under the wreckage of the bus.

So far, 78 people have died in road accidents in Himachal Pradesh during the ongoing monsoon season from June 30 till August 7.

Christian forum opposes proposed FCRA amendment

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Assam Christian Forum has opposed the proposed amendment to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, urging the Centre and the MPs from the eight northeastern States to abandon its “draconian” provisions.

The forum said they should instead amend the existing FCRA 2010 in accordance with the norms of natural justice.

“The proposed amendments pose a severe threat to civil society organisations, churches and institutions that serve the poor, Dalits, tribals and marginalised communities across Assam and the northeast,” the forum said.

Key provisions

The key provisions of the proposed amendment include forfeiture of all movable and immovable assets built in whole or in part with foreign contributions since the original 1976 Act;

remembered as P.B., and K. Ibohal were two of Manipur’s earliest filmmakers to use 8mm cameras. The former began using his Bell & Howell 8mm camera in 1935.

Ahead of their time

Together, they captured a Manipur in transition, not as commercial cinema, but as a visual record of a way of life at a time when filmmaking was beyond the reach of most people.

“There’s no way of ascertaining what they shot, but we have a general idea of the subjects of each film. We believe these will be invaluable for researchers and cultural specialists who go deep into traditions, histories, and social practices,” Mr. Bachaspatimayum said.

Restoring the remaining 10 reels will depend on funds and affordability, he added.

The changes pose a threat to civil society organisations serving the poor, says forum

the creation of a Designated Authority empowered to take over such assets and dispose of them under undefined norms; and the transfer of remaining funds of deregistered organisations to the Consolidated Fund of India.

According to the forum, such an Authority permanently vested with the assets may hand the transferred funds over to any government body or sell them.

The forum said the amendment Bill also raises serious concerns about freedom of religion. Provisions allowing State management of churches, mosques, and temples “while maintaining religious character” under government oversight threaten the autonomy of places of worship.

Headmaster shot dead by unidentified men in Bengal

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

A school headmaster was shot at and killed by unidentified men on a motorcycle in Uttar Dinajpur district of West Bengal on Saturday.

The deceased, identified as Nazrul Islam, was shot down near the Madaripur area of Islampur while he was on his way to work on Saturday morning.

He was rushed to the Islampur Sub-Divisional Hospital immediately after the attack, and later shifted to a government medical facility in Siliguri, but he eventually died of his injuries in the afternoon.

The Islampur police have launched an investigation into the incident and are looking at CCTV footage from the area to identify the criminals behind the attack. No arrests have been made so far. The police have not been able to establish any specific motive behind the murder.

The local police officials also visited the site of the incident to recover evidence.

Months after protest in Noida, many workers are struggling to find jobs

Shrimansi Kaushik
NEW DELHI

For many workers and activists involved in the April 13 Noida protest, speaking out for better wages and improved working conditions has come at a heavy cost, draining their savings and leaving them struggling to find work.

Four months after the protest, workers arrested following the police action say they continue to face financial hardship. The costs of securing bail, procuring legal documents and pursuing their cases have run into tens of thousands of rupees. For some, the expenditure has crossed several lakhs.

The expenses include drafting and filing court applications, affidavits, notarisation, certified copies, photocopying of documents, repeated travel to the sessions court for hearings, loss of wages due to court appearances, and other expenses such as food and local transport.

Adding to the burden were repeated trips by family members between Delhi, the sessions court, the Allahabad High Court



Security personnel stand guard as factory workers stage a protest demanding a hike in wages, in Noida, on April 13. PTI

and their hometowns to obtain documents and complete verification formalities required for bail and release.

Manjeet (name changed), a 25-year-old trainee supervisor at a garment manufacturing company, was picked up five days after the protest allegedly turned violent. A month after his release, he said he struggles to find work. “Having lost my job since I was arrested, I lacked the confidence to apply anywhere. After my friends insisted, I went for a couple of interviews but did not get any response,” Mr. Manjeet said.

On April 18, he had just

stepped out of his company when he was picked up by the police and taken to Kasna jail. With his parents and six siblings living in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, his family could not immediately reach him. “Despite having a big family, I felt completely alone. My uncle was able to meet me only 10 days after my arrest,” he said.

According to Mr. Manjeet, his uncle spent at least ₹15,000-₹20,000 on paperwork alone.

“This was when lawyers took up my case *pro bono*. There were several others with multiple FIRs against them who did not have lawyers fighting their cases

for free,” he said.

Karan (name changed), an e-rickshaw driver, was picked up on the night of April 13 after he parked his vehicle for the day. “He was going to buy dinner from a nearby stall when some policemen took him away,” his uncle said.

“I have spent over ₹2.5 lakh on my nephew’s bail and release. Four days after the protest, the police registered another case against him under the same sections [of the law] but at a different police station,” he said. “The expenses include legal costs of procuring and drafting documents, as well as travel. I also had to pay his room rent for four months and the EMI for his e-rickshaw,” Mr. Karan’s uncle said.

Legal battles

Keshav Anand, brother of activist Aditya Anand, said legal expenses for activists facing at least 10 FIRs had already run into lakhs.

“For all eight activists, we have already spent around ₹7-10 lakh. This is despite senior lawyers fighting our cases *pro bono*...,” he said.

Fadnavis orders fresh probe into temple scam

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Days after Siddhivinayak Temple trustees raised irregularities in the collection of donations, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis instructed a fresh investigation into the case.

Mr. Fadnavis has ordered the State Home Affairs Department to investigate the temple’s records from 2022 to 2026.

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray raised the issue on August 2, claiming that every year from 2023, irregularities of at least ₹18 crore had appeared.

He made the accusations, saying, “after the accused were caught, the weekly donation amount increased from ₹50 lakh to about ₹1.5 crore.”

Nine employees of the Siddhivinayak Temple have been arrested in connection with the case.

On August 3, the trustees had sought investigation by Anti-Corruption Bureau and the Maharashtra Law and Judiciary Department.

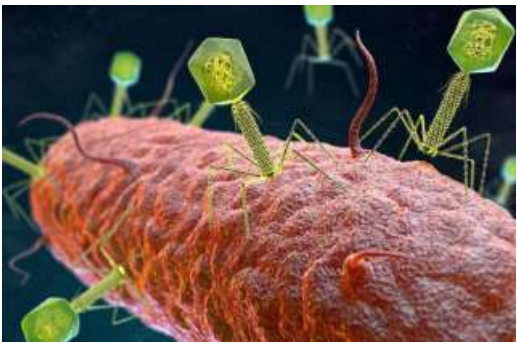
SCIENCE

Hold tight: how two hurricanes forced a lizard to change its grip

D.P. Kasbekar

Picture a lizard the length of your finger clinging to a tree branch. The cause of its desperation is a 265 km/hr wind threatening to peel it off like a sticker. This happened twice to a population of anoles in the Turks and Caicos Islands in September 2017. So since then, these lizards have evolved to cling harder. Four days before Hurricane Irma made landfall, scientists from Princeton and Harvard Universities had wrapped up a routine survey of the Turks and Caicos anole (*Anolis scriptus*) on two islands, Pine Cay and Water Cay. They studied the limbs, toes, and toepads, collected tissue samples, and went home. They'd had no idea a hurricane was coming, let alone two. Irma arrived on September 8 with sustained winds of 265 km/hr. Maria followed on September 22 at 200 km/hr. The storms flattened vegetation and a great many lizards. Six weeks later, the team returned to the islands and found something peculiar about the lizards that were around. Compared to before the storm, the anoles had longer forelimbs, shorter hind legs, shorter toes on those hind legs, and larger front and back toepads. They reported these changes in *Nature* in 2018, describing them as the handiwork of evolution. But one detail from that survey nagged at them: the fourth hind toe, the longest one, had actually become shorter. If longer toes mean better grip, why would evolution shorten one? The answer has finally been reported in a new study in *Current Biology*. On a more recent trip to Pine Cay and Water Cay, the researchers found five genes had independently – over the two islands – become more frequent after the storms. All five genes are known to be involved in muscle and skeletal development. One in particular, *hs6stl*, seemed to be responsible for the shorter fourth toe in the surviving Turks and Caicos anoles. To confirm, the team turned to brown anoles (*Anolis sagrei*). Using CRISPR, they knocked out *hs6stl* in brown anole embryos, which were born with shorter fourth toes. Next, they built a wind tunnel, placed brown anoles on a wooden dowel, and subjected them to winds of 118 km/hr. The footage revealed that the lizards held on with their front legs twice as long as with their back legs, on average. Thus, two hurricanes 14 days apart had managed to rewire the lizards' genome – an example of evolutionary biology on steroids. (The author is a retired scientist)

SNAPSHOTS



Scientists use AI to design viruses to kill hardy bacteria

Scientists have used AI to design entire genomes for bacteriophages, viruses that infect and kill bacteria. Using 'genome language models', they generated thousands of new DNA sequences, then used them with a well-studied virus called X174 as a template to yield 16 functional viruses. These phages were different from any found in nature, and could together successfully kill bacteria known to resist natural viruses. The work offers a path to create treatments to fight drug-resistant bacteria.

Traditional diets shape unique gut microbes of Indian tribes

Research on Indian tribal populations shows that traditional diets foster unique gut bacteria; the findings show an urgent need for biobanking to preserve microbial diversity and develop region-specific probiotic therapies as required

Rohini Karandikar

The gut microbiomes of eight tribal populations across India have a unique diversity shaped by their traditional diets and are distinct from those observed in industrialised settings, researchers have reported in *Gut Microbes*. The effects of probiotics depend on a population's diet and gut composition, and the study offers a baseline for India's tribal communities. It also points to the research still needed before such interventions can be tailored effectively. The study's authors have also stressed a need to preserve these microbiomes in biobanks before the diversity disappears. India has a large indigenous population that follows diverse diets based on location and culture. However, they are also under-represented in global human microbiome studies, making up less than 1% of the human microbiome samples. "The Indian microbiome is very different compared to the Western population, with an enormous diversity within India," said Dhiraj Dhotre, a scientist at the National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune, and the study's co-corresponding author. "Secondly, the entire microbiome is shaped by our long-term dietary habits."

The study was led by researchers from NCCS in collaboration with scientists from other institutions in India, Finland, and the U.S. In the study, the team investigated the effects of dietary variation across eight tribal cultures on their gut microbiomes. These communities were from four regions: Warli from the western coast, Madia and Gond from the northeastern Deccan plateau, Kabui from northeast India, and Brokpa, Purigpa, Balti, and Boto from the trans-Himalayas. Of these, 76 healthy adults contributed dietary data and faecal samples for study. The team's analysis revealed that the diet of the trans-Himalayan communities mainly included a variety of grains and dairy while those of the other four tribes significantly differed, as they included home-brewed alcoholic beverages, fish, fruits, and/or greens and stems. The gut microbiota of

Microbial riches

New research offers a baseline to understand the effects of probiotics in India's tribal communities

■ A study of eight Indian tribal populations reveals unique microbial diversity shaped by their traditional dietary habits

■ Indian populations remain under-represented in microbiome research, making up less than 1% of samples in international studies

■ High dairy consumption in trans-Himalayan tribes is linked to unique bacterial strains that improve gut health

■ Tribal microbiomes differ from industrialised datasets, although globalisation is beginning to influence some specific microbial profiles

■ Scientists emphasise the importance of using biobanks to preserve indigenous microbiomes before urbanisation destroys them

■ The study also highlights the need for regional studies to develop diet-specific probiotic interventions for India



A group of Balti children in 2008. MARIA LY (CC BY)

the trans-Himalayan population was also more diverse and included a distinct strain of the bacterium *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*. The researchers associated this pattern with high dairy consumption. "The dairy component in the diet has [exerted] an evolutionary selection pressure, due to which specific microbes have been established," Abhijit Kulkarni, lead co-author of the study and former PhD student at NCCS, said. *Bifidobacterium* bacteria are known to improve gut health and are a major component of commercial probiotics. However, Dr. Dhotre cautioned against considering it to be a universal marker of a healthy microbiome. "It is not that only healthy individuals have *Bifidobacterium* and others do not. Those consuming diets other than dairy and

grains may harbour different organisms that can provide similar health benefits," he said. Among other species, *Bifidobacterium* bacteria convert dietary carbohydrates into short-chain fatty acids. In infants, the enzyme lactase converts lactose in milk to glucose and galactose. However, in adults, bacteria like *Bifidobacterium* take over and help ferment lactose. The trans-Himalayan population's microbiome showed enriched pathways of lactose and galactose metabolism and plant-degrading carbohydrate-active enzymes. The researchers also compared the microbial diversity from tribal communities with that from previously described samples from California, an industrialised setting, and found that the tribal gut microbiome was distinct. "It becomes interesting to see how your human bi-

ological evolution, microbial presence, and cultural trait of having dairy or milk in your diet all go hand in hand to create not only human diversity but also affect the microbial diversity," Dr. Shantanu Ozarkar, a co-author and a biological anthropologist from Savitribai Phule Pune University, said. Researchers did note that the study's sample size was small – yet they were able to identify 14 putatively novel bacterial taxa from 76 participants. The work in this study led to the conceptualisation of the Indian Human Microbiome Initiative, which concluded recently with the goal of "sampling more than 3,400 individuals across [India] from 10 endogenous and 7 tribal communities." "The data is very robust because [the study] employs better and novel analytical, statistical, and bioinformatic tools," Moji-bur Khan, of the Institute of Advanced Studies in Science and Technology, Guwahati, and an independent expert, said. Researchers also stressed the importance of preserving these microbial communities in biobanks. "After a few decades, when we need them for corrective measures or for clinical applications, we will not have any representations left of these ancient microbes. This microbial biodiversity must hence be preserved." (Rohini Karandikar works with the TNQ Foundation, and is a science communicator and educator)



Snails tweak one ingredient for five mucus recipes

Cepaea nemoralis snails produce five types of mucus for different tasks, such as crawling, sticking to surfaces, and defence, 'tuning' the properties using calcium. Most animal mucus is slippery but snail mucus is versatile. Scientists found that it contains collagen VI as the building block, with the snails secreting calcium carbonate granules to adjust thickness and stickiness. This simple adjustment creates anything from a lubricant to a protective barrier, and could inspire new materials in medicine.



Records reveal engineering's effect on Yangtze floods

Human engineering and land-use changes have intensified flood risks on the Yangtze river in the last 500 years. Scientists found that while flood frequency peaked during the Little Ice Age (1500-1850), human interventions have made recent floods more severe. Embankments increased the intensity of "100-year floods" by 18% and lake reclamation by 8%. The findings show how engineering projects intended to control floods have worsened their impact.

Staying curious can help preserve vitality in old age



SPEAKING OF SCIENCE
D. Balasubramanian

It is estimated that in India on an average day, about 19,500 people celebrate their 60th birthday. The size of India's population aged 60 and above is expected to surpass the population aged 0-14 years by 2046. Accompanying this 'silver tsunami' is the dizzying pace of new technologies, which go from being useful to becoming indispensable. And there is so much more available for you to learn. Learning, before 60 or long after, is no longer about stepping out of retirement. It is a lifelong process that can keep us connected, sharp, and thriving. In India, learning in the

later years of life has largely been focused on imparting basic skills to the rural elderly, who have not benefited from formal education. But this is transitioning towards lifelong learning for educated seniors and requires an eager willingness and discipline.

Adding vitality

A narrow view of life is that you study when you are young, work for four decades, and then retire. Viewed this way, learning is merely training for a job – important when you are working but not in later years. However, learning is also about enriching our lives, and in the process keeping cognitive decline at bay. Thus, wanting to learn goes beyond workplace requirements. It adds enthusiasm and reduces anxieties and loneliness. When you compare 80-year-olds, women outnumber



Ageing gracefully: Merely extending life without preserving mental and physical health is not a worthwhile gain. UNSPLASH

men by a ratio of 5:3. But late-life learning presents unique hurdles for women, who are more likely to be financially dependent and have more ongoing caregiving responsibilities. To balance these demands, women learners often thrive on flexible, bite-sized learning formats. Extending life without preserving health is not a worthwhile gain. In India, healthy life expectancy at birth lags behind overall

life expectancy by nearly 11 years, meaning the average Indian spends their final decade battling chronic illness. Continuous learning offers a remarkably effective buffer against this decline. By building cognitive reserve and preserving functional independence, lifelong curiosity doesn't just add years to your life. It adds vitality to your years.

Real-life learning

Just as going to the gym

builds physical stamina to comfortably climb extra flights of stairs when needed, cognitive reserve builds a functional safety net – a form of reserve strength you can draw on when needed. Cognitive reserve allows you to cope with the inevitable age-related damage to the brain. The neuronal connections made during learning new things help keep your brain functionally robust in attributes such as memory and conversational skills, even when your brain deteriorates to the same extent as a person with dementia. Staying curious in our later years also results in improved health literacy. We rarely worry about good nutritional choices or how much to sleep when we are young. Acquiring such practical knowledge, along with reduced stress and greater mental well-being, helps us live health-

ier, longer lives.

The scope of learning can extend beyond courses to hands-on workshops and even travel. Online communities abound in this field. 'GetSetUp India' is one such example. You can practice skills such as creative writing, classical music or cooking, with the enthusiastic support of others. But then, quality of life thrives on human interaction, and real-life shared learning can be invaluable. Whether through university weekend programmes, community workshops or like-minded groups, find something that sparks your wonder today – even a new language – and never stop asking questions. (The article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani, who works in molecular modelling) sushilchandan@gmail.com dbala@lvpel.org



Question Corner

Bittersweet, literally

Why do we feel a slightly bitter aftertaste after having sugary foods? – Jessica Sandhu, New Delhi

There are a few reasons. First, sweet foods activate your sweet taste receptors but not your bitter taste receptors. But once the sweet food has passed, the sweetness receptors become less responsive for a short amount of time. However, your bitterness receptors are still sensitive, and the taste of the normally faint bitter compounds in your saliva or other lingering food particles can become more noticeable. Another reason is that many sugary foods also include ingredients with

bitter notes. Next, oral bacteria may rapidly metabolise leftover sugars to produce acids. Acids are generally sour but they can interfere with how you perceive other tastes, which can also be accentuated by the dryness in your mouth after eating something sweet. Finally, some people are supertasters and perceive bitter compounds more intensely than others, so they will also be more likely to notice a bitter finish after sweet foods. This 'ability' depends on the TAS2R2 taste receptor genes.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

PROFILES

A new triple alliance in West Asia

Mecca Agreement

Confronting a diminished American strategic presence, oil-rich Saudi Arabia, nuclear-armed Pakistan and NATO-ally Turkiye have formally entered a trilateral framework promising ‘collective security’ and ‘collective deterrence’ amid growing regional instability

Stanly Johny

By the time Abdullah bin Saud succeeded his father as Emir of Diriyah (the first Saudi state) in 1814, Ottoman forces, under the command of Muhammad Ali Pasha, had already launched their military campaign against the al-Saud reign. The Ottomans sought to destroy the emirate and bring the Arabian Peninsula back under their control. They entered Hejaz by the sea and then marched into the heart of Nejd. In 1818, Ibrahim Pasha, Muhammad Ali’s son, reached Diriyah, the capital of the Emirate, and laid siege to the city until it surrendered. Abdullah, his three sons and two supporters were captured and taken to Cairo, before being transferred to Constantinople, where Sultan Mahmud II rejected a request for a pardon. In May 1819, the last Emir of the first Saudi state, along with his sons and supporters, was beheaded in a square near Hagia Sophia.

The Ottoman invasion, however, did not prevent the Saudis from rebuilding the state the Pashas had destroyed. They established the second Saudi state later in the 19th century and, after its defeat, founded a third in the early 20th century. The third state, with British support, expanded its authority across much of the Arabian Peninsula, eventually giving rise to modern Saudi Arabia. The Ottoman Empire collapsed after the First World War, with the Republic of Turkey emerging as its successor. After the Second World War, both Turkiye and Saudi Arabia became close allies of the U.S., but relations between the two remained strained. Their historical rivalry and contest for influence in West Asia kept them at odds.

Tensions deepened after Turkiye took an increasingly Islamist turn under Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the 21st century. When Turkiye supported the Arab Spring protests of 2010-2011, Saudi Arabia viewed the uprisings as a threat to political stability. Relations deteriorated further after Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi dissident, was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018. The kingdom and the



ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

republic also found themselves on opposing sides in several regional conflicts, most notably in Libya. But this rivalry has begun to melt away in recent years, as West Asia has witnessed a series of balance-shifting developments. On August 7, 2026, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye turned a page in their long and often fraught relationship by formally entering into a trilateral defence agreement with Pakistan. Under the Mecca Agreement, signed in the Saudi holy city by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Erdogan and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the three countries pledged to strengthen “collective defence” and “collective deterrence”, and to treat an armed attack against any one of them as an attack against all three.

In search of strategic depth
A NATO-style collective security alliance bringing together three major Muslim-majority countries – a nuclear-armed South Asian power, an oil-rich Persian Gulf monarchy and a NATO ally that straddles West Asia and Europe – is something West Asia has not seen before. In September 2025, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a

Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement committing themselves to treat any act of aggression against one as an act against both. The Saudi-Pakistan agreement showed both Saudi Arabia’s deepening strategic vulnerability and Pakistan’s increasing appetite to play a larger security role in an increasingly volatile region. Now, with the addition of Turkiye, the alliance is seeking strategic depth and military muscle. Each member of the alliance brings its own strengths and vulnerabilities. Pakistan is the Muslim world’s only nuclear power, but its economy is struggling to stay afloat. Saudi Arabia, one of the world’s largest oil exporters, has deep pockets but faces daunting security challenges, particularly from Iran and the Houthis. Turkiye has a rapidly expanding military industrial base, including advanced drone-production capabilities, but is worried about Israel’s growing militarism in its neighbourhood. Saudi Arabia, a close American ally since the late 1940s, relied on the U.S. for security, while, in return, promising an uninterrupted flow of oil. The foundations of this alliance have been shaken in recent years as the

U.S., faced with a rising China in East Asia, began to deprioritise West Asia. When Saudi oil facilities were attacked in 2019 by Iran-aligned Houthis, the U.S. did little in response. This prompted the kingdom to explore options beyond America’s security umbrella. In 2023, Saudi Arabia reached a normalisation agreement with Iran, brokered by China. But Saudi Arabia’s security anxieties only deepened when Israel started fighting a mini-regional war after the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack. After the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Iran on February 28, 2026, Tehran repeatedly attacked all Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia. This war seems to have convinced Riyadh that the U.S. security guarantees to Arab states were not as solid as they used to be. Turkiye, on the other hand, has long sought to play a larger security role in West Asia – the old fiefdom of Constantinople. It has cultivated strong ties with Qatar and maintains a troop presence there. An alliance with Saudi Arabia would provide Ankara with greater strategic space in the region. Turkiye also has its own security worries. As an increasingly militaristic Israel expands its territory

through air strikes and incursions, Ankara believes it should prepare for potential conflicts in the future. Although Turkiye is a member of NATO, Ankara has doubts about whether the NATO collective security guarantees would hold in the event of a conflict with Israel, America’s closest ally in the region. Pakistan, the third actor, brings to the alliance its hostility with India. In May 2025, it fought a brief aerial war with India after the Pahalgam terror attack. As India says it would hold Pakistan responsible for terror attacks on its soil, Islamabad is also trying to strengthen its deterrence through counter-alliances.

Shifting sands
The trilateral alliance and its collective security clause do not necessarily mean that Pakistan would go to war with Iran or the Houthis, or that Turkiye would join a future India-Pakistan conflict. After the Saudi-Pakistan agreement was signed in September 2025, Pakistan clashed several times with Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, while Saudi Arabia came under repeated attacks from Iran and the Houthis. But neither country intervened militarily on behalf of the other. So there will always be questions about the practical scope of the alliance’s collective defence commitment. Yet, the agreement remains significant because it brings together three major powers in a common security framework. Defence partnership and military interoperability among them could expand at a time when an overstretched U.S. is confronting the limits of its power in the region. The alliance also provides greater strategic space for Turkiye and Pakistan in West Asia. Other smaller states in the region could be tempted to join, while powers that have uneasy relations with the alliance’s members, including India, the UAE, Israel and Iran, could seek their own counterbalancing arrangements. West Asia’s security architecture could therefore undergo profound changes, accelerating the region’s post-American transition.

THE GIST
▼ Pakistan is the Muslim world’s only nuclear power, but its economy is struggling to stay afloat
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▼ Turkiye has a rapidly expanding military industrial base, but is worried about Israel’s growing militarism in its neighbourhood and the credibility of NATO’s guarantees

A progressive’s progress

Abdul El-Sayed

Michigan’s Senate race will test whether the American Left can win outside the Democratic party’s strongholds

Srinivasan Ramani

When Abdul El-Sayed, a 41-year-old epidemiologist born to Egyptian immigrants, defeated U.S. Representative Haley Stevens by a margin of fewer than 15,000 votes out of more than 1.5 million cast in the Democratic primary elections held in Michigan state in early August, the result caught national and international attention. The playing field had been weighted heavily against him. Outside groups spent more than \$60 million supporting Ms. Stevens, against roughly \$3.5 million in independent expenditure backing Mr. El-Sayed, and she had the endorsement of the Democratic establishment. The single largest source was the United Democracy Project, the super PAC directed by the pro-Israel lobbying group AIPAC, which poured \$30.6 million into the contest – the largest sum it has ever spent on a single race. Mr. El-Sayed’s win was the latest in a recent run of victories by progressive candidates over establishment-backed rivals, though unlike several of them, he has never described himself as a socialist, saying “I’m just a capitalist who understands how capitalism works”. Mr. El-Sayed’s candidacy



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

was backed by prominent figures on the American left, including Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. The reasons for their backing were not too difficult to fathom. Mr. El-Sayed’s key policy platform was to call for “Medicare for All” – a universal single payer health care system in which one public insurer covering everyone replaces the private insurance industry and is funded through taxation, akin to Canada’s Medicare system. Mr. El-Sayed also evinced a strong critique of Israel’s genocidal actions in Gaza, going on to call the country a rogue state and an ethno-state, and has pledged to end the U.S.’s funding of its military apparatus, besides that of Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt. He has also been a trenchant critic of President Donald Trump and his anti-immigration policies and the notorious U.S. Immigration and Customs En-

forcement (ICE), which he has called for abolishing. Another issue that binds Mr. El-Sayed to those adhering to the Democratic Socialists is support for regulating campaign finance and keeping “money out of politics”, an issue that has resonated with young people across the U.S., and in Michigan in particular, who rallied for Mr. El-Sayed. **Not an easy race** Mr El-Sayed, who completed his DPhil in public health on a Rhodes scholarship at Oriel College, Oxford, also took a medical degree from Columbia University, but went on to become an epidemiologist. At 30, he became Detroit city’s health officer. He ran for Governor in 2017, with Mr. Sanders and Ms. Ocasio-Cortez’s endorsement but lost the 2018 primary to Gretchen Whitmer, now the State’s Governor. Despite his win in the primary, the race in November will not be easy for

Mr. El-Sayed, who will be the first Muslim to be elected to the U.S. Senate if he succeeds. The Republicans have sought to brand all progressives and especially the democratic socialists as radicals and communists, using a new version of the Red Scare. Mr. El-Sayed faces Mike Rogers, a former Congressman, who has Mr. Trump’s endorsement and is well funded. After Mr. El-Sayed’s win, Mr. Rogers was quick off the blocks to accuse him, without evidence, of supporting the Muslim Brotherhood. AIPAC has also said it will continue the fight to get Mr. El-Sayed rejected. He, however, got the backing of major Democratic leaders, including those who endorsed Ms. Stevens, and the latter herself as soon as the primary results were out. Liberal commentators are, however, unenthusiastic about the triumph of progressives like Mr. El-Sayed and other democratic socialists, whom they call insurgents within the Democratic Party and who, they argue, do not have the broad acceptance in closely contested Rust Belt States such as Michigan. The Senate race in Michigan will be a litmus test of whether the progressive and democratic socialist current can win beyond Democratic strongholds in the U.S.

Moonshot’s rising star

Kimi K3

The July launch of the Chinese company’s AI model has prompted much soul-searching among U.S. Big Tech giants over their approach to open models and AI competition

Sahana Venugopal

Launch more U.S. open models, issue more U.S. visas, build more U.S. data centres, and encourage more U.S. competition – these were some of the panic-tinged solutions swirling online after the Chinese AI firm Moonshot released its Kimi K3 model on July 16. Kimi K3, with 2.8 trillion parameters and a 1 million-token context window, was billed as the “world’s first open 3T-class model”. By comparison, one of Google’s recent Gemma 4 open models reported a size of 30.7 billion total parameters. Moonshot AI candidly noted that the overall performance of Kimi K3 still “trails” Anthropic’s Claude Fable 5 and OpenAI’s GPT 5.6 Sol. However, the company claimed that Kimi K3 showed frontier-level performance across its evaluation suite. On July 27, the firm enjoyed a second burst of adulation when it released the model weights, allowing users to modify and run Kimi K3 as per their commercial needs under a far more flexible licence. Kimi K3 cost about a third of Anthropic’s Fable model in terms of the input and output token prices. While business use cases, operational needs, and other overheads influence



AFP

the final cost of deploying models, such price comparisons can put makers of more expensive models on edge. Over 270 companies, including Amazon, Google, Meta, Microsoft, Nvidia, OpenAI and SpaceX, have now signed an open letter titled ‘Open Weights and American AI Leadership’, calling for policy measures to support open-weight models, in order to keep innovation in the U.S. and ensure its technological dominance. Far from uniting U.S. tech firms, however, the open letter revealed a jagged split when Anthropic did not sign. The Claude-maker instead issued a separate warning stressing the risks of open-weight models, and pushed for chip restrictions against China. Furthermore, the AI firm backed by Amazon and Google had in February alleged that Moonshot was one of the AI labs that generated millions of exchanges with Claude

through hundreds of “fraudulent” accounts in order to illicitly target the U.S. model’s agentic reasoning and tool use, coding and data analysis, computer-use agent development, computer vision, and reasoning traces. In September 2024, an X user asked OpenAI CEO Sam Altman when a specific AI feature would be released. Instead of a date, the asker received a mocking response. “[H]ow about a couple of weeks of gratitude for magic intelligence in the sky, and then you can have more toys soon?” posted Mr. Altman, triggering both laughter and criticism online. **Relations with users** But AI company-customer relations have sharply changed in 2026. Users need not wait for a “couple of weeks” and express their “gratitude” for closed model updates when Chinese AI contenders such as Alibaba, DeepSeek, and Moonshot are inviting

them to try out more open models at lower prices. The success of Kimi is not exclusively a technological triumph; it marks a win in terms of optics as well. The release of Kimi K3 – and later, its model weights – has boosted the company’s standing and its claim to “empower everyone to be superhuman”. Though not named in official missives, Kimi K3 has triggered Big Tech soul-searching in the U.S. as top companies co-sign letters of concern, express sudden support for accessible models, and brainstorm ways to race ahead of China. That Anthropic has accused Moonshot of illicit distillation actually works in favour of the Chinese firm’s reputation. This may as well be an advertisement for an easier and cheaper way to access Claude-grade capabilities, regardless of Anthropic’s hand-wringing about “significant national security risks”. As more open-weight Chinese AI models enter the arena with competitive prices and licences, companies and users will vote with their wallets. The coming weeks and months will shed more light on whether Kimi K3 was a one-shot wonder, or if Chinese firms have truly raised the bar in marketing more open AI tools.

SOFIA
Ukraine denies targeting Bulgaria as drone explodes near pipeline



Ukraine on Saturday denied targeting Bulgaria after a drone exploded close to the strategic Trans-Balkan gas pipeline linking Turkiye to Ukraine near the Romanian border. While the explosion caused no casualties, Bulgarian Prime Minister Rumen Radev said the amount of explosives it was carrying was “significant”. AFP

DUBAI
Turkiye’s Parliament passes Bill aimed at peace with Kurdish rebels



A Turkish draft law aimed at advancing a peace effort with the country’s Kurdish insurgents passed its first hurdle in Parliament on Saturday, with a committee approving the measure that includes a conditional, pardon-like mechanism for former fighters. The Bill is expected to be approved in the general assembly next week. AP

ANKARA
Trilateral defence pact is similar to NATO’s Article 5, Turkish Minister



A defence pact signed between Turkiye, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is technically the same as NATO’s Article 5 agreement, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said. He added that a committee of Ministers similar to that within NATO would be formed, as well as a general secretariat based in Saudi Arabia. REUTERS

WASHINGTON
U.S. Senate confirms Todd Blanche for attorney general in narrow vote



The U.S. Senate confirmed Todd Blanche as attorney general in a vote early Saturday, cementing President Donald Trump’s former personal attorney’s command of the Justice Department. The Senate voted 50-49 to make Mr. Blanche the second confirmed attorney general since Mr. Trump returned to the White House. AP

Strait won’t open until U.S. ‘corrects its behaviour’, says Iran as tanker hit

In new demands, Tehran says the U.S. should never threaten Iran again, end the war permanently, lift the naval blockade and withdraw its military from the area; UAE says Iran targeted an ADNOC tanker while it was transiting Strait of Hormuz

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran’s politburo-like body, known as the Supreme National Security Council, said on Saturday that the Strait of Hormuz will not open until the United States “corrects its behaviour,” issuing new demands that could shake up talks on a deal to manage the waterway and traffic on it.

Iran’s state broadcaster published the statement by the council’s secretary, Mohammad Bagher Zolqadr, who is also a commander in the powerful Revolutionary Guard.

The United States must



Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi attend a press conference in Tehran on Saturday. AFP

never threaten Iran again, the statement said, and must permanently end the war with Iran and its armed allies in the region. The U.S. must lift the naval

blockade of Iranian ports and withdraw its military from the area. It also must “completely compensate” Iran for war damage, lift sanctions and “uncondi-

tionally” release frozen assets, it added.

There was no immediate comment from the U.S., which has wanted an acceptable deal first on the strait before ending the blockade. According to the interim deal signed in June, a schedule to end sanctions and plan on compensation would be part of the final deal, and negotiations would address frozen assets.

The end of a 60-day period to negotiate a final deal will end in just over a week but could be extended.

Iran has said it was close to reaching a separate deal with Oman to manage the

strait, which runs between the two countries.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi earlier on Saturday said they were close to reaching an agreement on navigation, “specifically the determination of a transit route”.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates said Iran had targeted a tanker belonging to the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) while it was transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

The UAE Foreign Ministry in a statement condemned what it called a “hostile Iranian attack that targeted a tanker belonging to ADNOC”.

Zelenskyy visits Serbia as 4 killed in Russian attacks

Associated Press
BELGRADE

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy denounced Russia’s latest deadly attacks on Kyiv on Saturday as he visited Serbia, one of the few European countries that has maintained friendly relations with Moscow throughout its invasion of Ukraine.

Four persons, including a child, were killed in the overnight strikes on Kyiv and the surrounding region. Ukrainian forces hit Russian oil facilities.

Mr. Zelenskyy arrived in Belgrade on Friday for his first official visit to Serbia.

Speaking at a press conference in Belgrade with Mr. Zelenskyy, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic described Ukraine as a “friendly nation” and said



Volodymyr Zelenskyy with Aleksandar Vucic during a press meet following their meeting in Belgrade on Saturday. AFP

he was honoured to welcome the Ukrainian leader – the first visit by a Ukrainian President in eight years.

Expanding cooperation
The two leaders discussed their countries’ efforts toward joining the European Union, bilateral ties and ways to expand coopera-

tion. Kyiv’s residents face regular drone and missile barrages that Ukraine’s depleted air defences are struggling to counter amid Moscow’s 4-year-old full-scale invasion.

Mr. Vucic reiterated that Serbia respects Ukraine’s territorial integrity and said that position would not change.

Hamas says it is still ready to go ahead with U.S.’s Gaza plan

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Hamas said on Saturday it remained ready to proceed with a U.S.-backed Gaza peace plan and urged pressure on Israel, which insists it did not agree to the latest part of the deal.

Hamas informed U.S. President Donald Trump’s Board of Peace that it stood by the latest stage of the plan, under which the militants would hand over weapons to a nascent Palestinian governing committee in the war-battered territory.

“Hamas and other factions have confirmed to mediators their readiness to begin implementing the

Netanyahu earlier said that Israel had not agreed to the ‘draft’ presented by the Board of Peace

agreement and move to the second phase, provided it receives Israeli approval and that Israel begins implementing the deal,” a Hamas official said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who faces a tough re-election fight in October and wide opposition from his right-wing base to the Gaza deal, earlier on Tuesday said that Israel had not agreed to the “draft” presented by the Board of Peace.

Lebanon says Israeli troops infiltrated a village held by army

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Israeli troops infiltrated a Lebanese village placed under the control of Lebanon’s army as part of a June agreement, building an earthen barrier there overnight, state media and the local mayor said on Saturday.

The barrier is situated at the village’s eastern entrance, blocking the road. The authorities said it was unclear if any Israeli forces remained in the area.

“An Israeli occupation army force advanced into the village of Zawtar al-Gharbiya shortly after midnight... and erected a new earthen barrier near the

town square,” Lebanon’s state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported.

Zawtar al-Gharbiya was one of two designated “pilot zones” where the Lebanese army was to take over as part of a U.S.-sponsored framework agreement signed with Israel.

Israel invaded south Lebanon after militant group Hezbollah entered the West Asia war on the side of its sponsor Iran in March. Israeli forces continue to occupy a broad band of territory in the south along the border.

Confirming the incident, a Lebanese military source said it was a violation of the framework agreement.

China’s traffic control order for Taiwan Strait during typhoon ‘ridiculous’: Taipei

Reuters
TAIPEI

China’s attempt to implement traffic control measures on shipping heading into the Taiwan Strait during Typhoon Dolphin is “ridiculous”, Taipei said, adding that Beijing has no right to restrict access to international waters.

China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, also claims the strategic strait through which billions of dollars of trade flow every year – a claim both Taipei and Washington reject.

On Wednesday, Chinese state media said that due to the approach of the typhoon, starting from



Strategic control: A Taiwanese Navy minelaying vessel passes by Kaohsiung Port in Taiwan during naval exercises. AFP

Thursday night, ships heading north through the southern entrance of the Taiwan Strait must heed traffic control measures.

All vessels must comply with requirements, choose safe waters to shelter from the storm, and follow the

instructions of on-site maritime management authorities to ensure safety at sea, it said.

“The unreasonable and crude statement by the relevant Chinese Communist departments reflects an ignorance, disregard, and

trampling of international order and norms. It is utterly ridiculous!” Taiwan’s Mainland Affairs Council said in a statement late Friday. “Taiwan’s own affairs need no meddling from the Chinese Communists,” it added.

In a separate statement released at the same time, Taiwan’s Coast Guard said it had not detected any “abnormal movements” by Chinese vessels, nor had any shipping companies reported being subjected to “broadcast interference”.

The typhoon is tracking to the north of Taiwan and is expected to make landfall on China’s east coast late Saturday or early Sunday.

North Eastern Railway
E-Tender Notice
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ Colony, N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur for & behalf of President of India invites "OPEN" E-Tender through online (e-tendering) for the following work:
Tender Notice No. & Description of Work : 10-2026-Colony, Name of Work :- Electrical work in connection to (A) Gorakhpur-Proposed Renovation of PCOM, PCCM & PCF Office. (B) Gorakhpur-Renovation and improvement of P.C.P.O. Office for CBT Examination Centre and Training Hall for Trainees, **Approx. Value : ₹ 66,18,016.00, E.M.D. Money : ₹ 1,32,400.00, Cost of Tender Form : Zero, Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter : 09 Months.**
• E-tender online will be submitted up to 15:00 Hrs. on date 28.08.2026.
• Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway IREPS official website www.ireps.gov.in.
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Colony, CPRO/EL-131 N.E.R., Gorakhpur
Do not travel with inflammable article in train

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Dy. CME/Repair for Chief Workshop Manager, North Eastern Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur-for and on behalf of President of India invites tender through on line E-Open Tender for the following work:-
S.No.-1, E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the work: Tender No.: “20-GKP-MWS-2026-27” “Removal of Rust by Scrubbing of LHB Wheel set and Cleaning of Axle of LHB/ICF/MEMU/ NMG/ NMGH/ NMGHS wheel set in Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur.”
Estimated Cost (in Rs.): ₹ 28,62,687.55, Earnest Money (in Rs.): ₹ 57,300/-, Cost of the Tender Forms: Zero, Last date of tender submission: Upto 11:00 hrs., Date 31-08-2026, Period of Contract: 12 Months.
• The Details of above tenders are also available on Indian Railway website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Dy. CME/Repair, Mech. Workshop, CPRO/Yantrik-67 Gorakhpur
Never travel on roof and foot boards.

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KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Office Bengaluru
NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO 8 Dated: 08.08.2026
Tenders (Pre-qualification and or (Commercial offers) through e-procurement portal <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> are invited for supply of the following Goods/Services.

Tender Nos as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items/ Services/Equipment	Tender Value in crores (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender @17.00hrs
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0334	Procurement of Retro Reflective Tape without QR code	1.20	27/08/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0335	Procurement of MS Angles and Flats	0.49	27/08/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0336	Procurement of Brake and Brake parts	30.00	07/09/2026
SHORT TERM TENDER			
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0333	Selection of vendor for Supply and Maintenance of AIS-140 compliance devices for KSRTC Buses and Establishment of Command Control Centre Under the scheme Central assistance for strengthening	20.00	24/08/2026

NOTE:- Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone. No. 080-46010000/080-68948777). Interested bidders may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to Support@eprocelpdesk.com for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org, (contact: 7760990224).
Sd/-
CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)
DIPRC/CP/2068/NR/2026-27

Govt. of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board
Science & Technology Campus, Sirkha Toll, Namkum-Tupudana Road, Namkum, Ranchi - 834010
Website : <https://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in> e-mail : jceceboard@gmail.com

Advt. No. :-JCECEB/46/26 - 51
Ranchi/Dated: 08/08/2026
Indicative Information Regarding Submission of Online Application Form for Preparation of the Merit List on the basis of NEET(UG)-2026 Result and conduct of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd & Stray Vacancy rounds of online counselling for admission to B.D.S. & B.H.M.S. courses
PRESS COMMUNIQUE
Online application forms are invited from NEET (UG)-2026 qualified candidates for preparation of the Merit List to conduct online counselling for admission to All India & NRI Quota seats in the B.D.S. & B.H.M.S. courses offered by Private Medical College(s) in the State of Jharkhand.
Detailed information pertaining to the age criteria, educational criteria, registration/ application fee etc., is available in the Press Communique titled "**Important Information Regarding Submission of Online Application Form for Preparation of the Merit List on the basis of NEET(UG)-2026 Result and conduct of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd & Stray Vacancy rounds of online counselling for admission to B.D.S. & B.H.M.S. courses**", uploaded under the "Important Notice" section on the Board's website: <http://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in>
Online Application form can be submitted by candidates from 09.08.2026 to 12.08.2026 for inclusion of their names in Merit List for 1st round of online counselling. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd & Stray Vacancy Rounds of online counseling will be started as per counselling schedule.
By the order of Controller of Examination, Sd/- (Officer on Special Duty)
PR.NO.387058 Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board(26-27):D

DUE RECOGNITION

Head edges Carey to bag the Allan Border Medal



CRICKET AUSTRALIA

Star batter Travis Head won Australia's top cricketing honour for the second year in a row, edging Alex Carey to claim the Allan Border Medal. The 32-year-old Head polled 153 votes, one more than wicketkeeper and South Australia teammate Carey, and three clear of fast bowler Mitchell Starc.

BIDDING ADIEU

Flintoff steps down as England Lions head coach



GETTY IMAGES

Former England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff has stepped down as head coach of the England Lions, leaving the 48-year-old to focus on his role at Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League. Mike Yardy will take charge of the Professional County Club Select XI for Pakistan's four-day warm-up match at Beckenham from Tuesday.

VALUABLE ASSET

Atletico will not sell Alvarez, says chief coach Simeone



REUTERS

Atletico Madrid will not allow forward Julian Alvarez to leave the club during the current transfer window despite interest from Barcelona, manager Diego Simeone said. "The club has made a decision that Miguel Angel Gil Marin (CEO) has explained very well. We are very happy to have a footballer like Julian," Simeone said.

HIGH-PROFILE SWITCH

Arsenal completes the signing of Newcastle captain Guimaraes



X@ARSENAL

Premier League champion Arsenal has completed the signing of Newcastle captain Bruno Guimaraes for a reported fee of £75 million, the two clubs announced on Saturday. The Brazil international, who spent four-and-a-half seasons with Newcastle, has signed a "long-term contract" with the Gunners.

Padikkal hammers century, in pole position for No. 3 spot

The left-hander's knock laced with 18 fours, and his partnerships with Rahul and Jadeja power India's reply; Suthar also impresses with the willow for the visiting side; southpaws Jaiswal and Pant fail to get going; Jurel, too, falls cheaply

INDIA IN SRI LANKA

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

Devdutt Padikkal almost assured himself of a spot in India's playing XI for the opening Test with a stylish century on the second day of the warm-up match against Sri Lanka Cricket XI, while Rishabh Pant and his understudy Dhruv Jurel failed to make the most of favourable batting conditions.

At the end of the second day, India finished its first innings at 357 for eight in 90 overs.

Padikkal's unbeaten 142 (164b, 18x4) and a gritty 63 (retired hurt) by veteran Ravindra Jadeja were the highlights, while Manav Suthar (41) also impressed with the bat on his maiden overseas international assignment.

In full flow

The pitch had become much easier to bat on, and Padikkal took full advantage, hitting 18 boundaries to show that he is ready to reclaim his place now that first-choice No. 3 batter B. Sai Sudharsan has been ruled out of the series after failing to recover in time from his big-toe injury.

With Yashasvi Jaiswal falling off the second delivery of the day for a duck while attempting to flash at left-arm seamer Vishwa Fernando (one for 42), K.L.



Classy: Padikkal hit top form in the practice match, with an array of brilliant strokes. GETTY IMAGES

Rahul (40) and Padikkal added 96 for the second wicket. While Rahul played

himself in, the sinewy Padikkal was a treat to watch, opening with a couple of

cover drives off fuller deliveries before unleashing some delectable cuts both

in front of and behind point. He was particularly severe on right-arm pacer Ishitha Wijesundara who was hit for multiple boundaries.

A pull shot off off-spinner Ramesh Mendis brought up his ton off 121 balls before he was asked to retire.

By then, he had added 72 runs for the third wicket with Jadeja, who again showed why he is a valuable asset as a middle-order batter overseas even as his spin bowling stocks has depleted quite considerably.

Indiscreet shot

The biggest disappointment of the day was certainly Rishabh Pant (two) who once again played an indiscreet shot against off-spinner Mendis (two for 77) trying to hit him against the turn over long-on. The leading edge flew to long-off.

Dhruv Jurel's (one) technical ineptitude against off-spinners was exposed once again after the South Africa Test series.

A forward defensive prod and the inside-edge flew to short-square-leg fielder who caught it on the second attempt. Towards the end, Padikkal once again came out to bat and added four more boundaries in the company of Saransh Jain (22 retired hurt).

The scores: Sri Lanka Cricket XI 363/8 vs India 357/6 in 90 overs (Rahul 40, Padikkal 142 n.o., Suthar 41).

Sai Sudharsan to miss Lanka Test series

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Top-order batter B. Sai Sudharsan was on Saturday ruled out of the two-Test series against Sri Lanka after failing to recover from a toe injury sustained during India-A's tour of the island nation last month.

Sai Sudharsan, who struck two centuries in the two "Tests", was hit during the second game against Sri Lanka-A and has since then been in rehabilitation at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. "Doctors have advised more time for healing. There is significant improvement, but it is not yet sufficient for a safe return to Test cricket," reckoned the Sports Science team monitoring his rehabilitation.

It also conveyed the same to the team management and National selection committee.

The medical-cum-fitness advice for Sai Sudharsan reads: "Rehabilitation, strength & conditioning, and cricket-specific loads should be increased gradually and under close monitoring."



Sai Sudharsan. FILE PHOTO



Vital aspect: Having enough overs under one's belt is key to avoiding injuries, feels Srinath. R. RAVINDRAN

Srinath stresses the need for a pace battery

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

During his playing days, Javagal Srinath often had to wage a lone battle as the pace spearhead and lacked support from the other end. Even though India's fast bowling fortunes have changed for the better, constant injuries to the pacers have become a point of concern in recent times. As India looks to build the next core group of speedsters, Srinath stressed the importance of having a pack to share the burden.

"I always felt that fast bowling is about a group of bowlers together. It is about conservation of energy, and you will be able to build a good team. But if you are all alone, you will bowl 16-17 overs and become ineffective. So if you have three-four good quicks, your team is always effective, and the striking ability is far better," said Srinath at a panel discussion during the Events and Entertainment Management Association conclave here on Saturday.

The Mysore Express, as he was called during his playing days, felt that hav-

ing enough overs under one's belt is key to avoiding injuries.

"If you don't bowl enough and all of a sudden if you are bowling the third spell, that is around 3.30 p.m., you end up pulling a muscle or probably tearing your ligament or hamstring or whatever. So it is important that you play enough, which means good 1000-1600 overs a year that will keep you in good shape," he said.

Srinath was a key part of the national side's graph going up in the new millennium after the match-fixing scandal, and the Karnataka pacer praised Sourav Ganguly's leadership during that phase.

"Post the match-fixing scandal, a lot of things came good to us. I think there was a bit of a resoluteness in every player to really put that image back and prove to the world that cricket was clean. Every individual showed leadership. Then the team started winning not only in India, but also abroad," said Srinath. The 56-year-old is currently serving as an ICC Match Referee and has officiated in more than 500 games.

BCCI secretary to meet Laxman to take stock of players' injury issues

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Concerned with the spate of injuries that has rocked Indian team of late, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia will meet Head of Cricket V.V.S. Laxman on Sunday to take stock of the rehabilitation management programme at the Centre of Excellence (CoE).

India will be missing the services of Jasprit Bumrah (knee swelling), B. Sai Sudharsan (toe), Harshit Rana (hamstring), Nitish Kumar (hamstring) and Washington Sundar (quadriceps) due to various injuries.

Akash Deep (lower back stress fracture) has been out for the longest time, since Bengal's Ranji Trophy semifinal defeat.

Adding to that, white-ball specialists Hardik Pandya (quadriceps), Varun Chakaravarthy (hamstring) and Prince Yadav (hamstr-



Laxman.
FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

ing) are at the CoE, where the Sports Science team is overworked without a chief since the resignation of Nitin Patel in early 2025.

"Saikia will be in Bengaluru to take a stock of the situation along with Laxman. There is a meeting scheduled. It is not known whether head coach of the national team, Gautam Gambhir, or chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar will join online," said a BCCI source.

Ashish opens India's medal account at the u-20 Worlds

ATHLETICS

Press Trust of India
EUGENE (USA)

Ashish Yadav won a silver in the men's javelin throw event to open India's medal account, while National senior record holder Pooja Singh qualified for the women's high jump final at the World Athletics under-20 Championships here.

Dharanidharan sixth Ashish's third round throw of 74.09m fetched him silver while T. Dharanidharan, the other Indian in the men's javelin finals on Friday, finished sixth with 72.35m.

Ashish's effort was 40cm short of his personal best of 74.49m recorded during the Indian Open Throws Competition in Patiala in March.

The 19-year-old is now the second Indian, after



Ashish. X@AFIINDIA

two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra, to win a silver in the event.

Neeraj won gold and set the still-standing World junior record of 86.48m in 2016 in Poland.

Mohammed Ashfaq, who broke the u-20 National record during the men's 400m first round heat a day earlier with 45.81s, finished eighth, clocking 46.20s in the final.

Pooja qualified for the final round in the women's high jump event, sailing over 1.79m.

All 14 athletes across two qualification groups, who managed to clear 1.79m, were awarded places in the final.

Shahnavaz, Jithin shine

In the men's long jump, both Shahnavaz Khan and Jithin Arjuna made it to the finals after the qualification round.

Shahnavaz finished fourth in qualification Group A and fifth overall with a 7.73m jump in his third and final attempt. Jithin also advanced, finishing 12th overall and taking the last available spot, with his 7.57m jump in his third and final attempt.

Poonam, however, failed to qualify for the women's javelin final after finishing eighth in her qualification group and 13th overall with a day's best throw of 48.81m.

Ashmita defeats Rakshitha, reaches Korea Masters final

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
ASAN

Ashmita Chaliha extended her impressive run at the Korea Masters Super 300 badminton tournament, overcoming fellow Indian Rakshitha Ramraj 21-13, 16-21, 21-13 to reach her maiden BWF World Tour singles final here on Saturday.

The World No. 50 Ashmita, who trains under Park Tae-sang, will battle China's Han Qianxi for the title. Qianxi, ranked 35th and seeded fourth here, recorded a 22-20, 18-21, 21-14 win in her last-four duel.

Ashmita came out with aggression and quickly moved from 2-2 to 6-2 in the opener. She reeled off five straight points to establish a 13-6 lead before closing the game out with ease.

But Rakshitha, the 19-year-old Pullela Gopichand



Flying high: Ashmita overcame a wobble. BADMINTONPHOTO

Academy trainee, bounced back by securing an 8-3 advantage in the second game.

A brutal smash from the left-handed Ashmita at 6-12 down was her first convincing shot in that phase. Another straight smash, a return of serve hitting the net and a long lift from Rakshitha meant Ashmita narrowed the gap to 12-13.

Rakshitha, however, held her nerve in the closing stages to take the

match into the decider.

Ashmita surged to a 9-1 lead, courtesy three smashes from her and a few unforced errors by Rakshitha.

Leading by eight points at the halfway stage, the 26-year-old lost some momentum but managed to stay ahead.

Having earned nine match points, Ashmita squandered two before Rakshitha sprayed one wide to hand her the win.

INBRIEF



Odisha men win HI junior National championship

Odisha emerged champions in the 16th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2026 - Division 'A' after defeating Madhya Pradesh 2-1 in the final in Coimbatore. Punjab beat Jharkhand 6-3 to secure the bronze medal.

The result: final: Odisha 2 (Mandeep Kerketta 2, Deepak Pradhan 45) bt Madhya Pradesh 1 (Sohil Ali 37).

FC Goa brings in experienced Spanish defender Zalaya

FC Goa announced the signing of Spanish centre-back Alex Zalaya ahead of the 2026-27 season. The 28-year-old defender arrives in Goa with a wealth of experience in Spanish football, having represented Real Zaragoza, FC Barcelona 'B', Sporting de Gijon 'B', UD Logrones, Extremadura UD, UD Ibiza and Real Murcia, said a release.

LIVE TELECAST

▼
TNPL: Sony Sports Ten 4 Tamil & TNPL Official YouTube channel (youtube.com/tamilnadupremierleague.com), 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
Durand Cup: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 4 p.m.



Dominant: Shillong Lajong slammed five goals past a hapless Mumbai FC. X@THEDURANDCUP

Sana's brace fires Lajong to victory

The result keeps the team in the hunt for a quarterfinal spot; Ajarai shines as NEUFC bests Morning Star to climb to the top spot in Group F

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau

Shillong Lajong FC rode on Everbrightson Sana's brace to record a comprehensive 5-0 win over Mumbai FC in a Group 'E' match of the Durand Cup at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong on Saturday and stay in the hunt for a quarterfinal berth.

Abhay Gurung, Tremiki Lamurong, and Figo Syndai scored a goal each to

complete the tally to take Lajong to the top of the group with six points from two matches.

Lajong pressed constantly until it struck twice in the additional time of the first half. Gurung capitalised on a rebound to find the breakthrough. Lamurong doubled the lead sooner than later.

After resumption, Sana scored off a Lamurong pass and pounced on another opportunity to complete his brace.

Substitute Syndai headed home Lajong's fifth.

In Guwahati, Alaaeddine Ajarai scored a goal early in either half to star in North East United FC's 4-1 win over Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC. The host took the top spot in Group 'F' with six points.

The results: At Shillong: Group E: Shillong Lajong 5 (Abhay Gurung 45+1, Tremiki Lamurong 45+3, Everbrighton Sana 52, 64, Figo Syndai 88) bt Mumbai FC 0.

At Guwahati: Group F: North East United FC 4 (Alaaeddine Ajarai 6-pen, 48, Macarton Nickson 83, Ethyan Gonzalez 90+6) bt Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC 1 (Junior Onguene 27).

Young Aussie spinner Davies hopes to make the most of his Chennai trip

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Joel Davies is one of Australia's promising spinners coming through the ranks and made his T20 International debut against Bangladesh in June.

The youngster made an impressive debut, striking with his second ball, and finished with excellent figures of three for 17 in Chattogram.

The 22-year-old left-arm twaker is currently in Chennai with the Cricket Australia Developmental squad, training at the MRF Pace Foundation.

It is his third trip to India, and the Sydney native feels his previous visits have helped him hit the ground running at the highest level.

"Yeah, [it helped] massively. I think the pitches didn't spin as much as I was expecting when I was in Bangladesh. But if it was going to spin, I knew that I was equipped with the right resources to perform under different circum-



Rewarding experience: Davies says he has benefitted from his two previous visits to India. S. DIPAK RAGAV

stances and conditions," said Davies.

Growing up, Davies used to bowl left-arm medium pace before switching to spin in a bid to make his local team in the Green Shield under-16 tournament.

"My coach told me that I



wasn't going to get picked as a fast bowler, but they needed a left-arm spinner. So, I just sort of picked that up. And then another coach told me to stick with it because no one in my family is very tall and I wasn't going to be a tall quick bowler. It's turned

out okay so far for me," he explained.

On his role models, Davies said left-arm spinner Steve O'Keefe is someone he looks up to, along with offie Nathan Lyon.

"Among international bowlers, I love watching Axar Patel. The way he bowls in T20 cricket with subtle changes, he's very skilful. I think if I can replicate him at any point, that's going to help me benefit, [considering] just how successful he's been."

Davies reckoned he was mainly focusing on getting the right shape on the deliveries during this trip.

"You can use a bit more side spin here. But still just trying to be able to manage side spin and over spin, and working on different arm positions and using the crease a little bit more. With batting, I think it's a lot to do with sweeping for me. I'm not a massive sweeper. If I can take a few little things back home with me, then yeah, I'll have had a successful trip," added Davies.



Bennacer. REUTERS

Algerian midfielder Bennacer leaves Milan

Reuters
MILAN

AC Milan has parted ways with midfielder Ismael Bennacer, ending the Algeria international's seven-year stay at the Serie A club. The 28-year-old, who had joined Milan from Empoli in 2019, had spells on loan at Marseille and Dinamo Zagreb.

Bennacer made 137 Serie A appearances for Milan, playing a central role in its 2021-22 Scudetto triumph. He last played a competitive match for the Italian side in 2024.

"AC Milan can confirm the termination of Bennacer's contract by mutual consent," the club said in a statement.

Korea to host India on hard courts

DAVIS CUP

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

South Korea has opted to host India on hard courts at the Olympic Tennis Centre in Seoul on September 18 and 19, setting up a potentially intriguing Davis Cup Qualifiers Round 2 tie between two closely matched teams.

India is ranked 19th and Korea 16th in the Davis Cup standings, with the latter holding a slender 6-5 advantage in the head-to-head record. India will pick its squad on Monday.

The last meeting between the sides happened a decade ago, when India prevailed 4-1 in an Asia/Oceania Group I tie played on grass in Chandigarh in 2016. The Korean players

are traditionally more comfortable on hard courts, and that is why India had chosen grass at that time.

India earned its place in the second round with a dramatic 3-2 win over the Netherlands in Bengaluru in February. Dhakshinewar Suresh was the hero, winning both his singles rubbers and partnering Yuki Bhambri to victory in the doubles clash.

The victory was significant as it took India into the second round of the qualifiers for the first time since the current format was introduced in 2019.

Korea, meanwhile, produced an equally impressive upset, defeating 2016 champion Argentina 3-2 in Busan. The second-round encounter will be a winner-takes-all contest for a place in the Davis Cup Final 8 in November.

Bhairava should score an encore

RACING

HYDERABAD: The five-year-old gelding Bhairava, who won well in his last outing, should score an encore in the Telangana and Andhra Sub Area Trophy, the main event of Sunday's (Aug. 9) races.

1. SULTAN PHEROZE PLATE (Div. I) (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 2.10: 1. Daryooshi (5) Afro K 56, 2. Mantle Plume (8) B.R. Kumar 56, 3. Ashwa Jaffna (2) Gaurav 54.5, 4. Gacchanmanasvin (6) Md. Ismail 54.5, 5. Goddess Of Light (3) Md. Ekram 54.5, 6. Materiality (7) P. Ajeeth K 54.5, 7. Miri (1) Mohit 54.5, 8. N R I Royal Power (9) Kuldeep Sr. 54.5, 9. Northern Sky (11) Rafique Sk. 54.5, 10. Star Lit (4) G. Naresh 54.5 and 11. Veera's Lakshmi (10) Santosh Raj 54.5.

1. NORTHERN SKY, 2. GACCHANMANASVIN, 3. N R I ROYAL POWER

2. SULTAN PHEROZE PLATE (Div. II) (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 2.10: 1. French Lieutenant (3) Surya Prakash 56, 2. Svalpavirayasaktih (6) Santosh Raj 56, 3. Fight Wings (1) R.S. Jodha 54.5, 4. Kinship (8) D.S. Deora 54.5, 5. Magical Touch (10) Kuldeep Sr. 54.5, 6. Menlo Park (2) P. Sai K 54.5, 7. N R I Crypto Power (9) Rafique Sk. 54.5, 8. N R I Sunpower (5) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 9. Queen Dali (7) Akshay K 54.5 and 10. Trend Setter (4) Abhay Singh 54.5.

1. QUEEN DALLI, 2. N R I CRYPTO POWER, 3. N R I SUNPOWER

3. NORTHERN DANCER PLATE (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.45: 1. Greif (5) P. Sai K 60, 2. Catchme If You Can (3) Afro K 57.5, 3. Catch The Worm (9) B.R. Kumar 55.5, 4. Tootsie Darling (8) Kuldeep Jr. 55.5, 5. Crimson Flame (2) Rafique Sk. 54.5, 6. Divine Secret (4) Gaurav 54, 7. Mystical Dawn (7) P. Ajeeth K 54, 8. Calababas (6) Ajay K 53.5, 9. Red Hot Punch (1) Ashad Asbar 52 and 10. Fly Totthe Stars (10) Surya Prakash 50.

1. GREIF, 2. TOOTSIE DARLING, 3. MYSTICAL DAWN

4. FAIRWAY PLATE (1,600m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 3.20: 1. Quintessential (1) P. Ajeeth K 62, 2. Secret Option (2) A.A. Vikrant 61.5, 3. Zorinella (4) Abhay Singh 61.5, 4. Beech Wood (10) Gaurav 61, 5. Golden Bourbon (9) Akshay K 61, 6. Hoping High (7) Mohit 61, 7. American Gangster (11) Ashad Asbar 59, 8. Muaser (5) Ashad Asbar 59, 9. Soorya Vahan (12) Santosh Raj 58, 10. Always Special (3) Arjun 57, 11. Hopewell Island (6) G. Naresh 54 and 12. Niloufer The Great (8) Rafique Sk. 50.

1. QUINTESSENTIAL, 2. SECRET OPTION, 3. GOLDEN BOURBON

5. TELANGANA AND ANDHRA SUB AREA TROPHY (1,600m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 3.55: 1. Sugar (6) B.R. Kumar 60.5, 2. Last Wish (8) Surya Prakash 58.5, 3. Shadow Of The Moon (4) A.A. Vikrant 57.5, 4. Silvera (10) P. Ajeeth K 56.5, 5. Bhairava (10) P. Ajeeth K 56, 6. Ode To Nature (---), 7. Hurricane Bay (7)

Afro K 55, 8. Detective (9) Kuldeep Sr. 54.5, 9. Dapper Look (1) Md. Ekram 53, 10. Lucky Zone (3) Kuldeep Jr. 52.5, 11. N R I Triple Power (5) Shivam 52 and 12. Corte Madera (2) Ajay K 50.

1. BHAIRAVA, 2. N R I TRIPLE POWER, 3. SILVER ASH

6. ADLER WISHES PLATE (1,800m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5.05: 1. Hoping Star (5) Mohit 60, 2. Take A Breath (4) Rafique Sk. 57.5, 3. N R I Star (6) Afro K 54, 4. Shubhbrak (3) Kuldeep Jr. 54, 5. Silver Arrow (1) A.A. Vikrant 53.5 and 6. Exclusive Luck (2) Md. Ekram 51.5.

1. EXCLUSIVE LUCK, 2. N R I STAR, 3. SHUBHRAK

7. ADLER PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5.05: 1. Orionave (9) Md. Ekram 61, 2. Miss Marvelous (8) G. Naresh 60.5, 3. Swiss Girl (11) A.A. Vikrant 59.5, 4. Aditiya (4) Rafique Sk. 58.5, 5. Cherish The Lady (2) Ajay K 57.5, 6. Beverley (7) Arjun 56.5, 7. American Affair (10) P. Ajeeth K 56, 8. My Honey (3) Shivam 54, 9. Kantha (1) D.S. Deora 53, 10. December Caspian (5) Mohit 51.5 and 11. Char Ek Char (6) Kuldeep Jr. 50.

1. AMERICAN AFFAIR, 2. DECEMBER CASPIAN, 3. SWISS GIRL
Day's Best: AMERICAN AFFAIR
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 5, 6 & 7.
Tanala: All races.

Yajas, bowlers help Warriors edge Kings in an exciting tie

DPL

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Riding on Yajas Sharma's 25-ball 46 and an all-round bowling effort, Outer Delhi Warriors clinched a 25-run win over Central Delhi Kings in the Delhi Premier League at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Saturday night.

With opener Yajas laying the foundation, Warriors posted 216 for nine in 20 overs. In reply, Kings were bowled out for 191. They seemed set for a crushing defeat at 141 for eight.

However, Jasvir Sehrawat wasn't willing to give in. Having walked in at No. 7, the left-hander displayed his big-hitting ability in a partnership of 50 with Divij Mehra for the ninth wicket.

With the equation boiling down to 26 needed off 18 balls with two wickets in hand, the game could have gone either way.

But Navdeep Saini sealed the win for Warriors with the wickets of Jasvir and Gavnish Khurana off successive balls. For Warriors, Saini and Shivam Sharma made three break-



On the rampage: Yajas smashed a 25-ball 46 for Warriors. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

throughs each.

Purani Dilli 6 and South Delhi Superstarz had to settle for a point each after their Saturday afternoon duel was called off due to rain. With heavy rain lashing down in recent days, this was the third consecutive game that was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

The scores:

Outer Delhi Warriors 216/9 in 20 overs (Yajas Sharma 46, Money Grewal 2/47, Jonty Sidhu 2/14) bt Central Delhi Kings 191 in 17.2 overs (Yash Dhull 47, Jasvir Sehrawat 62, Shivam Sharma 3/37, Navdeep Saini 3/34, Pratham Saluja 2/35, Harsh Tyagi 2/26).

Purani Dilli 6 vs. South Delhi Superstarz abandoned due to rain.

NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

In this Hon'ble High Court monitored sale of commercial properties of defaulted financial establishment, namely Neomax Properties Pvt. Ltd. and its sister concerns, are proposed to be brought for sale by way of E-tender cum E-auction through the MSTC website (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/nmap/index.jsp>). The interested bidders may participate in the event by registering in MSTC and depositing Pre-Bid EMD on the website.

Further, for the details of the properties and updates, the bidders may visit the EOW website (www.tneow.tn.gov.in).

Sl. No.	Name of the Project Village/Taluk/District	Property Details	Land Area Extent
1	Courtrallam Resorts, Ayiraperi Village, Tirunelveli Dist.	Upset Price: Rs. 43,19,80,000/- Prebid EMD:Rs. 4,31,98,000/-	30.69 Acres, Built up area - 43,164 Sq.ft. (approx).
2	Kodai Road- Drive in Hotel Jambudurai Kottai Village, Dindigul Dist.	Upset Price: Rs. 5,06,25,000/- Prebid EMD: Rs. 10,62,500/-	2.64 Acres, Built up area - 13,132.44 Sq.ft.
3	Kodai Road- Catering Institute, Jambudurai Kottai Village, Dindigul Dist.	Upset Price: Rs. 5,72,50,000/- Prebid EMD: Rs. 57,25,000/-	3.12 Acres, Built up area - 12,395.25 Sq.ft.
4	Sivagangai Arasanoor Drive-in Hotel, Sivagangai Dist.	Upset Price: Rs. 8,10,00,000/- Prebid EMD: Rs. 81,00,000/-	74,414 Sq.Ft. Built up area - 9,950 Sq.ft.
5	Green Royale Resort Bodi, Theni Dist.	Upset Price: Rs. 25,00,00,000/- Prebid EMD: Rs. 2,50,00,000/-	2.285 Acres, Built up area - 26,977.06 Sq.ft.
6	Green Royale Resort - Staff Quarters, Theni Dist.	Upset Price: Rs. 1,00,49,375/- Prebid EMD: Rs. 10,04,938/-	1,270 Sq.Ft. Built up area - 2,590 Sq.ft.
7	Cumbum (Barren Land), L.F.Road, Cumbum Town, Theni.	Upset Price: Rs. 6,52,57,500/- Prebid EMD: Rs. 65,25,750/-	87.01 Cents.
8	Naga Nandhana Mills Ltd, Vakkanangundu Village, Virudhunagar District.	Upset Price: Rs. 25,23,71,250/- Prebid EMD: Rs. 2,52,37,125/-	39.16 Acres, Built up area - 1,03,096 Sq.ft.
9	Virudhunagar Drive-In-Hotel, Vaipoottanpatti Village, Virudhunagar District.	Upset Price: Rs. 7,75,32,352/- Prebid EMD: Rs. 77,53,236/-	67.33 Cents Built up area - 19,584 Sq.ft.
10	Virudhunagar Barren Land 3, Vaipoottanpatti Village, Virudhunagar District.	Upset Price: Rs. 2,79,37,500/- Prebid EMD: Rs. 27,93,750/-	74.50 Cents.
11	Madurai High court Backside (Barren Land), Ulaganeri, Kalkappan Bit-I, Ilanthaikulam Villages, Madurai District.	Upset Price: Rs. 172,44,69,375/- Prebid EMD: Rs. 17,24,46,938/-	38 Acres 11 Cents.
12		Plot No. Upset Price (in Rs.) Prebid EMD (in Rs.)	
13		63 36,00,000/- 3,60,000/-	2400 Sq.ft.
14		6 64,95,937.5/- 6,49,594/-	3997.5 Sq.ft.
15		5 62,03,437.5/- 6,20,344/-	3817.5 Sq.ft.
16		23 97,50,000/- 9,75,000/-	6000 Sq.ft.
17		152 25,78,125/- 2,57,813/-	1650 Sq.ft.
18		153 25,78,125/- 2,57,813/-	1650 Sq.ft.
19		189 23,43,750/- 2,34,375/-	1500 Sq.ft.
20		192 24,21,250/- 2,42,125/-	1490 Sq.ft.
21		190 22,50,000/- 2,25,000/-	1500 Sq.ft.
22		199 22,50,000/- 2,25,000/-	1500 Sq.ft.
23		253 38,71,875/- 3,87,188/-	2478 Sq.ft.
		11 & 12 7,29,20,000/- 72,92,000/-	12000 Sq.ft. Build up area- 3931.125 SQ.FT
24	Western Valley-Periyakulam. Lakshmpuram, Theni.	S.No's. 2489/1, 2489/2. Upset Price: Rs. 5,86,25,000/- Prebid EMD: Rs. 58,62,500/-	4.69 Acre
25	Western Valley-Periyakulam. Lakshmpuram, Theni.	S.No. 2502/1. Upset Price: Rs. 1,85,00,000 /- Prebid EMD: Rs. 18,50,000/-	1.48 Acre

Important Schedule & Information

Date of site inspection and document verification	13.08.2026 to 13.09.2026
Date of Assistance to the bidders by the MSTC officials for Registration in the MSTC Portal in online mode	24.08.2026 to 14.09.2026
Date of auction	16.09.2026 , 10.30 AM to 17.09.2026, 5.00 PM (Auto extension applicable)

- **Pre-Bid EMD (Except Eligible Neomax Depositors):** Must be deposited well in advance as per the MSTC auction catalogue requirements.
- **Minimum Incremental Value:** Rs. 10,000/-
- The properties are to be auctioned on an 'as is where is' condition on the basis of the title deeds on record. It is for the bidders to satisfy themselves of the title and also the physical details and participate in the auction on their own best judgment.
- The successful bids, once zeroed in by the MSTC, will be confirmed only after placing it before the Court. The Court, for the reasons of adequacy of price or otherwise, has the right to confirm or reject the bid. In case of rejection, the EMD amount will be returned to the participant(s).
- Once the bid is confirmed, the entire sale price has to be deposited by the successful bidders (Except the Neomax depositors who bid without pre-bid EMD) within ten (10) days from the date of confirmation of the auction, failing which the EMD will be forfeited.

*Neomax depositors who claim exemption from Pre-Bid EMD can view their status in the excel sheet posted on the EOW website.

Contact Details:

- **For Inspection/Queries:** Contact EOW at 9080381065/8778245559 and eowmadurai2@gmail.com.
- **For Registration & Auction Helpdesk:** Contact **MSTC** at **9499054101/102/103/104** (10:30 AM to 5:00 PM on working days) and **sroopn9@mstcindia.in**. Visit **www.mstcecommerce.com** or **www.mstcindia.co.in** to participate.

Place: Chennai Date: 09.08.2026	Sd/- Competent Authority/Supintendent of Police, EOW, South Zone.
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DIPRI/ 676 /Display/2026



Disrupted lives: A view of Nepali Khuti village, one of the worst-affected areas along the Dikhow River in Sivasagar district.



What remains: Moromi Bora Bordoloi searches for her children's books among the belongings left behind after floodwaters destroyed their home in Majgaon village.



Safe passage: NDRF personnel evacuate villagers from Panbesa village in Sivasagar district as floodwaters continue to isolate homes and communities.



Race to rescue: An aerial view of a rescue operation using rubber boats in flood-hit areas of Sivasagar on August 4, as teams reached people stranded by rising waters. ANI

The wounds beneath Assam's deadly flood

Mining, quarrying, deforestation and jhum cultivation may have destabilised slopes and intensified the impact of the deluge; the floods this year have killed 98 people so far, most of them in three districts — Sivasagar, Charaideo, and Jorhat; the Chief Minister has called for science-backed solutions to tackle the issues



Ritu Raj Konwar
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On July 19, a cloudburst upstream sent a sudden wall of water through Upper Assam. Sivasagar, Charaideo, Jorhat and Golaghat districts are experiencing their worst flooding in decades, with the Dikhow River breaching its extreme flood level. Bihubor, Nepali Khuti, Bihari Basti, and Railwayghat are among the worst-affected areas in Sivasagar district.

Assam has a history of major floods up to five times a year, killing scores of people and animals and damaging crops and assets worth more than ₹1,000 crore annually. The floods this year have killed 98 people so far, most of them in three eastern districts — Sivasagar, Charaideo, and Jorhat.

Experts believe the catastrophe may not have been caused by extreme rainfall alone. Satellite imagery has revealed extensive excavation, deforestation and other human interventions along the river's upper reaches, particularly in Nagaland, raising concerns that decades of environmental degradation may have intensified the disaster. Coal mining, stone quarrying and shifting (jhum) cultivation have stripped large

stretches of hill slopes of vegetation, making them increasingly unstable and vulnerable to erosion and landslides. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said finding a "national solution" to the State's annual flooding was more important than declaring it a national problem.

For decades, the All Assam Students' Union and other organisations have been asking the Centre to declare the State's flood and erosion crisis as a "national problem".

"Declaring floods a national problem is not going to work. We need a national solution with scientific interventions. We need concrete schemes on how Assam can protect itself if water comes downhill from Nagaland," the Chief Minister said on Friday.

The Chief Minister said that Assam has long relied on embankments and geo-bags for flood management, but lacks a scientific mechanism to tackle the issue.

Temporary refuge: Women and children take shelter at a relief camp on the outskirts of Sivasagar town. Altogether, 133 relief camps and relief distribution centres were operational across six districts.





Picking up the pieces: Flood-displaced villagers take shelter in makeshift camps along a railway line in Betbari village, Sivasagar district.



Precious pages: Books salvaged from floodwaters are laid out along a roadside to dry in the Najira area of Sivasagar district.



Lessons continue: Children attend classes at a relief camp in Sivasagar town; with thousands displaced and staying in relief camps, temporary arrangements have been made to keep essential services going.



After the deluge: A car remains stuck in thick layers of mud and silt deposited by receding floodwaters in Nepali Khuti village.



Long wait: Villagers wait for relief supplies in Nemaian village in Sivasagar district. Normalcy is likely to take a long time to come.