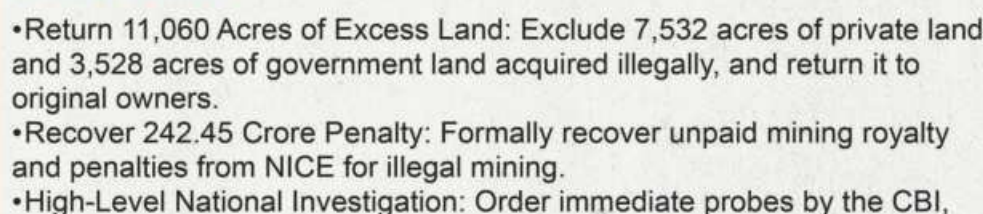


- Umang Realtech Pvt Ltd • Dhammanagi Developers
- SBK Properties Pvt Ltd • Ajmera Housing Corp. • Darshita Housing Pvt Ltd
- 2,472 Acres Reallocated: Land earmarked for five townships under the Outline Development Plan was quietly reallocated to road components without satisfactory documentation.
- **Environmental Damage:** Precious lake-beds and water bodies were illegally transferred to NICE, causing severe environmental degradation and impacting Bengaluru's water supply.



1. ACQUIRED FOR THE PUBLIC. MONETISED FOR PRIVATE GAIN.
2. PUBLIC PURPOSE OR PRIVATE PROFIT?
3. ACQUISITION BECOMES COMMERCIALISATION.

1. Take over the Bengaluru–Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor Project (BMICP) / NICE Road project with immediate effect;
2. Stop, with immediate effect, all toll collection by NICE on the Expressway, Peripheral Road and Link Road;
3. Constitute an independent special team of experts to conduct a comprehensive forensic audit of NICE's accounts and operations, as recommended by the Hon'ble High Court, and publish the report and action taken thereon;
4. Take appropriate departmental and, where warranted, criminal action against officials found complicit in the violations recorded by the High Court;
5. Restore and protect the lakes, tanks and tank-bed lands transferred to NICE, and take steps to remedy the resulting damage to Bengaluru's ecology and water supply;
6. Ensure that the affected farmers and landowners are paid fair and prompt compensation in accordance with Article 300A of the Constitution of India and applicable law

* Map not to scale

CM
YK



THE HINDU GROUP

A Special Publication from The Hindu Group

ONE NATION. MANY VOICES.

ONE DEBATE. MANY PERSPECTIVES.

A powerful exploration of the delimitation debate and its impact on the **Union** and its **Units**.

**TIMELY & RELEVANT**

Addresses one of India's most important political conversations.

**IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS**

Well-researched insights on states, representation, and democracy.

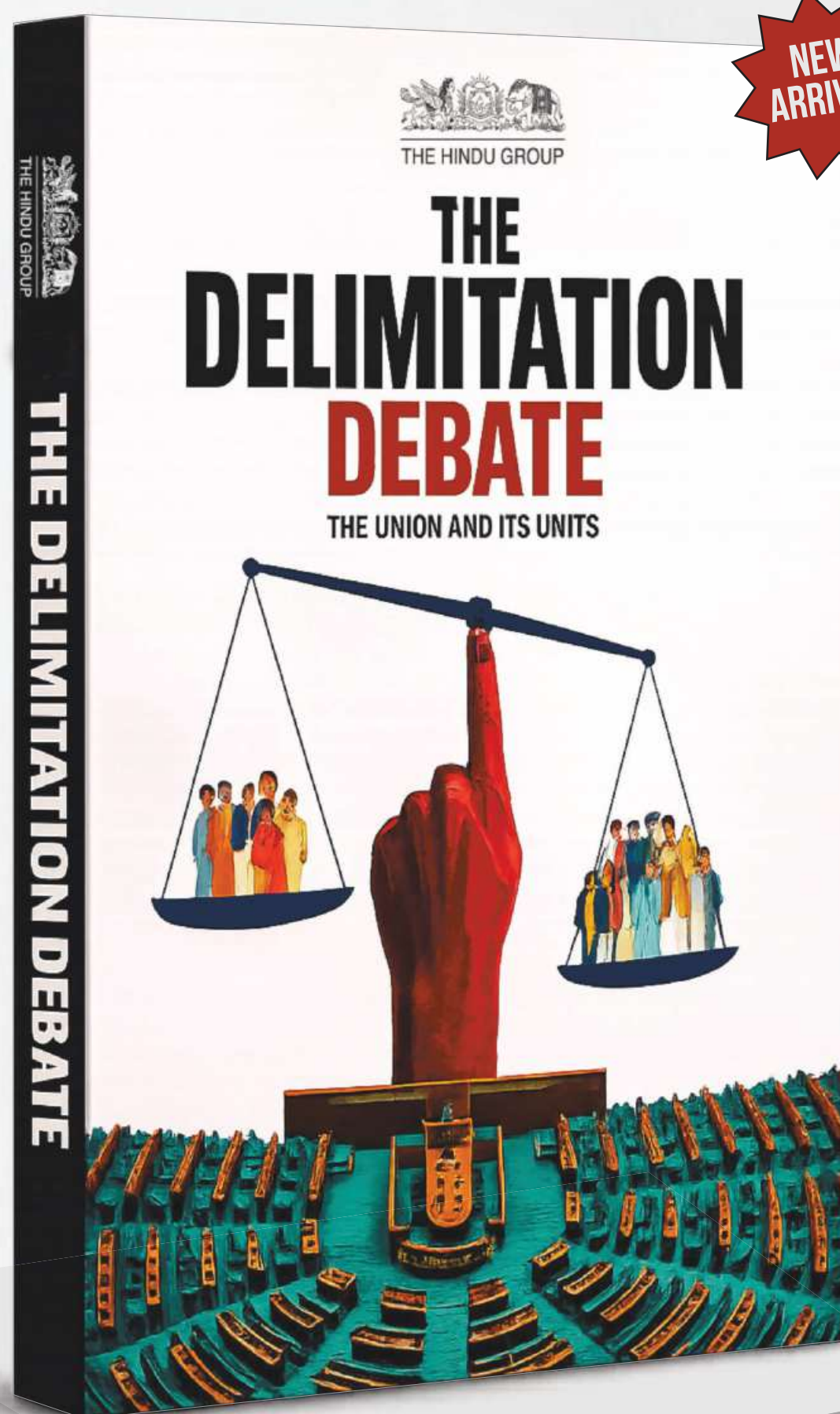
**BALANCED PERSPECTIVE**

Explores the impact on both the Union and its Units.

**ESSENTIAL READING**

For policymakers, scholars, students, and every engaged citizen.

“ When boundaries change, so does the balance of power. Be informed. Be involved. ”

AVAILABLE NOW**NEW
ARRIVAL**

*Shipping charges applicable | Terms and Conditions apply

Launch Offer

~~₹750~~ **₹525**

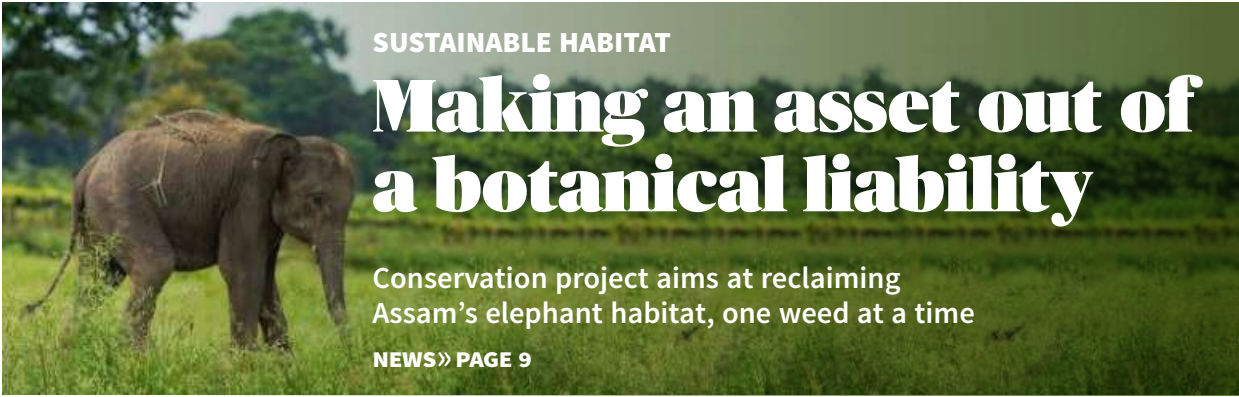


TO AVAIL THIS LAUNCH OFFER,
SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT

newsth.live/THBookStore



For bulk booking and enquiries, contact us at bookstore@thehindu.co.in



SUSTAINABLE HABITAT

Making an asset out of a botanical liability

Conservation project aims at reclaiming Assam's elephant habitat, one weed at a time

NEWS » PAGE 9



Retractions alone don't correct research issues

SCIENCE » PAGE 11



What is the 'Great Transhipment Scam' ?

FAQ » PAGE 12



India holds the edge in Colombo Test

SPORT » PAGE 15

IN BRIEF



Centre sets up panel to resolve Gorkha issue

KOLKATA
The Centre on Saturday decided to set up a committee to draft an agreement for a "permanent political solution" to the demands of the Gorkha community in the Darjeeling hills and adjoining areas of north Bengal. » [Page 7](#)

Be loud and fight for your space, Rahul tells Gen Z

PUNE
In his fourth 'Chhatron ki Goonj' address held in Pune on Saturday, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi asked Gen Z girls to "be loud, be proud and fight for your space in the society". » [Page 8](#)

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 6
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Cong. alleges bulk voter purge bid in Uttarakhand

Opposition party raises the issue with the EC, says several individuals have submitted thousands of Form 7 applications for deletion of voters from electoral rolls under the ongoing SIR in the State

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Congress leaders in Uttarakhand have alleged that the Election Commission (EC) is accepting and processing unverified bulk applications to delete voters' names during the claims and objections period of the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of voter lists in the State.

The party submitted a memorandum to the poll body in Delhi on Thursday, complaining that certain individuals have each submitted thousands of Form 7 applications. A party delegation subsequently met Uttarakhand's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), B.V.R.C. Purushottam, in Dehradun on Friday to raise their concerns.

Claims and objections

The booth-level officer or the Electoral Registration Officer has to conduct an inquiry into each Form 7 application and issue a notice to the voter before taking any action

- Form 7 is filed to object to an existing name on the electoral rolls or to request the **deletion of a name** due to reasons such as death, migration, or ineligibility
- Most of the people linked to **similar cases** of bulk Form 7 submissions in Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Assam had denied having anything to do with them



Verification wait: More than 8 lakh voters have been removed from the draft electoral roll for Uttarakhand under the ongoing SIR phase 3. FILE PHOTO

A Form 7 is filed to object to an existing name on the electoral rolls or to request the deletion of a name due to reasons such as death, migration, or ineligibility. The booth-level officer (BLO) or the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) has to conduct an in-

quiry into each Form 7 application and issue a notice to the voter before taking any action. As *The Hindu* had earlier reported, cases of bulk Form 7 submissions had previously surfaced in States such as Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Assam. Most of the people in whose

names the forms had been filed had denied that they had anything to do with them.

While booth-level agents of political parties are allowed to file maximum 10 Form 7 a day and only 30 in total, there is no limit on how many such forms an individual elector can submit. The Congress, citing data from the Uttarakhand CEO, said that, from the date of voter list draft publication up to August 6, a total of 262 individual objectors had each filed more than 10 Form 7, adding up to several thousands. Mr. Purushottam told *The Hindu* that he would look into all allegations of bulk Form 7 submissions in the State.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

Pressure mounts on BCI chief amid demands for resignation

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

Pressure on incumbent Bar Council of India (BCI) chairperson Manan Kumar Mishra mounted on Saturday with a demand for his resignation being formally raised during a meeting of the BCI General Council at its office in New Delhi.

BCI member Manoj Kumar Narendran from Kerala called for Mr. Mishra's resignation during the meeting, placing the demand directly before the General Council. His call was supported by another member from Uttar Pradesh, advocate Srinath Tripathi.

Mr. Narendran told *The Hindu* that the chairperson did not accept the demand and that the next course of action would be decided later.

He said that the functioning of the BCI had, over the years, increasingly come to be identified with the authority and deci-



Manan Kumar Mishra

sions of its chairperson rather than the collective will of the council.

Concerning moves

"Of particular concern is the amendment by which the tenure of the chairperson was extended to five years. Serious questions arise regarding the legality of such an amendment and the manner in which it was brought about, particularly when its effect was to directly benefit the incumbent chairperson by enabling a substantially longer continuance in office," Mr. Narendran said.

The demand at the General Council meeting came on the heels of a letter by BCI co-chairperson Y.R. Sadasiva Reddy, who called upon Mr. Mishra to step down and sought an independent probe into a series of allegations concerning the functioning and financial administration of the statutory body.

On Thursday, more than 200 lawyers gathered outside the BCI office under the banner of the All India Young Advocates Association, raising demands including reforms in the BCI's election mechanism and greater accountability in its functioning.

On Friday, a plea was filed in the Supreme Court challenging the legality of Mr. Mishra's prolonged tenure as BCI chairperson. The plea has not been listed for hearing yet.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7
SEVERAL ALLEGATIONS
» PAGE 7

Rowing to glory



Team effort: The 'Aroma Chundan' (number 10), rowed by the Aroma Boat Club, finishes first at the 72nd Nehru Trophy Boat Race on Punnarnada Lake in Alappuzha, Kerala, on Saturday. SURESH ALLEPPEY

Centre expands curbs on cold medicines for children under 4

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has imposed restrictions on the manufacture, sale, and distribution of all fixed-dose combinations (FDCs) containing chlorpheniramine maleate and phenylephrine hydrochloride, mandating a clear warning that these medicines shall not be used to treat children below four years of age.

Last year, the Centre restricted certain FDCs containing the two ingredients, subject to the same age-specific warning. The latest notification extends the requirement to all formulations containing these two ingredients. The decision follows recommendations of an expert committee and the Drugs Technical Advisory Board.

The move comes amid tightened scrutiny of

Risk alleviation

The government has noted that the use of the barred ingredients may pose risks to children below four years of age



■ Young children are particularly vulnerable to dosing errors and adverse effects from multi-ingredient medicines

Chlorpheniramine maleate:

- Antihistamine used to **reduce symptoms** of cold
- It can cause **drowsiness** or, paradoxically, excitability

Phenylephrine hydrochloride:

- A decongestant intended to **relieve nasal blockage**
- It can affect **heart rate and blood pressure**

cough-and-cold medicines in young children. The combination of chlorpheniramine maleate, an antihistamine used to reduce symptoms such as a runny nose and sneezing, and phenylephrine hydrochloride, a decongestant intended to relieve nasal blockage, has long been used in cold and allergy preparations. Young chil-

dren are particularly vulnerable to dosing errors and adverse effects from multi-ingredient medicines. Chlorpheniramine can cause marked drowsiness or, paradoxically, excitability, while phenylephrine can affect heart rate and blood pressure.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

CJP, Jaipur villagers lodge cross FIRs day after school visit incident

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

A day after members of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) were allegedly attacked during a visit to the Government Primary School in Jaipur's Rampura-Kanwarapura village, the outfit and local villagers lodged FIRs on Saturday accusing one another of assault and creating disturbance.

A CJP team had reached the village on Friday to inspect the condition of the school when a confrontation broke out between its members and local residents. Shivdaspora Station House Officer Rajesh Gautam said a local villager lodged a complaint on Friday night, alleging that children were frightened and stopped attending school after the incident.

Mr. Gautam said the second FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint by a CJP member, who alleged that members of the team had been assaulted during the incident.

'Attack by BJP goons'

Reacting to the FIR, CJP co-convenor Ashutosh Ranka alleged that the attackers were "goons" called by Bharatiya Janata Party leaders. "We have videos and all the evidence. If they also have evidence, let them show it," he said.

About 20 students turned up for classes as an uneasy calm prevailed in the village on Saturday. The students were shifted to a vacant house. Until then, they were attending classes in a cattle enclosure after the school building was declared unsafe.

1st ANNIVERSARY

*In loving memory of a true legend,
a guiding light, and an eternal inspiration*

Mr. P. S. Ravindran

Director, Vajiram & Ravi

1949 – 2025

*His vision, wisdom, and unwavering dedication
continue to inspire us every day.*

*Fondly remembered by his family, colleagues,
faculty, Staffs and generations of students of
Vajiram & Ravi.*

VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

INBRIEF



BJP seeks CBI probe into Jharkhand recruitment exams

Union Minister Sanjay Seth on Saturday accused the Hemant Soren government of using force against students protesting alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations in Jharkhand and demanded a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation into all recruitment exams conducted over the past six years. He alleged JMM workers assaulted protesters and students in Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Giridih and Garhwa. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Babulal Marandi sought the identification and immediate arrest of those responsible.

ED searches pastor’s premises over alleged FCRA violations

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said it searched two premises in Jaipur linked to Rajasthan pastor Ravi Mohan Pahadiya on August 21 under the Foreign Exchange Management Act. The ED alleged that Mr. Pahadiya, a Protestant missionary affiliated with Hope Ministry, received ₹2.88 crore in foreign funds without FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) registration and used them for proselytisation and conversion among SC-Valmiki and ST-Bhill communities. Of this, ₹2.34 crore was received by Mr. Pahadiya and his wife, citing consultancy and family maintenance. It alleged he used funds for personal expenses, travel and property. PTI

Punjab Congress distances itself from MP’s remarks on Sajjan Kumar’s death

Press Trust of India
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Congress leaders have distanced themselves from party MP Deepender Singh Hooda’s remarks describing the death of former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar as an “irreparable

loss”.

Kumar, 80, who was serving two life sentences in connection with the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, died on Thursday.

Punjab Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring said on Saturday that Mr. Hooda’s com-

ments “may be his personal view”. He said the riots were a “massive tragedy” whose wounds remain.

Jalandhar MP Charanjit Singh Channi stated on X that Kumar’s death in prison was “a dark reminder of an individual who disgraced humanity and jus-

tice”. He called him a “killer of the Sikh community”.

Aam Aadmi Party MLA Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal asked the Congress leadership to clarify whether Mr. Hooda’s remarks represented the party’s position and demanded action against him.

Sowing the seeds of a solar power intervention

India’s emerging agrivoltaics model enables farmers to grow crops beneath solar panels, offering a way to generate electricity while diversifying income. High upfront costs, financing constraints and uneven policy support, however, are limiting its adoption beyond pilots



Kajodmal Jat (second from left) and his family members at the 600 kW Agri-PV pilot in Kundanpura village, Bassi, Rajasthan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Anand Jain, an MTech graduate from IIT Roorkee and a farmer since the 1990s, had arrived at the same question from a different direction. “Because I am a farmer, I wanted to save every inch of my land,” he says. The panels, he reasoned, should adapt to the farm, not force the farm out. His own experiment became an early example of the kind of farmer-led model that ICRIER would later seek to study more systematically.

The ICRIER team distilled its findings in an April 2025 report titled ‘Solar as a Third Crop to Augment Farmers’ Income’. They

then set out to test this idea in the field.

Taking the risk

Jat and his family were intrigued but cautious. “We are often shown ambitious schemes and glossy promises, but when things go south, we are left to navigate the uncertainty and financial risk on our own,” recalls Shiv, 36, Jat’s son, who was closely involved with his father in the APV project. The researchers, meanwhile, wanted to know whether Jat was serious enough to continue cultivating the land for the next 25 years. “For us, Kajodmal was a stranger. For

Maharashtra issues notices to over 700 drivers over lack of Marathi proficiency

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

Maharashtra’s Transport Department has issued notices to 777 drivers lacking a working knowledge of practical Marathi after 5,211 drivers were tested across the State, officials said on



Drivers have been given time till Sept. 30 to learn Marathi. PTI

Saturday. The inspection drive,

voltaics were to create farmer-entrepreneurs rather than grant recipients, Jat had to invest in the project himself and share its risks.

Trusting the process

The next challenge lay in retrofitting an operational solar plant. “A lot of individual farmers told us, ‘We already have a steady source of income. If construction means losing energy revenue during that period, we’re not interested,’” recalls Subhodeep Basu, a researcher at ICRIER, who worked on the ‘Solar as a Third Crop..’ study. Hence, they retrofitted the plant, one inverter at a time, allowing the remaining sections to continue generating electricity. “That way we could minimise this energy loss,” says Basu.

The ICRIER team decided to advise farmers on which crops were most likely to thrive beneath the panels. Jat chose maize, hoping to grow it during the off season under the cooler microclimate created by the panels, when supplies were thin and prices higher. “This year, we harvested an abundant maize crop with much less water,” says Shiv.

For this pilot, the additional cost of retrofitting, i.e., ₹35.3 lakh, was provided by Kotak Mahindra through their CSR programme Kotak Karma.

DMK restructures organisation, sets age and term limits

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has announced a major revamp of the party organisation at all levels, with the aim of infusing new blood and bringing in younger faces.

The changes, announced on Saturday, have been incorporated based on the recommendations of the revamp committee constituted by party president and former Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

The party has fixed the maximum age cap for district unit secretaries at 70, and has also limited their tenure to a maximum of three terms.

More district units

A resolution adopted at the party’s high-level executive committee meeting, chaired by Mr. Stalin, decided to create more district units and increase the count to 110. At present, the DMK has 77 district units.

Under the new rules, a district unit should comprise two Assembly constituencies within a revenue district. If a constituency is left out after the division, it should be merged appropriately with another dis-



Former Tamil Nadu chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin during the party’s executive committee meeting in Chennai on Saturday. PTI

trict unit within the revenue district. The party president will identify the Assembly constituencies that will form the district units under the new arrangement.

The resolution said the post of city unit secretary was not necessary as the number of district units was being increased.

Pointing out that local units were the primary roots of the party organisation, the party decided to introduce younger faces to head them by fixing the maximum age for unit secretaries at 45.

Unit secretaries can hold the post for two terms.

said. The Regional Transport Office has deployed marshals and officials to test drivers through everyday conversations at busy stands and junctions. Marathi proficiency is mandatory for permit renewals and new badges under the Maharashtra Motor Vehicles Rules.

SPOTLIGHT

Vanita Bhatnagar

Kajodmal Jat’s solar farm is different from those surrounding it. In Kundanpura, a village in Bassi block, nearly an hour’s drive east of Jaipur, Rajasthan’s capital, the sight of fields dotted with rows of ground-mounted solar panels is now common. On 60-year-old Jat’s land, though, tender maize unfurls under the dark glass of the panels reflecting the afternoon light. The maize fills a space that conventional solar farms leave barren.

Jat has been working with researchers of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) on an agrphotovoltaics (APV) project. Also known as agrivoltaics or agriPV, it is a practice in which the same land is used for agriculture and solar power generation. His farm is part of a pilot, spread across nearly 3 acres. This is Rajasthan’s first farmer-owned APV, which generates 600 kW. The installation feeds enough electricity into a local grid to provide day-time irrigation power for around 250 farms.

In 2023, inspired by the growing solar-panel-covered fields of his neighbours, Jat exchanged the uncertainties of each harvest for the predictability of monthly income. “My farm was generating solar power, but I could not come to terms with the fact that I was no longer able to cultivate my land because

of the solar panels,” he recalls. India ranks 102nd out of 123 countries on the 2025 Global Hunger Index. Converting productive farmlands to solar power plants risks intensifying food insecurity.

APV works on the principle that partial shading from solar panels can reduce heat stress and evaporation while creating a more stable microclimate, potentially valuable for farming in dry and arid regions. Laxmi Sharma, a research associate with the ICRIER, was assigned the job of helping Jat explore the APV model. “When we showed him that he could combine farming with solar energy generation, he was delighted by the prospect,” she recalls.

APV can increase farmers’ annual returns by around ₹3 lakh to ₹4 lakh per acre, but elevated mounting structures add nearly ₹35 lakh over a conventional installation.

Solar entrepreneurs

Through farming Jat was able to earn close to ₹40,000 a year, but with these panels, his annual income has increased to about ₹3 lakh.

In mid-2024, a young team of researchers in New Delhi set out to study the viability of a farmer-owned agrivoltaics model. “When we started, there were only around two dozen agrivoltaics pilots in India,” says Laxmi, who joined ICRIER in 2024 for this project. “Most were led by academic institutions or private developers.”

In Madhya Pradesh,

INBRIEF



DYFI Kerala elects its first woman president

Chintha Jerome, a Kollam native, has been elected the first woman president of the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) in Kerala. A CPI(M) State committee member, Ms. Jerome was elected to the top post at the organisation's 16th State Conference in Thrissur on Saturday. She entered student politics through the Students' Federation of India (SFI) and rose through its ranks. Former SFI State secretary M. Vijin was elected for the same role in the DYFI.

Karnataka govt. bans sale of non-dairy paneer for one year

The Karnataka government has prohibited the manufacture, storage, distribution and sale of analogue or non-dairy paneer being sold as "paneer" across the State for one year, citing the need to protect public health and consumer interests. The order defines analogue or non-dairy paneer as a paneer-like product in which milk fat or milk solids have been wholly or partly replaced by vegetable oil, vegetable fat or other non-dairy ingredients.

Centre orders withdrawal of CISF from Vizag Steel Plant

In a major development concerning critical public sector infrastructure, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs is said to have approved the complete withdrawal of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) from Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant by November 17. The pullback will affect 1,329 posts, comprising 1,033 personnel from the security wing and 298 from the fire wing, according to CISF Directorate General.

Karnataka SIR lists 16.38 lakh 'dead', 4 times State's average

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Of the over 1.08 crore voters identified till August 17, under the Absent, Shifted, Duplicate, Dead, and Other (ASDDO) categories in Karnataka, over 16.38 lakh have been marked as "dead".

What SRS indicates

Between 2002 and 2024, Karnataka's estimated total population deaths work out to around 98 lakh, or an average of about 4.45 lakh deaths a year, based on population estimates and the State's annual crude death rates reported through the Sample Registration System (SRS).

Governor summons PSC Secretary in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Friday summoned Saju George, Secretary of the Kerala Public Service Commission (KPSC), in connection with the alleged irregularities in the examinations.

The Governor sought general information on the present controversy and the progress of the investigation in the meeting held on Friday, sources said.

The PSC is battling a controversy over alleged anomalies in evaluation. A Special Investigation Team of the Crime Branch is probing the alleged malpractices.

Keralam to approach Centre against Railway bifurcation

Railways to detach Mangaluru region from Palakkad division and merge it with Mysuru division from Oct. 1; Satheesan fears it will cause substantial losses to State; Karnataka rail patrons upbeat

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/
MANGALURU

Keralam has lodged a strong protest against the Railway Board's decision to detach the Mangaluru region from the Palakkad division and merge it with the South Western Railway's Mysuru division.

The decision will take effect from October 1.

Keralam Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan on Saturday called the Railway move unacceptable. "It will severely impact the revenue and development of the Southern Railway and Kerala. We will take up the



Mangaluru Junction is one of the three stations in Mangaluru region that will come under the South Western Railway. H.S. MANJUNATH

issue urgently with the Prime Minister and the Union Railway Minister," he said in a post on X. The merger of the Ullal-Mangaluru section, currently under the Southern Railway, with the South Western Railway would also cause substantial losses to the

Southern Railway and Kerala, the statement said. The decision was taken without any discussions with the State, it added.

Friends on Rail, a passenger association, said it could lead to the eventual elimination of several low-income stations, and ad-

versely affect Mangaluru-Keralam train services.

However, Pashchima Karavali Railway Yatri Abhivridhi Samithi and other rail patrons said Mr. Satheesan's statement only corroborates the oft-repeated grievance of coastal Karnataka that rail revenues from Mangaluru were being used to develop rail infrastructure in Kerala. The samithi said more than half of the Palakkad division's revenue, about ₹800 crore a year, came from the Mangaluru region, particularly from New Mangalore Port.

Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna called the decision "historic".

2 killed in Telangana pharma unit blast

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Two workers were killed and nine others suffered injuries after an alleged reactor blast triggered a massive fire at a pharmaceutical manufacturing unit at Dothigudem in Yadadri-Bhongir district of Telangana on Friday.

The deceased were identified as Chennu Nagi Reddy, 31, of Chinnagudem village in Nalgonda district, and Naganaboina Naresh Kumar, 29, of Choudaram

in Khammam district. The injured were rescued and shifted to two private hospitals.

The facility, Hazelo Lab, a one-storeyed building, is involved in the manufacture of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients and bulk drug intermediates, according to a regulatory filing with the State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority.

Yadadri-Bhongir District Fire Officer Madhusudan said the cause of fire was under investigation.

Mann's wife sends notice to ex-judge over 'bribe' allegation

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI / CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's wife Gurpreet Kaur on Saturday sent a legal notice to a former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge in connection with the allegations that she sought ₹5 crore to suppress a rape case.

According to Aam Aadmi Party's Moga MLA Amandeep Kaur, Dr. Gurpreet has sent a legal notice seeking an apology within 24 hours, failing which legal proceedings would be initiated.

The matter came to light after the National Human Rights Commission issued a notice to the Punjab government and police chief over a complaint alleging that Mr. Mann's wife demanded ₹5 crore to suppress a rape case, officials said on Saturday.

'Give case to CBI'

State Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring said serious allegations have been levelled and the CM should clarify on the issue.

The party's Jalandhar MP and former CM Charanjit Singh Channi said the matter should be inquired by CBI.

Shiromani Akali Dal leader and former Minister Bikram Singh Majithia also said that the CM should respond to the allegations and hand over the matter to CBI.

Ms. Amandeep launched a sharp attack on the Opposition, over what

she claimed were "baseless allegations".

Report in 2 weeks

Meanwhile, NHRC directed the authorities to probe the allegation and submit an action taken report within two weeks.

"The complainant alleged that a retired judge publicly stated that a demand of ₹5 crore was made in connection with a rape case, allegedly involving the wife of the CM of Punjab," the proceedings dated August 21 read.

An NHRC official said the Commission has taken cognisance of the allegation.

The complaint with NHRC, filed by Legal Rights Observatory, raised concerns that such "interference" could compromise the victim's right to dignity, safety, fair investigation and access to justice, they said. The complainant has requested independent verification of the allegation, preservation of evidence, and "impartial inquiry into any attempt to dilute or influence the investigation", and emphasised that a rape victim's right to justice must remain "above influence, status, or position".

The allegation *prima facie* seems to be a violation of the human rights of the victim, an NHRC Bench presided over by its member Priyank Kanoongo said after taking cognisance of the matter under Section 12 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, according to the proceedings.

Naidu defends data centre, rejects water shortage fears

Harish Gilai
ANAKAPALLI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday dismissed criticism surrounding Google's proposed data centre in Visakhapatnam, stating that those opposing the project fail to understand its potential benefits.

Refuting the claims that the Google data centre is contributing to water shortage in Visakhapatnam, he said construction of the project has not even gath-



N. Chandrababu Naidu

ered pace yet.

He was speaking at a public meeting after launching the "Swarna Andhra-Swachch Andhra" programme at the Zilla

Parishad High School in A. Koduru village of K. Kotapadu mandal under the Madugula Assembly constituency.

Mr. Naidu said that rapid industrialisation and investments would help Anakapalli emerge as the number one district in the State over the next 25 years. Anakapalli, which is located about 34 km from Visakhapatnam, is now attracting investments across sectors, including steel, pharmaceuticals and data centres, he said.

Hard Work Alone Triumphs

BORN : 17-10-1917 EXPIRED : 23-8-1989

Shri. R. THANGANNA GOUNDER
(FOUNDER : SRI VIGNESH YARNS PRIVATE LIMITED)

You left us this day Thirty Seven Years ago
We continue the march in your golden path.

**SRI VIGNESH YARNS PRIVATE LIMITED,
R.T. GROUP OF INDUSTRIES AND
MEMBERS OF R.T. FAMILY, TIRUPUR - 4.**

Please scan this QR for e-auction document

Please scan the QR for location

ANAVRATNA CPSE

**HON'BLE SUPREME COURT
MONITORED HOUSING PROJECTS
THROUGH LD. COURT RECEIVER**

ASPIRE

Executed by

NBCC (India) Limited

BULK SALE OF INVENTORY THROUGH E-AUCTION

ASPIRE
SILICON CITY

Sector 76, NOIDA, UP

**Nearest Metro Station
(Aqua Line): Noida Sec-50
& Sec-76 metro station.**

India Gate: 35 min

Near Spectrum Mall

**Close proximity to
renowned schools**

**Anand Vihar ISBT / Railway
Station - 30 Minutes**

**New Delhi Railway Station
(Ajmeri Gate) - 50 Minutes**

Inventory-
4BHK spacious
apartments
with modern
amenities.

Location details of the project: 28°34'12.0"N 77°22'45.6"E

Last date of submission
of EMD: 24.08.2026

E-auction will be
held on: 25.08.2026

EMD
₹ 8.33 Cr.

Total Sale Value
₹ 416.53 Cr.

Reserve Price
₹ 10,999/- per sqft.

Please scan this QR for e-auction document

For more details, please visit our website:
https://nbccauction.enivida.com

Or

97729 07414

Please scan the QR for location

CM YK M ND-NDE

Classifieds

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

THE HINDU

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

COSMOPOLITAN

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

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

PROPOSALS INVITED from affluent families for Pillai / Nair girl 26 years, raised in UK & USA, very pretty and modern, law graduate, for her remarriage. Caste or language - No issues.Contact: +1 602 491 5783

DIVORCEE

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

Affluent Hindu Nadar Family invites an Alliance for their daughter: 32 yrs, 5'4", Fair, Doctor, currently in USA (willing to relocate) Belongs to a prominent, wealthy background. Seeking a well educated Groom, settled in USA or India. Ct: +91 9791994449 vsajsr@gmail.com

DOCTOR

HINDU, KERALA, Professional parents settled in UAE seek alliance for their daughter, 26 Years, MBBS presently doing MD in reputed college in India. Alliance invited from parents of doctors practicing/ studying in India or Abroad. Caste no bar. Email: spjee68@gmail.com

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

SC GIRL, 38, MBBS, Central government Group A officer. Caste no bar. 858981011.

HINDU VANIYA girl, Trivandrum, 28, 159 cm, M.Sc., Central Govt. job, JSK, DPS, Dept. of Atomic Energy Kalpakam, Tamil Nadu, Ph: 9446160298.

HINDU EZHAVA girl 31yrs, MA (IT), PhD (IT), 160cm, TVM, Asst Professor (English) at a reputed college seeks well educated working groom. Contact: +919600658011.

DOCTOR

Alliance invited by parents for their 25-year-old, 164cm, fair and pleasant-looking Hindu Nair daughter from a well-established, cultured family in Kerala. Currently pursuing MS in ENT at a reputed Government Medical College. Seeking a suitably qualified doctor with MD/MS from a respectable family background. 95672 21555 Email: madhavsunil9@gmail.com

NRI

HINDU NADAR Groom (USA) Wanted for Bride: Hindu Nadar 27 Yrs B.Tech, MS (US), Working in US, Elite Business Family. Ph: 96599-91119 / 98423-44133.

TAMIL

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

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

MBBS 31 Christian DKV Govt MBBS PG Doctors Gnp1/2 Officers preferred 7904678043

ROMAN CATHOLIC, Private, searching for a groom from 27-31 from any subcaste anywhere in India. 8138900487

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

PENTECOST, B.ARCH, Business, 10C PA, looking for a groom for our daughter from 23-28 in TN, Karnataka, Pondi. Ph: 8137003550

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

TAMIL MUSLIM 24 Years MBA Seeks Groom working in UAE, USA, India. For Details Contact: 98431 95231.

CHRISTIAN, DOCTOR, 39 Years Unmarried, Well Settled Family. Seeks Unmarried Doctor Groom. Ct: 7550286805

PROTESTANT, MS, Private, looking for a groom from 28-33 from Rich/affluent in USA or India who willing to relocate, 8137001247

ROMAN CATHOLIC, 32, Business, MBA, looking for any Christian, upper middle or rich groom profile in Pondicherry or Tamilnadu, Kerala, 8138900412

CSI, BDS, looking for a groom from UK and France from 27-36 doctor profile, 8137003516

CHRISTIAN NADAR 30 yrs, RBI Grade B officer seeks suitable groom. AIS / GOI / IT / Doctors / Business. Ct: 9444543920 / 9445366732

TAMIL MUSLIM Fair, 31/157, B.E., MBA, MNC Employee, Short Marriage - Khula Given, Issueless. Seeks Never-Married, Well-Settled Groom. WhatsApp: 6374495811.

CATHOLIC, B.com, Chennai, 28, looking for a groom from 28-33 Rich/affluent in same community, 8138900487

CSI, Rich/affluent, Business, looking for a groom from CSI, Nadar from 25-30 from India, UK PR, Rich/affluent, 8138009214

TAMIL

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, SC, MBC), working within India. Ct: 90803-59864.

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

✓ 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 944415358

MUDALIYAR, 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

NAIDU 34/158CM Divorced short lived Bride French Professor, PP Canada applied Seeks Suitable Groom without Children Caste No Bar 9444255509

GROOM WANTED Naidu, 30yrs, B.Tech, Elite business family in Chennai Ph:9952619776

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar 24yrs, MA, well settled elite business family Ph: 9380791999, 9841329471

GIRL 35/5.4, Good Looking Business 1L Pm Seeks Well Settled Groom Aged 40+ Own Decision Maker 7305603908

MUDALIAR: 22/V.FAIR & Beautiful, MBA, Father Industrialist, Elite Family, Seeks Groom Business / Doctor - Ct: 8925019776

SC, NRI, Nursing, Govt, looking for European countries or relocate profile groom from any caste or religion, 8137001255

SAIVA PILLAI, Rich/affluent, looking for a equal status groom from 26-30 in vegetarian and egg vegetarian, 8138900312

REDDIAR, DIVORCED, No kids, M.Com, Business, looking for a 2nd marriage profile without kids in Reddier and Brahmin from 29-33 in rich/affluent, 8138900553

HINDU, VANIYA CHETTIYAR, 29yrs, 160cm MBBS, MD (Micro) Chennai Star Bharani, Mesam Rasi, ACS Medical College Working- Sub Caste Ok 9790956789

HINDU NADAR- Divorcee Unconsummated Marriage-35 Accenture UK Ltd London, UK Cyber Security Associate Manager, Seeks Blw 39yr CA/WA 9442126376

HINDU NADAR, - B.E, M.B.A - 30/158cm Software Engr. - Udangudi - Seeking Bridegroom Cell: 9626735777

PREVIEW ADCS/ADIDRAVIDAR/MS DOB 1983 bride seeks suitable qualified employed bridegroom 9498313625

TAMIL HINDU NADAR, B.Tech (CS) 32/160 cm working in Cisco-Bangalore Rs 30 LPA Moolam / Dhanush seeks groom from BC community. Brokers excuse. Ph: 91768 00819

VANNIYAR DR MS Gen.Surgery 28 / 159, Seeks PG Dr Groom, based at Chennai. BC/MBC preferred Ct. 7358185433

MUDALIAR 28/165 Fair, MBBS MD, Cardiologist, Kavery Hospital, 2800000 PA, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

MUDALIYAR, MTECH, Fair, 168cm, 24 years, MNC seeks Professional, handsome, well settled, working Mudaliyar / Pillai groom. Send details or Whatsapp to number: 98407 26205

TN GOVT DR. MBBS MD Fair slim 23-02-90 Magaram Uthiradam 4 Chennai Never Married Hindu Naidu Elite Business Family Looking Never Married Dr. Class A officer, Business Elite Groom. Any Hindu F/C/BC. 9841743266.

TAMIL VISWAKARMA BRIDEGROOM WANTED

Tamil Viswakarma, age : 27 years, 153 cm, B.Com., fair, daughter of a well renowned industrialist. Looking for a suitable well educated, good looking groom, belonging to an affluent family preferably having own industry or business.

CONTACT : +91 9952884038

HINDU SC AD 30/155 cm MTech Bio Well settled Seeking Groom from age 31 to 34 India & Abroad Ct: 9176667499

GROOM WANTED Pillai, 26yrs, B.Tech, Own Educational institutions, Elite family Ph:9384772710

TAMIL YADHAVAR 24/ 160 MBBS Fair Chennai Business Family seeks Yadhava Dr PG /Business Geetham 9884858014

FASHION DESIGNER Saiva MudaliarAnusham 33 Very Fair Properly NeededVeg /IT/ Govt Employed Groom 9566268349

SAIVA VELLALAR, MD, looking for a Vegetarian profile from Masters in any caste, 8138900553

23yrs, MSC, upper middle class, seeking for a groom from 23-28 in pillai and mudaliar from tamilnadu, 8138900412

27, DKV, Government, M.Pharm, looking for a groom from same caste in upper/rich family from govt or doctor profession, 8138900312

SC,AD, MNC, B.Tech, NRI, Looking for a groom from any location from 32-36, 8137001247

NADAR, Bsc, Private, looking for groom from Equal caste with Rakuketu, Vegetarian, 8137 003550

BRAHMIN, 25, lyengar, MBBS, seeking for a brahmin groom from 25-32, well - educated and well settled including NRI, 8137003550

BRAHMIN-IYER, Surgeon, Looking for a groom from 28-32 in same community from Doctor, CA, Civil service in Mumbai, bangalore, Palakkad, Dubai, 8138903516

CHETTIAR / MUDALIYAR / PILLAI BRIDEGROOM WANTED 1984 Born, fair and good looking Doctor seeks suitable groom with high moral values and clean habits. Poosam / Kadaga Rasi Contact: 98340 96097

Bridegroom Wanted

A 29 year old Dentist (B.D.S) Doctor Girl with Naidu - Nayar parent requires bridegroom, Doctor, Engineer or well employed preferred. Clean horoscope. Chithrai Natchatram, Thulam rasi. Non matching stars. Bharani, Pooram, Pooradam, Uththirathadi, Avittam, Anusham, Mirgaseerism, Poosam.

Cont No. 94438 30505 (WhatsApp Enabled)

BRIDEGROOM WANTED Tamil Speaking Cosmopolitan Girl 1993 born MTech in Embedded Systems Working in Bangalore Looking for a Doctor or Engineer Never Married Boy Settled in Bangalore. CALL 96115 52776

Tamil, Good Family 29Yrs, B.Tech, MBA (BIM), 26 LPA, seeks suitable Groom, CNB. Contact: 9441677205.

Tamil, Good Family, 26Yrs, B.Sc(OJ), UMC, Fair Girl seeks suitable Groom, CNB. Contact: 9441677205.

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.

SAURASTRA

SAURASHTRA, 40, 1st Marriage, Ashram, Kanni, MBA, Finance, Senior Manager, Pvt, Chennai 1.50 Lakhs pm, Seeks Suitable Bride. CNB. 9381725577

TAMIL

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

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

FOR A Groom Working in USA 29 Years Seeks Bride Working in USA Cell: 87543 60075 Caste / Religion No bar. Brokers Excuse.

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA 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.

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

Hindu, Tamil, Thuluva 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 Thuluva Vellala/ Sozhiya Vellala/ Pillai/ Mudaliar. Contact: 9443083410

HINDU/ THEVAR, Star- Revathi, Lagnam- Meenam / MBBS from Govt. Medical College, Now pursuing M.S - Ophthalmology 2nd year with Rama Medical College, Kanpur, 33yrs / 180 cm - was working in Govt. Railway Hospital at Mumbai, from Metropolitan, Affluent family, Seeks MBBS Bride, Never Married, from Thevar/ Maravar / Agamudaiyar from Respectable, Elite Family. Contact: 9869164779 / 9821311011

AGE 33, MBA Asst Manager - PNB. Sc.AD, Ragu Kethu Dosham Seeking Compatible Bride Vellore. Ct: 9443392722

NAIDU, 29/165, M.E., Design Engr L & T, own business & rental income, affluent family, Star: Thiruvannam, Rasi: Magaram, Seeking suitable alliance. CNB: 9841097110

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

PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED Hindu Groom 178CM in His Late40s Who Is Family Oriented Values Traditions Living Overseas Seeks Suitable Remarriage Alliance From Bride Who Is Mutually Respecting Progressive, Enjoys Companionship And Have Good Family Values. Private Email: proposalsatinvited@gmail.com

52YR OLD widowed businessman with a daughter seeks 40 to 45yr old issueless divorcee/widow CNB 9444052040

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, Mirugaseerdm, MNC Chennai, Suitable Vegetarian bride wanted. 7418006626

TAMIL HINDU 56y/173cm BSc, MBA, IT Prof, Australia Citizen, Divorcee. Seeks Bride, WhatsApp: +61422909407

REDDY, SWATHI, 30/183 BE, MS London, Business, divorced seeks educated, good family background girl. Naidu's also welcome. Ct: 9710933159

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

MALAYALAM

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

MALAYALI NAIR 28, Uthradam B.Tech upper-middle-class, Chennai. Seeks Nair bride Sudha Jagatham willing to settle Chennai 9444159564, 9840377731

Railway Engineer Bangalore Thiyya 34 seeks bride Contact - Phone - 9495891105.

NRI

ALLIANCE FOR our son, German citizen, automobile engineer, consultant in good German company, living in Munich, Germany, Tamil, Chennai born, from decent family, unmarried, 36 years, fair, handsome, height 168 cm . Bride around 30 years, living in Germany (working or studying), from decent, Indian, Hindu, upper middle class family. Caste no bar. Contact 9840925561 or pkm@gmail.com

TAMIL

MUDALIAR 30/180 Handsome, MBBS MS, Sr. Surgeon, Apollo Hospitals, 3500000 PA, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

PILLAI, SOZHIA Vellalar 41yrs MBA, Manager, Pvt. 6Lpa Divorcee, Seeks suitable bride, CNB. Ct: 9952362396

BRIDE WANTED CNB, 34yrs, B.Tech, Well Educated family in Chennai. Ph: 9952619776

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 27yrs, CA, Bangalore, elite business family. Ph: 9841329471, 9380791999

NAIDU GROOM Aug 81 born Surgeon BDS & UK MBA seek suitable compatible PG DR Engr or IT working in India or Abroad CNB. Groom working in Bang as CEO of Hospital, Divorcee no issues. 98867 82390/ 99822 46305

MUDALIYAR, AGE-40, Hashtham, B.E., Sai:1L, 3 House, 2 Acre land, Never married. Sub caste ok. 8754756329

HINDU PILLAI, Saivam / Nanjil NV Jan'86 born NRI Businessman Currently in Suriname, Never married. Hashtham, 176cm Fair, Siblings and Parents in Tutucorin. Relations - Trivandrum, Nagercoil. Prefers girl willing to relocate. WhatsApp: 98947 60324

ALLIANCE invited for a 44 yr old Tamil Brahmin groom, Engg graduate with Master's degree from Duke University, USA. Well settled and successfully managing his family business with average monthly income of 5 lakhs with own house in Chennai. Seeking family oriented girl between 35-42 yrs pref vegetarian and willing to settle in Chennai. Language no bar. Interested families may send BHP to Email: alliance.chennai.1982@gmail.com

TAMIL

HINDU VANNIAR (Gounder), 27, 180 cm, B.Sc Agri., MBA, working in BASF, Vellore. Seeks suitable bride. 9443132445. Ct: 9629822508 / 9788391875.

WANTED BRIDE from NON-VADHoola Gothram family for Bright, Successful GROOM aged 30 Years working as LEGAL MANAGER in a Corporate Company of repute in MUMBAI. Only son and child of their parents. Reply with details to laithakasiraman95@gmail.com

Iyer B.Charanam/ Koundinyam/ Avittam 88 B.Com/MBA working in Chennai seeks working bride. 9443132445.

Vadakkalai Iyengar Boy, Punarpoosam Bharadwaia Gothram 1979/170 Never Married MS(IT), MNC Chennai, 32 LPA Alliance Invited from Brahmin Brides or Any Pure Vegetarian is Fine. Contact with Biodata, Photo & Horoscope on WhatsApp: 7299704899 / 7395989198

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

URDU

Muslim Boy 29/167, IT Manager Chennai sal. 32 LPA, Educated Girl Contact: 9444376676

ENGLISH

HINDU NADAR 26/163cm MBBS MS V Fair Girl Dr Family Own Hospital 3 Chennai Younger Brother 24/180cm MS First Year. Ct: 7550113468

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8246757840

GENERAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

From Page One

Cong. alleges bulk voter purge bid in Uttarakhand

The Congress also offered the example of Kichha Assembly constituency in Udham Singh Nagar district, where one individual, Rajesh Tiwari, is stated to have submitted approximately 6,410 objections.

Congress MLA Qazi Muhammed Nizamuddin, who was part of the delegation that met with the EC, alleged that the manner in which the bulk forms were submitted online pointed to “institutional” access being granted to some organisation.

Mandatory review

However, EC sources said that, to prevent misuse of the process, if a person files more than five objections, it will trigger a mandatory review by the ERO to ensure the legitimacy of the claims.

The Congress memorandum claimed that several Form 7 objections in Uttarakhand have been filed by people who are not electors from, or in any other way connected with, the concerned Assembly Constituency.

It added that, according to the rules, the ERO has to conduct a summary inquiry and record a decision, with both the objector and the person objected to entitled to appear and be heard. However, in practice, this dual-notice requirement is not being observed, and in most cases, the objector is not present in the hearings, the memorandum said.

The Congress letter also said that unannounced exercises have restarted to identify demographically or photo-similar entries, proposing the deletion of 102,793 electors in Udham Singh Nagar district alone, without any proper written guidelines or due notice.

The draft electoral rolls of the State were published on July 14, with the final list to be released on September 15.

The claims and objections period was open till August 13, and the disposal of notices will take place till September 11.

Pressure mounts on BCI chief amid calls for exit

The controversy surrounding the BCI chairperson, who is also a Rajya Sabha MP from the Bharatiya Janata Party, intensified after the council issued a circular on August 13 directing State Bar Councils not to enrol graduates of NALSAR's 2026 batch, following objections by students to the participation of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant at their convocation. The directive was withdrawn within hours after an outcry from the legal fraternity. Mr. Mishra subsequently apologised to the students.

However, the apology did little to quell criticism. The Bombay Bar Association on August 18 criticised the handling of the episode and described the apology as “belated”, while saying that Mr. Mishra ought to have already resigned.

In his letter on Saturday, Mr. Reddy called upon Mr. Mishra to resign and sought an independent examination of a range of issues relating to the functioning and financial administration of the council.

The letter raised questions over appointments within the BCI establishment, with Mr. Reddy alleging that a “striking proportion of the staff are persons connected to you (Mr. Mishra) personally, several of them being members of, or related to, your own family”.

Mr. Reddy also questioned Mr. Mishra's prolonged occupancy of the chairmanship and argued for greater rotation and representation in the leadership of the apex regulatory body for the legal profession.

“You (Mr. Mishra) have held that office continuously since 2012, and were returned a further consecutive term in 2025. This is without precedent. When elections to the office fall due, the arrangements are so managed that the outcome is a foregone conclusion. An elected office that has one occupant for fourteen years has ceased, in any real sense, to be an elected office.”

Curbs on cold medicine for children expanded

The Union government noted that the use of combinations containing chlorpheniramine maleate and phenylephrine hydrochloride may pose risks to children below four years of age and that safer alternatives are available.

At the same time, evidence that such combinations substantially improve uncomplicated colds in children is limited.

Manufacturers have been directed to prominently display the warning, “Fixed Dose Combination shall not be used in children below four years of age,” on the label, package insert, and promotional literature associated with these formulations.

The notification has been issued under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, in the interest of public health and is effective from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

India had already required warnings on certain formulations in 2023 and formally restricted the combination in 2025; the latest notification extends the restriction to all such FDC formulations for children below four.

Internationally, countries including the US and Australia, have also adopted age restrictions or other safeguards for paediatric cough-and-cold medicines.

Govt. promises permanent solution to Gorkha issue, sets up committee

Gorkhas have been seeking a separate State of Gorkhaland comprising parts of Darjeeling hills and adjoining areas; Shah assures the community of a political solution under the ambit of Constitution; he also promises adequate Central funding

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Union government on Saturday decided to set up a committee to draft an agreement and finalise modalities for a “permanent political solution” to the demands of the Gorkha community in the Darjeeling hills and adjoining areas of north Bengal.

The community has been demanding the creation of a separate State of Gorkhaland, to be carved out of territories in the Darjeeling hills and adjoining areas.

Saturday's announcement came at a meeting in Siliguri chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and attended by West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, Darjeeling BJP MP Raju Bista, and other leaders from different political parties of the region. “It was decided to consti-



Home Minister Amit Shah, West Bengal CM Suwendu Adhikari and other dignitaries at a meeting in Siliguri on Saturday. PTI

tute a committee, chaired by the former deputy National Security Adviser and current interlocutor Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh, to finalise the modalities,” a statement from the Union Home Ministry said.

Statehood demand

The demand for a Gorkhaland State has been alive since the 1980s. The earlier arrangements of regional

autonomous bodies such as the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council in 1988 and the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) in 2011 had failed to live up to the aspirations and expectations of the people.

According to the Home Ministry, during the meeting on Saturday, all issues concerning the hill population of West Bengal were discussed in detail, and

“demands regarding their identity, a permanent political solution, and recognition under the Constitution were taken up”.

The statement added that Mr. Shah promised a permanent political solution soon under the umbrella of the Constitution and promised to sympathetically look into all other demands of the Gorkha community. He also said that adequate funding from the Centre will take care of all pending issues.

In October 2025, the Centre appointed former Deputy National Security Adviser Pankaj Kumar Singh as the interlocutor to hold talks with Gorkha representatives to address their political demands.

The issue has dominated the politics of Darjeeling hills over the past several decades. The region has been voting for the BJP over the past two decades, and the party has been

promising a permanent political solution.

Speaking to presspersons after the meeting, Mr. Bista said representatives of all political parties were present at the meeting. Harshavardhan Sringhla, former IFS officer and Rajya Sabha MP, said the meeting had set the ball rolling for a solution to the Gorkhaland issue.

Gorkha Janmukti Morcha leader Roshan Giri said the meeting aimed at resolving the Gorkhaland issue under the ambit of the Constitution. Among those present at the meeting were GJM chief Bimal Gurung and Gorkha National Liberation Front chief Mann Ghisingh.

While the parties in the Darjeeling hills are in support of statehood for Gorkhaland, the development will have repercussions in south Bengal as the people there do not want any division of the State.

Rescue efforts on after cargo ship sinks in Bay of Bengal

Press Trust of India
PARADIP

A Panama-flagged cargo ship with 24 crew members, mostly Chinese, sank in the Bay of Bengal on Saturday, about 240 nautical miles off the Odisha coast, officials said.

Twenty of the crew members on the ship, *MV Ocean Winner*, were Chinese, three Myanmarese and one Bangladeshi, they said.

The ship was heading to Singapore carrying 72,100 mt of iron ore fines from Odisha. It had left the Paradip coast at 10.42 p.m. on August 20, they added.

“The Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy have launched a rescue operation. So far, two persons have been rescued from the waters,” a senior IPS officer said.

Another nearby ship has also come to the rescue of *MV Ocean Winner*, he said. Efforts are being made to establish contact with the crew members.

Courts must speak language of rule of law, economics: CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Chief Justice Surya Kant

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday highlighted that courts must speak the language of both the rule of law and economics, coining the combination as “Nyaya-nomics”.

He said courts must ensure trust, predictability and stability in the justice delivery system in order to spur economic growth. He was speaking at the 11th BRICS+ Legal Forum organised by the Bar Association of India.

“Institutions are not the scaffolding that we erect around growth once it has already begun. They are its architecture. Take the architecture away, and in truth, what looks like a rising economy is a stack of good fortune waiting for its first storm. This architecture, upheld primarily by institutions such as the justice delivery system, offers three things: trust, predic-

tability, and stability, each a direct byproduct of a studied allegiance to the Rule of Law,” the Chief Justice said. He said consistency in jurisprudence allows an economy, including India's own, to flourish at a growing pace. “The term that would perfectly describe the marriage between the Rule of Law and how it permeates favourable economic conditions: ‘Nyaya-nomics’, or more simply, the economics of justice,” the CJI said.

“To my mind, a courtroom that keeps its word quickly becomes a country the world is willing to trust with its capital,” he said.

Press clubs must take proactive role in restoring media credibility: N. Ram

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD



Telangana Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka with The Hindu Group Director N. Ram at a photo exhibition during the Federation of Press Clubs' first national conference on Saturday. NAGARA GOPAL

Veteran journalist and Director of The Hindu Group N. Ram identified two interconnected challenges confronting journalism – an erosion of public trust in the media and growing threats to its freedom and independence – and called for press clubs across the country to play a proactive role in restoring credibility.

Speaking at the National Conclave of the Federation of Press Clubs in Hyderabad on Saturday, he said the credibility crisis could not be attributed entirely to forces outside journalism. Political propaganda, misinformation and disinformation on social media had contributed to the trust deficit, but sections of the media had also contributed to the problem through sensationalism, inadequate verification, communal rhetoric and excessive proximity to political and corporate interests.

“When journalism becomes indistinguishable from political propaganda” and when television debates substitute “noise for information”, public trust inevitably suffers, he said, stressing that credibility could neither be taken for granted nor demanded from the public.

Mr. Ram argued that a free press could not survive on constitutional and legal safeguards alone, and that public trust was equally crucial to its remaining

an effective democratic institution.

Against the backdrop of the media's dwindling credibility, he said press clubs had an important role in rebuilding that trust by promoting professional ethics and independence.

1988 protest

On threats to media freedom, he said coercive tactics against journalists were not confined to any one political party or government. State govern-

ments of different political affiliations had also resorted to measures such as filing criminal cases, police action and attempts to arrest journalists.

He recalled how a collective effort could force a government to take corrective measures, citing the Rajiv Gandhi government's unconditional withdrawal of the Defamation Bill in 1988 after protests by journalists.

The modern state had formidable instruments at its disposal, including criminal prosecution, police investigations, raids, seizure of electronic devices and surveillance. However, a pluralistic media environment made it difficult for any government to completely control the press, he felt.

The Federation of Press Clubs in India, Mr. Ram said, could establish a national network capable of responding quickly whenever journalists faced threats anywhere in the country.

BCI trust controversy deepens over ₹150-crore fund transfer; Chair turns down allegations

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

The demand for the resignation of Bar Council of India (BCI) chairman Manan Kumar Mishra has brought into focus a wider institutional controversy surrounding the creation of BCI Trust PEARL-FIRST and allegations that the original BCI Trust was rendered defunct.

In a six-page letter dated August 22, BCI co-chairman and senior advocate Y.R. Sadasiva Reddy levelled several allegations concerning the creation of BCI Trust PEARL-FIRST, the transfer of around ₹150 crore from BCI funds to the trust, alleged demands for contributions from law colleges, and the handling of funds generated through the All-India Bar Examination (AIBE).

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Reddy said he had “strongly opposed” the

Reddy alleges that PEARL-FIRST audit reports were never placed before the BCI by Mishra

proposal to transfer ₹150 crore to the trust and that other members had also recorded their objections, but the transfer ultimately went through. He further alleged that Mr. Mishra had never placed the audit reports of the PEARL-FIRST trust before a meeting of the BCI since the trust's inception in 2020. “I have never seen these audit reports,” Mr. Reddy said.

‘Baseless allegations’

Responding to queries sent by *The Hindu*, Mr. Mishra said, “Mr. Sadasiva Reddy is not the co-chairman of the Bar Council of India. Presently, he is not even a member of a State Bar Council. He is politically

opposed to me and in the Bar Council, [while he was a member], he had made all efforts to oppose me in elections, but he couldn't get a proposer even to contest.”

“Those are the reasons for making all sorts of frivolous and baseless allegations. Everything is audited by a certified C.A. every year,” Mr. Mishra said.

Mr. Reddy said the original BCI Trust, an institution created in 1974, was allowed to fall into disuse during Mr. Mishra's tenure and was replaced by BCI Trust PEARL-FIRST, whose trustees, he alleged, were chosen by Mr. Mishra.

He also alleged that the managements of new law colleges approaching the BCI for approval, as well as those of existing colleges seeking renewal, were required to make “contributions” to the PEARL-FIRST trust, ranging from ₹25 lakh to ₹1 crore.

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam and Meghalaya on Saturday sought an end to the standoff between people of the two States following the violence during a “black flag bike rally” organised by the Khasi Students' Union in Shillong on August 19.

Transporters and members of various organisations in Assam blocked the Guwahati-Shillong highway for the third consecutive day on Saturday, demanding an end to recurring attacks on Assam-registered vehicles and tourists.

In a bid to end the conflict, Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Sniawbhanglang Dhar met Assam Border Protection and Development Minister Atul Bora in Guwahati on Saturday.

The two governments agreed to establish a dedicated coordination me-



Transporters block the Assam-Meghalaya border at Jorabat amid tensions following violence during a KSU rally in Shillong. PTI

chanism between the Inspector General (IG) of Assam Police's Special Branch and the IG (Law & Order), Meghalaya, along with dedicated helplines. An online support forum will also be activated to help locate and facilitate stranded individuals.

A joint committee comprising the Commissioner/Secretary-level transport authorities of both States, along with representatives of the tourist vehicle associations, would be consti-

tuted to regulate tourist transport movement and safeguard the shared tourism interests of Assam and Meghalaya.

The Meghalaya government reiterated that it would take responsibility for the safety of all tourists and vehicles travelling from Assam and other parts of the country into Meghalaya, during their stay within the State. Mr. Bora said both States would take necessary steps for the safety of vehicles.

Assam floods: MLA blames BJP legislators for deaths

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Rights activist-turned-Sivasagar MLA Akhil Gogoi on Saturday held three Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislators, including a Minister, responsible for the deaths and devastation caused by floods in parts of eastern Assam.

At least 105 people were killed and more than 7.5 lakh affected between April and mid-August. Flash floods triggered by heavy rain in Nagaland caused much of the damage in Sivasagar, Charaideo and Jorhat districts.

Mr. Gogoi rejected Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's claim that a cloudburst caused the floods, citing coal mining along the Assam-Nagaland border and damage to natural river protection structures along the Dikhow. "I had sent a special team with drones. It found five cofferdams across the Dikhow River, creating a 350-km-long reservoir upstream. Protective stone embankments had also been excavated along a 25-km stretch," he said.

He accused Water Resources Minister Sushanta Borgohain and MLAs Dharmeswar Konwar and Mayur Borgohain of controlling a mining syndicate.

BJP passes resolution against Cong. decision on Vande Mataram stanzas

The party steps up preparations for a nationwide Gen-Z outreach programme; another meeting focused on a programme from Sept. 17 to Oct. 17, marking PM Modi's birthday; Nitin Nabin holds first meeting with new national office-bearers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday passed a resolution criticising the Congress Working Committee's decision to reaffirm its 1937 resolution and restrict the singing of Vande Mataram to its first two stanzas at Congress events. The party also stepped up preparations for a nationwide Gen-Z outreach programme.

BJP president Nitin Nabin held his first meeting with the newly-appointed national office-bearers, which was also attended by their predecessors. In the evening, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the new team.

Connect with youth: PM "Organisational meetings are all about new ideas and perspectives aimed at strengthening the Party and deepening connect with the people. Great interaction with fellow Party colleagues and the new organisational team!" said Mr. Modi on X.

During the meeting, Prime Minister exhorted the new office-bearers to



Putting pressure: BJP national president Nitin Nabin, second left, with party leaders during Nabin's first meeting with the party's newly appointed national office-bearers in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

intensify the outreach with the young generation.

The day's meetings focused on strengthening the BJP's connect with the people, particularly the younger generation. The party decided to constitute a team for its upcoming Gen-Z outreach programme, to understand the aspirations and concerns of the younger generation. The team is likely to include Mr. Nabin, national general secretaries Smriti Irani and Vinod Tawde, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi, and

Chhattisgarh Minister O.P. Choudhary.

Another meeting focused on the decision to run a month-long programme across the country from September 17 to October 17, marking Mr. Modi's birthday and 25 years since he became Gujarat Chief Minister.

Constitutional status

In its 10-point resolution on Vande Mataram, the BJP rejected what it described as attempts to subordinate the song to communal pressure, political ap-

peasement or vote-bank politics. The party said the Congress Working Committee's 1937 decision could not override constitutional institutions or laws.

It resolved to "affirm the constitutional and statutory status of Vande Mataram as established by the Constituent Assembly's 1950 pronouncement and reinforced by Parliament's 2026 amendment [the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act] extending statutory protection to the

National Song equivalent to that accorded to the National Anthem".

The BJP announced a nationwide campaign through its workers to educate people, particularly the youth, about the National Song's history, six-stanza composition and national significance.

"That legacy cannot be reduced to the calculations of contemporary vote-bank politics. The same Vande Mataram that echoed as the call for freedom in 1947 will resound as the supreme chant for a 'Developed India @ 2047' under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," it said.

At a press conference, BJP MP Sambit Patra referred to a complaint filed with the police seeking registration of a case to probe alleged "intentional obstruction/disturbance" during the rendition of the National Song at the All India Congress Committee headquarters on August 15.

Mr. Patra said the recently enacted Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act prescribed imprisonment and a fine, and that the law would take its course.

Cong. flags concerns over SC's ruling on 'industry' definition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday expressed concern over the Supreme Court's recent ruling on the definition of "industry", saying any move to narrow the scope of the law could weaken safeguards available to workers.

The judgment in *State of Uttar Pradesh vs Jai Bir Singh*, delivered on August 20, 2026, had raised important questions about the future interpretation of labour law, Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said.

The Modi government's Industrial Relations Code, 2020, had already "significantly weakened essential safeguards for our workers", he said.

The Supreme Court's majority judgment revisited the interpretation of "industry" laid down in its landmark 1978 judgment in the *Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board vs A. Rajappa* case, in which the court had evolved the "Triple Test" – systematic activity, cooperation between employer and employee and production or distribution of goods or services to satisfy human wants and wishes.

The judgment had also held that the absence of a profit motive did not by itself take an activity outside the definition of an industry. The main exception was core sovereign functions, including the judiciary, law and order and defence.

This broad interpretation had, for nearly five decades, brought a wide range of workers swithin the protection of labour laws, Mr. Ramesh said. The recent majority judgment, he claimed, sought to narrow the approach by requiring an activity to have a "discernible commercial character" resembling trade or business. It also widened the scope of the sovereign-function exemption, potentially excluding more government activities from the definition of



The August 20 judgment is concerning because it injects uncertainty into labour relations at a time when clarity is essential for industrial peace

JAIRAM RAMESH
Congress general secretary

"industry", he added.

"The Supreme Court has clarified that this reformulation will not disturb concluded or pending proceedings under the erstwhile Industrial Disputes Act as amended from time to time, and will not govern the interpretation of the new Industrial Relations Code. But leaving this 'hypothesis' on the record creates an interpretive vacuum that could open a Pandora's box of litigation and uncertainty, particularly before Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals," Mr. Ramesh said.

He praised Justice B.V. Nagarathna's dissent, saying she had rightly held that the 1978 judgment did not require reconsideration and had cautioned against disturbing settled law.

"The August 2026 majority judgment is concerning because it injects uncertainty into labour relations at a time when clarity is essential for industrial peace," Mr. Ramesh said.

"In an open economy with increasing private delivery of services, any move to narrow or distance the law from the broad definition of 'industry' risks weakening worker safeguards precisely when they are needed most," the Congress leader said.

Be loud, proud and fight for your space: Rahul to Gen Z girls



Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi during an interaction at 'Chhatron ki Goonj' on Saturday. EMMANUEL YOGINI

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
PUNE

In his fourth 'Chhatron ki Goonj' address, held in Pune on Saturday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi urged Gen Z women to "smash" the patriarchy.

"Be loud, be proud and fight for your space in society," he told the girl students at the AISSMS ground on Saturday evening amid a rousing welcome. Speaking in Marathi, he said, "*Pune mhanje prem* (Pune means love)".

His address, which last-

ed well over an hour, was interspersed with interactions with young women from different backgrounds who spoke of their concerns.

Mr. Gandhi said the 70 crore women of India are more important than the 70 crore men of the country.

Calling the BJP leadership responsible for the "return of the Manusmriti", he played a clip of Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing shock at the foul language used by young girls during the Jantar Mantar protest, term-

ing it a "cultural shock."

"At Jantar Mantar, bad words were used by both boys and girls. And yet, the PM expressed cultural shock only about the girls. The message was that it is okay for the boys to use bad words, not the girls," he said.

"We don't want an India where it is believed that boys should get full freedom, but that girls should be kept in a cage at home. We want justice. We want everyone to be respected. The fear from your hearts should be erased at the earliest. You are the founda-

tion, the future of this country," Mr. Gandhi said.

Ways of control

"Women are controlled through violence. Every six out of 100 women are raped in India. That is direct physical violence. There is violence of opportunity, whereby 50% of women reject jobs due to safety concerns. There is financial violence, where ₹17,500 are spent annually for the safety of a woman. So there is direct, financial and opportunity violence for the women in our country," he said.

Congress slams Centre for failing to contain increase in prices of essential commodities

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday accused the Narendra Modi government of failing to contain the rise in prices of essential commodities, with party president Mallikarjun Kharge questioning whether the diversion of sugarcane and grain for ethanol production under the E20 policy was contributing to rising sugar prices.

In a post on X, Mr. Kharge said sugar stocks

were at a nine-year low even as prices had risen sharply ahead of the festival season. He asked why India, the world's largest sugar producer and exporter, had reached a situation where exports had to be halted and one million tonnes of sugar imported duty-free.

Mr. Kharge said sugar had become nearly 40% more expensive in recent months and questioned the rationale for diverting sugarcane and grain towards ethanol when the

Kharge asks if diverting sugarcane for ethanol was leading to rise in sugar prices

country was importing sugar. "What kind of 'self-reliant India' is this?" he asked, arguing that the policy had resulted in declining sugar production and stocks while sugar was being imported.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also at-

tacked the government over inflation, saying the rise in prices was affecting household budgets and not just kitchen essentials. "From soap to cars, from spices to flour, rice, sugar and oil, inflation has broken the back of the common man," Mr. Ramesh said in a social media post.

Citing price increases over the past month, he said flour had risen from ₹32 to ₹40 a kg, rice from ₹42 to ₹54, cumin from ₹180 to ₹380 and turmeric from ₹130 to ₹260. Mustard

oil, peanut oil and refined oil had also registered sharp increases, he said.

'Public won't forget'

Mr. Ramesh said the rising cost of everyday goods, including soap, detergent, toothpaste, biscuits, tyres and cars, had made life difficult for ordinary people. "There is no effort to control inflation," he said, warning that the public would remember the government's handling of prices and "will not forgive".

Manipur CM lauds transport resumption

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Saturday said the resumption of bus and commercial vehicle services between Imphal and Guwahati would go a long way in providing relief to people in the State.

People in Manipur, particularly those living in the

Imphal Valley, have had to depend on air travel since May 3, 2023, when the ethnic conflict erupted.

"The resumption of public road transport services (between Imphal and Guwahati) will provide much-needed relief to our people, particularly students studying outside the State and those travelling for medical treatment," the Chief Minister said.

डॉ हरिसिंह गौर विश्वविद्यालय, सागर (म.प्र.)
Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (M.P.)
"A Central University" | A+ Grade by NAAC (Fourth Cycle)

Ref. No. /DoFA/BM/GF/2026/310 Date: 21-08-2026

WALK-IN INTERVIEW

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Applications are invited for the engagement of Guest Faculty (per lecture basis) under the Self Financing Scheme in the Department of Business Management of the university. Applicants are advised to visit Website Link: <https://dhsgsu.edu.in/recruitment> for detailed advertisement and application form.

Date of interview : 31.08.2026

Time of interview : 10.30 AM

Venue of interview : Gour Samiti Kaksha, Main Administrative Building
Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya

Website link : <https://dhsgsu.edu.in/recruitment>

West Assam Milk Producers' Co-operative Union Ltd.(WAMUL)
Under National Programme for Dairy Development-Govt. of India
R.K. Jyoti Prasad Agarwala Road, Panjabari, Guwahati-781037, Assam
Website: <http://www.purabi.coop>

WAMUL/NPDD/26-27/01

Tender Notice

Date: 23.08.2026

National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD), a Government of India Scheme, has been restructured with the aim of enhancing quality of milk and milk products and West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Limited (WAMUL) is the implementing agency for Assam. WAMUL now invites eligible bidders for participating in the tender as described below:

Sl. No.	Description	Date of submission Tender	Last date of submission	Platform of tender publication
1	Automatic Milk Collection System (AMCS) Unit	25-08-2026	15-09-2026	www.assamtenders.gov.in

If any corrigendum is issued, it will be published in www.assamtenders.gov.in on or before last date and time for submission of bid. No separate notification for publication of corrigendum or extension of last date of submission of bid will be made through Newspaper advertisement.

For any details please contact
Smt. Sandhya Kalita, Group Head- Purchase & Stores
Phone: +91 9707013600
E-mail: sandhya@purabi.coop

Sd/- Group Head-Purchase & Stores
WAMUL (Purabi Dairy)

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, गोरखपुर
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur

(राष्ट्रीय एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
(An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Website: <https://aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in>

NON-FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Offline applications from eligible Indian citizens/other citizens as permissible under the applicable Act/ Rules are invited to fill up following **Non-Faculty (Group A, B & C)** various posts on **DEPUTATION BASIS** at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh):

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Group	Level as per 7 th CPC	No. of Posts
1.	Medical Superintendent	A	Level – 14 (Rs. 144200-218200) + NPA	01
2.	Registrar	A	Level – 12 (Rs. 78800-209200)	01
3.	Executive Engineer (Civil)	A	Level – 11 (Rs. 67700-208700)	01
4.	Executive Engineer (Electrical)	A	Level – 11 (Rs. 67700-208700)	01
5.	Senior Accounts Officer	A	Level – 11 (Rs. 67700-208700)	01
6.	Assistant Administrative Officer	B	Level-07 (Rs. 44900-142400)	01
7.	Assistant Account Officer	B	Level-07 (Rs. 44900-142400)	02
8.	Office Superintendent	B	Level-06 (Rs. 35400-112400)	01
9.	Upper Division Clerk	C	Level – 04 (Rs. 25500 - 81100)	01
			Total Posts	10

The above vacancies are provisional and subject to variation. The Executive Director, AIIMS, Gorakhpur reserves the right to change the number of the vacancies including reserved vacancies as per the Govt. of India rules/circulars. **Application form, eligibility criteria, desirable qualifications/experience, and related details, please visit www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in**

All the applicants are advised to check AIIMS, Gorakhpur website www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in on Deputation basis for any further updates.

Sd/-
Executive Director
AIIMS Gorakhpur

Kunraghat, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh 273008

INBRIEF



Court denies bail to accused in Pulwama terror attack

A special NIA court has rejected the bail plea of Insha Jan alias Insha Tariq, an accused in the 2019 Pulwama suicide attack that killed 40 CRPF personnel, observing that sufficient material existed on record to presume that the accusations against her were prima facie true. In his 15-page order delivered on August 20, Special Judge Prem Sagar held that the statutory bar under Section 43-D(5) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) also operated against the accused and prevented her release on bail at this stage. Jan, a resident of Harkipora village in south Kashmir’s Pulwama district, was arrested on March 3, 2020. PTI

At least three workers die in steel factory fire in Jharkhand

At least three employees of a steel factory in Jharkhand’s Ramgarh district died, and one was injured after a fire broke out in the unit, police said on Saturday. The blaze spread from a captive power plant in the steel factory in Helal at midnight on Friday. “At least four employees received severe burn injuries. Three of them died during treatment in a hospital,” said Ramgarh Superintendent of Police (SP) Mukesh Kumar Lunayat. He said the exact cause of the fire is being investigated. Barkakana Police Station in-charge Uma Shankar Verma said the deceased have been identified as Sanjeev, Vinit and Abhishek. PTI

Five killed as bus ploughs into crowd in Bihar’s Champaran

At least five people were killed, and several others were injured when a bus ploughed into a crowd attending a cultural programme in Bihar’s West Champaran district, police said on Saturday. The incident took place around 10:45 p.m. on Friday along the Lauriya Marg in Parau Tola under the jurisdiction of Lauriya police station. “While trying to avert a head-on collision with a truck, the bus ploughed into a crowd attending a cultural event on the roadside, killing five men and injuring several others,” said Narkatiyaganj Sub-divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Ajay Prakash Singh. The incident led to a stampede-like situation, he added. PTI

21-year-old Indian held in U.S. over fraud targeting elderly

An Indian national has been arrested and charged in the U.S. for his alleged role as a “money mule” in a multi-million-dollar scheme targeting elderly victims. Jay Sunilbharthi Goswami, 21, a Gujarat native who lived in New Jersey, was detained in Canada while attempting to flee to Qatar. He was charged by criminal complaint with wire fraud, conspiracy to commit wire fraud, money laundering and conspiracy to commit money laundering. The charges carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, U.S. Attorney Michael DiGiacomo said Friday. Canadian authorities detained Goswami at Toronto Pearson International Airport. PTI

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku

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

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

A project in Assam to improve the quality of an elephant habitat could turn a botanical liability into a carbon-rich asset. For decades, Assam Forest Department officials have struggled to deal with at least half a dozen invasive alien plants (IAPs) that have been constricting local vegetation and reducing the food options for herbivores. The forest officials are upbeat about the targeted IAP management in Khalingduar Reserve Forest under the Dhansiri Forest Division of Udalguri district, bordering Bhutan. A two-hectare area has been selected in this reserve forest in the Bodo-land Territorial Region

(BTR) for the project focused on managing three IAP species. Species in question The species concerned are *Lantana camara*, *Chromolaena odorata*, and *Mikania micrantha*. Although these species have been known to contribute as nectar resources or structural cover, their proliferation is altering native plant communities and constraining regeneration. Aaranyak, a Guwahati-based biodiversity conservation organisation, is undertaking the International Elephant Foundation-supported project. The programme targets native vegetation recovery through targeted IAP management, seed-ball-assisted regeneration, and conversion of cleared biomass



Invasive alien plant species converted into biochar to improve forest health in Assam’s Udalguri district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

into biochar. Biochar is a fine-grained, porous, charcoal-like substance made by heating organic waste in a controlled environment with little to no oxygen. Instead of burning to ash, this thermal process transforms the biomass into a

stable, solid form of carbon that resists decay and can remain in the ground for thousands of years. Biochar properties vary considerably with feedstock and production conditions. Its porous structure can influence soil water retention, nutrient retention, aggregation, and microbial habitat. Hope for herbivores According to Aaranyak’s Rabiya Daimari, Bistirna Burhagohain, Bikash Tossai, Manav Nayak, and Pradip Barman, a quintet conducting the field operations for the project, the three invasive species compete with native vegetation for light, space, moisture, and nutrients. These IAPs gradually stifle the growth and recovery of native grasses, herbs, shrubs, and naturally regenerating trees. “Elephants and other herbivores need a varied forage base comprising local grasses and plants,” a team member said. The quintet said the existing vegetation in the project area was catalogued to

identify patches with substantial IAP dominance. Based on the survey findings, the IAPs were manually uprooted in the target area to minimise regrowth and reduce competitive pressure on regenerating vegetation. “The Khalingduar project can be a game-changer for the management of IAPs,” Sonali Ghosh, the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and BTR’s Council Head of Department, told *The Hindu* on Saturday. The Aaranyak team said the project area would be monitored periodically for IAP re-emergence and regeneration, with subsequent removal undertaken to prevent renewed dominance and sustain the space created for native vegetation recovery.

Infant dead, 2 injured in fire at NICU in M.P. govt. hospital

Chhindwara district hospital in-charge denies negligence after radiant warmer machine at facility caught fire due to sparks in its filament coil, causing injuries to three children; probe under way

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL



An infant being carried away after a fire broke out in the neonatal ICU of the government hospital in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh. PTI

An infant was killed and two other newborns suffered burn injuries after a fire broke out in the neonatal ICU (NICU) at the government district hospital in Madhya Pradesh’s Chhindwara, officials said on Saturday. According to officials, the incident took place around 1.50 a.m. after a radiant warmer machine in the NICU caught fire due to sparks in its filament coil, causing injuries to three children. Hospital in-charge and civil surgeon Kanchan Dubey said that after an initial examination, the three infants were referred to the government medical college in Jabalpur. “There were a total of 33 children there [in the NICU] and these three [infants] were placed on the same warmer. Our staff, including nurses, acted with promptness and saved the other 30 children. They were initially moved to another unit and after

technicians and electricians inspected all other machines, the children were shifted back to the NICU,” she said, terming the tragedy an accident. “The administrative officials will come and conduct an investigation but I don’t see any negligence in this. It is an accident,” she said, adding that the fire was quickly doused. Dr. Dubey also denied any technical fault in the machine. Roopmal Verma, a relative of the deceased girl child, said the families had initially been told that all children were safe. “I was among the first to

reach the spot and the room was filled with smoke. There is so much negligence here. The nursing staff even asks for money [from families] saying that they will do the delivery properly,” he said. No paediatric surgeon District hospital paediatrician Anshul Lamba said the children were referred to the facility in Jabalpur as there was no paediatric surgeon at the hospital. “After the primary treatment, surgical inspection was conducted by specialists and opinion was taken. Since, we do not have a paediatric surgeon here,

they were sent to Jabalpur for better treatment,” Dr. Lamba said. “There was a short circuit in the coil. It did not happen anywhere in the electrical line; the short circuit occurred only in the coil. The problem is that the oxygen tubing also runs from that very area. The short circuit produced sparks, which fell on the oxygen tubing, and caused fire in the cradle. The staff managed to bring out the three children from the cradle within 15 seconds but due to the foam mattress, they suffered burn injuries,” he said. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Chhindwara Collector Harendra Narayan Mishra said an investigation has been ordered. “I have been told by the hospital that the machine had undergone its annual maintenance on August 10 and no fault had been detected. But since a tragedy has happened, we have informed the maintenance agency in Bhopal. Their engineers will visit the hospital soon for an inspection,” he said.

SC sets aside order against Art of Living for Yamuna event

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Saturday set aside a December 2017 decision of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) holding Sri Sri Ravi Shankar’s Art of Living Foundation responsible for the damage caused to the Yamuna floodplains during its World Culture Festival held in 2016. A Bench of Justices Satish Chandra Sharma and N.K. Singh directed the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to refund ₹5 crore deposited by the foundation with it in four weeks. The top court’s order came on an appeal filed by Vyakti Vikas Kendra India, associated with the Art of Living Foundation. Criticises nod for event The court disapproved of the manner in which the DDA granted permission to hold the event on an active floodplain. “It was not only avoidable, but was also not consistent with the precautionary principle and doctrine of public trust,” Justice Sharma, who authored the judgment, observed. The Bench said the DDA should continue to carry

NGT held foundation responsible for the damage to floodplain; court directs DDA to refund ₹5 crore

out the rehabilitation work on the Yamuna floodplains as per the proposed plan and directions issued by the NGT from time to time. “We have not altered the responsibilities entrusted to the DDA concerning the management or rehabilitation of the Yamuna floodplains, in any manner,” the court clarified. The NGT had directed the foundation to deposit ₹5 crore with the DDA to be utilised for the restoration of the floodplains of the Yamuna. In its judgment, the top court said the NGT had failed to note that the floodplain, which was the site of the event, was already in a damaged condition prior to its handing over to the foundation. The court said the NGT did not even consider relevant material, including a letter from the foundation regarding the presence of debris and construction material at the site.

Amid controversy, NCERT team head promises to bring out factual, unbiased books

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI



Sandeep Shastri

Following a political controversy over the reconstitution of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) committee that brings out political science textbooks for Classes 11 and 12, members of the newly formed panel have said “personal political affiliations will be set aside” while working on the textbooks. The reconstituted 20-member committee faced criticism from Opposition parties and student bodies over reported links of some members to RSS-affiliated organisations. In an interview with *The Hindu*, Sandeep Shastri, Textbook Development Team (TDT) head and Vice President (Bengaluru campus) of Nitte University, said he would endeavour to bring out factual and unbiased textbooks. “We have been assigned to work on Class 11 and 12

served as the Vice Chancellor of Bhopal-based Jagran Lake University. Of the 20 members in the TDT, at least four members – Yadunath Deshpande, Prashant Divekar, Vandana Mishra and Ravi Rameshchandra – have links with the BJP, the RSS or the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). On political affiliations A TDT member, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said, “Our political lineage, Left or Right, is immaterial when we meet as a group. We should not bring the ideology of any political party to the table. Everybody has their own life post academics, but when we meet for a particular purpose, we put those hats aside.” “We should have a healthy debate. It is not that everything old will be erased, but a sense of contemporariness will be brought into the textbooks,” the member added. Before joining the Karnataka-based Nitte Education Trust, Mr. Shastri

political science textbooks. Fellow members of my team are essentially subject experts, and that is important to me. I want to work on a book that is factual and unbiased. That is the mandate that I have given to myself,” said Mr. Shastri. “Over the last decade, I have worked with a wide range of people. We may choose to agree or not agree on certain topics. In case we do not agree, we work to arrive at an agreement,” he added. Before joining the Karnataka-based Nitte Education Trust, Mr. Shastri

Professor used an endoscopic camera to leak question paper in Chhattisgarh, say police

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

A professor at a private college in Chhattisgarh’s Durg district and five students from the same institution were arrested for their alleged roles in the leak of an Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV) entomology question paper, police said on Saturday. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime and Cyber) Smruthik Rajanala told *The Hindu* that 38-year-old Yogesh Sonkesariya, a professor at Bharti Agriculture College in Durg, had allegedly used an endoscopic camera to capture images of the question papers that he received in a sealed envelope and then shared them with his fellow accused before the exam, which was scheduled to be held on August 20. The officer alleged that the accused were also involved in leaking the question paper of another examination that was scheduled for August 7.

On August 20, an agricultural entomology exam – AENT 221 [Pest Management in crops and stored grains-I(Rabi Crops)] – for second-year students of B.Sc. (Agriculture), was cancelled after it was alleged that the question paper had been leaked. The exam was written by 1,500 students enrolled in different colleges affiliated with IGKV, a government-run university here. The Deputy Commissioner said Mr. Sonkesariya had received the set of question papers in a sealed envelope on August 17. “He then inserted an endoscopic camera into the envelope through a tiny hole and captured the contents... The question paper was a one-page document with all the content printed on the same side. He then used glue to cover the opening through which the camera was inserted,” said Mr. Rajanala. After the examination was cancelled, the university administration filed a

police complaint, saying that the Agriculture College and Research Centre at Kawardha received an email at 8.41 a.m., in which it was claimed that the paper had leaked. Other officials received the email at 8.54 a.m. The complaint added that students and their representatives also informed the university through WhatsApp that some purported questions from the paper were circulating. Based on the complaint, a case was registered against unidentified persons under the Chhattisgarh Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2008, and Section 316 (criminal breach of trust) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. A team of more than 100 police personnel, including members of the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit as well as personnel from the Telibandha police station, was formed to probe the paper leak.

Trade scam or supply chain play? Profit in transit

Data and industry sources reveal little Chinese ownership of such pumps/components sent to the U.S. by Indian/India-based firms; many are large U.S. multinationals with global production centers, they are typically listed in the New York Stock Exchange and follow sourcing strategies that give them cost and technology advantage; profits go to their shareholders or reinvested for growth

M. Kalyanaraman
M. Soundariya Preetha
CHENNAI

The “Great Trans-shipment Scam”, an August 2026 White House report, accuses India’s Pune-Gujarat-Chennai production belt of pumps and compressors that export to the U.S. as being largely just pit stops in the movement of Chinese goods to America where no meaningful value addition is made. The report says China-linked exporters use jurisdictions like India for “both limited production activity and logistics-side routing”.

And the alleged scam lies in evading the high tariffs that the Trump administration levied on China in its first term by routing these pumps and compressors (HS Code 8413 and 8414) through India, which has led to a decline in pump and com-

pressor manufacturing in Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus. Pune-Gujarat-Chennai are the “ugly sister cities” that have replaced the industrial belts in the three U.S. cities mentioned before, as per the report.

An Indian pump draws a tariff of 10% while entering the U.S. One coming from China attracts 10% to 25-35% as per Section 301, which the Trump administration slapped on China in its first term for alleged IP theft, discriminatory business practices, forced technology transfer and so on. The report alleges that ever since Section 301 started applying to China, imports from China have dipped but imports from other countries such as India, Mexico and Vietnam have gone up at exactly the same rate and volume, which the U.S. government has interpreted as inference of a “transshipment scam.”

Parsing of figures and speaking to industry sources, however, reveals that there is little Chinese ownership of such pumps/components sent to the U.S. by Indian/India-based companies. Many are large U.S. multinationals with global production centers. They are typically listed in the New York Stock Exchange and follow sourcing strategies that give them cost and technology advantages. The profits of these American companies go to their shareholders or reinvested for growth.

Sourcing strategies are complex and navigate cheap raw materials and manufacturing, tariff differential and geopolitics to cut costs. For instance, an American pump company with a plant in India recently purchased two branded motors from Singapore under India’s Advance Authorisation scheme that allows duty-free import of raw

Pointing fingers

The White House report calls Pune-Gujarat-Chennai belt ‘ugly sister-cities’ that have damaged local production of pumps and compressors in the Ohio sister cities of Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus

■ India, Mexico, Vietnam, China, Taiwan, Italy and Canada are the biggest suppliers of pumps to the U.S.

■ The White House report calls out that India, Mexico and Vietnam are recyclers of Chinese pumps and compressors without doing significant value addition

materials and components needed to make products for export. This company exports its products across the globe, including the U.S. An Indian pump manufacturing company in the small and medium-scale (SME) category exports pumpsets, including to the U.S. Since the parts for these pumps are not available in India, it imports them from China, paying Indian Customs Du-

ty, potentially nullifying tariff differential.

And this is a global phenomenon. A reliable industry report that tracked HS Code 8413 imports to the U.S. from across the world barring leaders -- China, Taiwan and Italy -- shows that some 85% of the import value comes from Canada, which is not on the list of dubious nations in the White House report. Mexico comes next with

more than 11% while India comes third contributing a little over 2% and Brazil and Vietnam are fourth and fifth with much less than 1%. Out of the top 50 suppliers, 16 are U.S. firms, among the most well-known OEMs of pumps. Six are German-owned and they too are blue-chip firms. Four are Japanese, 3 South Korean and 1 each Swiss, UK, Chinese, Hong Kong and so on.

There are five Indian firms in the top 50. Two are Mexican. The industry report puts the total value of Indian pump exports to the U.S. at some ₹4,000 crore. Industry sources say only a fraction of this comes from Indian companies.

Indian MSME manufacturers vulnerable to damaging action by the U.S. government. Their factories have been around for years and have collaborated with international partners for technology so they could meet American standards to cater to that market.

“The US already applies strict non-preferential origin rules based on substantial transformation. Yet the report says these rules remain complex, inconsistent and open to misuse, and calls for tougher statutory standards. This could increase uncertainty and compliance costs for legitimate manufacturers using imported inputs without necessarily improving the detection of deliberate customs fraud,” says Ajay Srivastava of Global Trade Research Initiative.

“Pumps sold in the U.S. market should meet mandatory standards and norms and we spent years to design pump-

sets to meet these requirements. We cannot sell these pumpsets in other countries as they are designed specifically for the US. The design and voltage are different for the American buildings or agriculture market. India is competitive to China in forgings and castings and Indian companies will not pay Customs duties to import these from China and assemble the pumps here to supply to the US as this is not an economically viable option,” says an Indian pump exporter .

A loophole

Industry sources find the possibilities of some firms in India doing third country invoicing and shipping directly from China to the U.S. This too is an age-old practice in global trade. But, the White House report is specifically on goods landing in India and leaving without major value addition.

INBRIEF



‘\$72.85 bn forex inflows via FCNR (B), OFCB, ECB Swap’

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Saturday said that \$72.85 billion [\$72,848 million] of foreign exchange has been generated via FCNR(B) Deposits, External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) and Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) under the Reserve Bank Swap facility as on August 21, 2026. The position of forex inflows as reported by Authorised Dealer Banks to the RBI till August 21, 2026 includes \$64.40 billion by way of FCNR (B) deposits; \$4.86 billion via OFCBs and \$2.59 billion by ECBs.

‘India remains very attractive for global investments’

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India remains a very attractive destination for global investments and its economic fundamentals form the basis for strong investor confidence, Jyoti Jeetun, the Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning of Mauritius told *The Hindu* in an interview.

Ms. Jeetun added that the amended Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between the two countries, which was recently ratified by the Mauritian Cabinet, would ensure that genuine and constructive investments flow from Mauritius to India.

She also said that whatever concerns investors had with the amendments

to the DTAA have now been ironed out.

Mauritius has historically been a major source of investments into India. It accounted for about \$6.6 billion or 11.2% of the total foreign direct investment (FDI) that entered India in 2025-26, the second-highest that year after Singapore, according to data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Between April 2000 and March 2026, Mauritius accounted for \$186 billion of FDI, which is nearly a quarter of the total inward FDI during that period.

“India remains a very attractive destination for global investment flows,” Ms. Jeetun said. “As one of the world’s top four economic powers, India’s primary



Jyoti Jeetun

economic ambition is to become a \$5 trillion economy by fiscal year 2028-2029. This ambition underscores the scale of capital it will require to grow its economy,” she added.

“India’s fundamentals, its vast market size, ongoing reforms, and rapid digital transformation continue to underpin strong investor confidence.”

Plugging gaps

While Mauritius has been a

major source of FDI into India, there have been some concerns that a large part of these investments are not genuinely from Mauritius and that companies were using its tax treaty with India to route investments through shell companies simply located in Mauritius but that did not actually do business there. The tax authorities on both sides have over the years tried to plug these gaps.

The India-Mauritius DTAA was signed in 1982 has historically played an important role in facilitating investment into India through Mauritius, Ms. Jeetun explained, adding that it has been pivotal for Mauritius’ economic partnership with India for four decades.

“The 2016 Protocol introduced source-based taxation of capital gains on shares acquired on or after 1 April 2017, whereby India was allowed to impose a capital gains tax,” she said. “A change in FDI flow from Mauritius to India has since been observed. Mauritius moved from being the leading source of FDI into India to generally ranking among the second or third largest sources.”

Then, in 2024, the agreement was further amended to introduce the Principal Purpose Test (PPT). This basically said that, if the principal purpose of setting up a company or passing investment flows through Mauritius is to receive tax benefits, then India can refuse to provide those tax benefits.

This amendment was signed by the previous government in Mauritius in March 2024. However, due to concerns raised by investors on both sides, it was ratified by the Mauritian Cabinet of the new government only in July 2026. Ms. Jeetun explained how the Indian tax authorities had cooperated with Mauritius to iron out the various concerns and issues.

The amendment still needs to be notified by both sides before it can come into effect.

“Since we assumed office in November 2024, we have through diplomatic channels engaged with the Indian authorities to bring certain clarity and restore the trust and certainty for investors,” she said.

‘SEBI reviewing framework for disclosure of issue proceeds utilisation’

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI



Tuhin Kanta Pandey

Market regulator SEBI is reviewing the framework for monitoring and disclosing utilisation of issue proceeds to improve timely disclosures and streamline the compliance process, SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Saturday.

Addressing the Institute of Directors’ Annual Directors’ Conclave 2026, Mr. Pandey said transparency is not merely about the volume of information disclosed by a company but about whether the information helps investors understand what matters.

“We are reviewing the framework for monitoring and disclosure of utilisation of issue proceeds, with the objective of improving timely disclosures and streamlining the compliance process,” Mr. Pandey said. He said a company making a disclosure does not necessarily mean it has become transparent.

“True transparency is not the volume of information. It is the quality, timeliness and usefulness of information,” the SEBI chairman said.

Mr. Pandey said the regulator has progressively strengthened the frame-

work for disclosure of material events and information, with materiality thresholds and specified timelines aimed at bringing greater consistency and timeliness to disclosures.

He also said SEBI proposes to further clarify the framework governing related-party transactions.

“We propose to further clarify the framework on related-party transactions, so that the requirements are clear and workable for issuers while retaining the necessary safeguards for investors,” Mr. Pandey said. On regulatory compliance, Mr. Pandey said good governance also requires regulation to remain proportionate and avoid unnecessary duplication.

SEBI is proposing a framework to avoid duplication of fines levied by multiple exchanges on entities listed on more than one exchange for the same matter, he added.

FSSAI issues 150 notices to food firms over misleading ads

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Food regulator FSSAI on Saturday informed that it has issued 150 notices to food companies, including major brands Nestle India, PepsiCo and Coca-Cola India, in recent months over misleading advertisements, false claims and non-compliance with labelling regulations.

In a social media post, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) shared an update on its enforcement action taken against major brands in recent months.

“Over 150 notices issued for misleading advertisements, false claims & labelling non-compliances,” the FSSAI said.

Major brands

The regulator shared the list of a few major brands against whom action has been taken. These include Nestle India, PepsiCo, Abbott India Ltd., Red Bull India, Danone India, Monster Energy India Pvt. Ltd., Hell Energy Pvt. Ltd., Mondelez India, Coca-Cola India, Diageo, Pernod Ricard, and Kenvue Inc.

In the past few months, the FSSAI said it has taken action against various food business operators (FBOs) for serious violations of its laws and regulations.

CENTRE FOR MATERIALS FOR ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY (C-MET)

(Scientific Society, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Govt of India)
Panchawati, Off. Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pashan, Pune-411 008, INDIA

CORRIGENDUM 1: Extension of submission of EOI responses for DCPD for the project on photonic packaging (A-PACK)

Please refer to the EOI call CMET/PUNE/2026-27/PIC/01 dated 5th Aug 2026 on the web page www.cmet.gov.in

In this connection, it has been decided to revise the last date of submission of proposals for EOI and the date for opening and other activities. The revised dates are as given below:

Particulars	Original Date	Revised Date
Last date of submission of EOI responses	23.08.2026	28.08.2026
Opening of EOI responses	25.08.2026	31.08.2026
Declaration of shortlisted Firms	31.08.2026	4.09.2026

All other conditions remain the same. Proposers are advised to submit the responses in advance. CMET, Pune will not be responsible for any delay in submission of responses within the time mentioned above

Sd-
In-charge Administration

TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD

Devaswom Commissioner Office
Nanthancode, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 003
E-mail: dcotdb@gmail.com Ph: 9188911421

ROC NO: 26/2026/SAB 22-08-2026

Re E-Tender Notice for Sabarimala

Competitive Re e-tenders are invited from experienced manufacturers, distributors, and contractors through <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> for the supply of required materials for the preparation and distribution of offering Prasadam (Vazhipadu Prasadam) in connection with Mandala-Makaravilakku, Meda Vishu, Monthly Poojas, and other requirements for the year 1202 ME (2026–2027) at Sabarimala, Pamba and Nilakkal Devaswoms under the Travancore Devaswom Board.

Details are listed below:

Sl.No	Item Required	Quantity	EMD
A Category			
1.	Powdered Jaggery	5,000 MT	10,00,000/-
2.	250 ML Paper container (Ring & Lid Type)	75,000	1,00,000/-
B Category			
3.	Dried Rice	1,400 MT	2,00,000/-
4.	Dry Ginger	40 MT	40,000/-
5.	Dry Ginger Powder	3 MT	10,000/-
6.	Cumin Seeds	20 MT	30,000/-
7.	Butter Paper Bag	80,00,000 Nos.	1,00,000/-
8.	Ghee Pouch	1000 Kilogram	10,000/-
9.	BOP Tape	2000 Nos	5,000/-
10.	Flattened Rice/ Aval (Pamba)	4 MT	5,000/-

Submission starting date : 23-08-2026, 10.00 AM
Re E-Tender closing date : 28-08-2026, 10.00 AM
Re E-Tender opening date : 29-08-2026, 10.00 AM

● More details and conditions are available at our website www.travancoredevaswomboard.org
● All tender processing - related queries will be entertained only online.

Sd/, Devaswom Commissioner

மத்திய சித்த மருத்துவ ஆராய்ச்சிக் குழுமம்
(ஆயுஷ் அமைச்சகம், இந்திய அரசு)
ஜி.எஸ்.டி. சாலை, தாமிரம் சான்டோரியம், சென்னை-600047.

केंद्रीय सिद्ध अनुसन्धान परिषद्
(आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
जी.एस.टी. रोड, ताम्रम सानटोरियम, चेन्नई - 600047.

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN SIDDHA
(Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India)
GST Road, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai – 600 047.
Phone: 044-2621 2421, 2621 1621,
e-mail: ccrs-ayush@gov.in, Website: www.ccrs.ayush.gov.in

Advertisement No. 08/2026

Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS), invites applications for the following positions for various Contractual positions:

Sl. No	Name of Position	Number of Posts	Place of posting
1.	Domain Expert (Siddha)	01	CCRS, HQ., Chennai / Peripheral Institutes / Units.
2.	Media Consultant	01	CCRS, HQ., Chennai.
3.	Consultant (Admin)	03	SCRU Bengaluru, SCRUs New Delhi & SCRUs Goa.
4.	Research Associate (Chemistry)	01	CCRS, HQ., Chennai.
5.	Field Attendant	01	SMPG & RC, Mettur.

Last date of submission of application is **11.09.2026**. Further details regarding eligibility, educational qualifications, age, experience, remuneration, tenure of contract and other terms and conditions etc. be followed in the Council's website: www.ccrs.ayush.gov.in.

Date: 23.08.2026 Director General, CCRS.

Government of Odisha
“e” procurement Notice No-03
PH. No. 0674-2540603, E-mail Id: senhcnorth_bbsr@rediffmail.com
Identification No.03/CCE NH, NORTHERN of 2026-27

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Value of Work (Rs. in lakh)	Period of completion (in calendar months)	Last date / Time for receipt of bids	Date of opening of tender	Name and address of the officer inviting tender
01	Providing, fixing and installation of Solar Street Lights within Km. 17/500 to 21/000 Km. (Brahmagiri Town) on NH-316 in the State of Odisha for the year 2026-27.	119.11	03 (Three)	17.09.2026 upto 17.30 hours.	18.09.2026 At 15.30 hours	Chief Construction Engineer, O/o the Chief Construction Engineer, Northern NH Circle, Unit-IX (Fiat), Bhubaneswar-22.

02. Further details can be seen from the “e” procurement website www.tendersodisha.gov.in with effect from 10.00 hours of 28.08.2026.
03. Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender if required shall be hosted in the aforesaid website only.
04. The authority reserves the right to cancel any / all bids without assigning any reason.

Chief Construction Engineer, Northern N.H.Circle, Bhubaneswar.
34001677/2627
OIPIR-34001/34118/1/26-27/0002

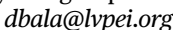
Older claims exist, including graphite in 3.7- to 3.8-billion-year-old Greenland rocks, but several have been disputed.

Scientists have thought psychedelics disorganised brain signals. A study has disagreed. Analysing brain scans of 62 adults, researchers found psilocybin caused brain activity to align closer with a person's environment (e.g. listening to music), a state they called embeddedness, which could be why many people feel a sense of being at one with their surroundings. The stronger this alignment, the more the person's mood improved later, suggesting it is key to psychedelics' therapeutic benefits.



By crushing diamond samples with shock waves reaching 1 terapascal, about 10-million-times the atmospheric pressure, scientists have found that rather than shift into different crystal structures, they stay intact before melting into a metallic liquid. This revealed that as the pressure increased, diamond's melting point dropped slightly. The data can help scientists understand the interiors of giant planets and refine nuclear fusion setups that use diamond components.

New studies pursue 'perfect' blend for coffee and health



Ones of a kind

species, e.g. using differences in plumage or calls. Humans can also learn how. After years spent studying chimpanzees, scientists' ability to perceive differences becomes honed to the differences that already exist between individuals. The same goes for other animals. Individual plants of the same species can also have different height, branching patterns, leaf shapes, colours, etc. However, plants lack the evolutionary pressure to advertise their individual identities the way social animals do.

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

What does ChatGPT for Teens entail?

Why did OpenAI launch this? What are its features? What restrictions does it have? Can it be used for learning?

Abhinava K.

The story so far:
On August 18, OpenAI launched a version of ChatGPT for teenagers. The company said ChatGPT for Teens will have stronger protections, including restrictions on content related to self-harm, suicide, and sexual content. The launch comes amid claims that AI chatbots have contributed to deaths by suicide among the youth and caused other mental health problems.

What are the key features of ChatGPT for Teens?
ChatGPT for Teens, designed for 13- to 17-year-olds, has features such as parental controls, quiet hours, a study mode, and notifications for situations that require real-world interventions. Most of these safeguards were already present in accounts for minors. Apart from those who identify themselves as minors, OpenAI has said that it will also automatically place users who its system determines to be below the age of 17 under ChatGPT for Teens. The company says it is guided by a commitment to treat teens as teens, and to encourage real-world support. Apart from restrictions on content related to self-harm, violence, eating disorders, dangerous activities, and explicit sexual or graphic material, it also places emphasis on helping teens study, rather than providing answers.

Apart from restrictions on content related to self-harm, violence, eating disorders, and sexual or graphic material, it also places emphasis on helping teens study, rather than providing answers

Can ChatGPT for Teens be used for learning?
As the first generation of children and teens grows up with AI, an increasing number of them uses the tool for learning. ChatGPT for Teens promises to support students working on their lessons. For example, a teen attempting to solve a mathematical equation will not be directly given the answer; instead, the chatbot will go over the equation step-by-step, ask questions, and give hints for solutions. The study mode, built with inputs from teachers, scientists, and other experts, will use this detailed approach to arrive at answers. Parents and teens can even set specific timings for it to be enabled by default.

What other guardrails are present?
The company says ChatGPT for Teens will “reduce exposure to harmful content while preserving the ability to learn, create, and explore”. The accounts of parents and teens can be linked, and parents can receive notifications in certain high-risk situations. This will alert them if something may be seriously wrong. The alerts will be monitored by human moderators. OpenAI will also provide options such as quiet hours that regulate when ChatGPT can’t be used, turning off memory so it doesn’t save and use chats while responding, and removing options for image generation. For teens, the chatbot will offer periodic reminders to take breaks from using ChatGPT and caution them against uploading sensitive images. It will also provide the option of switching off voice mode to minimise the ability of the chatbot to appear like a person. “ChatGPT should not use romantic language, encourage emotional dependence, or imply that it has feelings or consciousness,” OpenAI said. However, the effectiveness of these safeguards remains to be seen. Experts have reservations on whether these actions will be enough to address the dependence of users on chatbots.

Why is this needed?
Concerns over the unchecked use of AI chatbots have been mounting for a while now. There have been several news reports of teens and adults using chatbots for advice on self-harm and/or inflicting violence on others. Several families, including the parents of 16-year-old Adam Raine, who died by suicide last year, have sued OpenAI saying it has contributed to deaths. There have also been growing concerns about learning losses due to the use of these chatbots. Various studies have highlighted the harm that chatbots cause to critical-thinking skills. Among teens, this can cause lasting damage. The ability of chatbots to mimic human characteristics and emotions has also led to several users forming relationships with them. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman has spoken about how several people, particularly the youth, have an “emotional over-reliance” on ChatGPT. Governments are also facing pressure to regulate the use of AI chatbots. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission is examining the negative impacts of AI chatbots acting as companions, particularly on children and teens. The U.K. is considering restricting the use of AI chatbots for users under 18. India does not have stand-alone legislation regulating how children use AI chatbots.

What are the U.S.’s latest allegations against India?

Why has the U.S. accused India of violating what it considers fair trade practices? How many countries have been named in The Great Transhipment Scam? What do these allegations mean for India? Can they impact India’s growth story?

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:
Last week, the U.S. accused India of violating what it considers fair trade practices. The White House published a report titled “The Great Transhipment Scam” in which it accused about 40 countries, including India, of helping China evade U.S. tariffs.

What is the Great Transhipment Scam?
Over the last nearly three decades, the U.S. and Chinese economies have become deeply intertwined, with the U.S. increasingly relying on China to be its manufacturing hub, and China relying on the U.S. as its market and for investments. This is a somewhat simplistic assessment of their engagement, but it is also the most relevant for the current context. This relationship has resulted in the U.S. running huge trade deficits with China. That is, importing much more from the country than it exports to it. U.S. President Donald Trump has for long spoken about his concerns with vast trade deficits; it is primarily why he insisted on levying tariffs on U.S. trade partners during his second term. However, China began facing such actions during Mr. Trump’s first term itself. In 2018, the U.S. imposed tariffs ranging from 7.5% to 100% on goods from China such as electric vehicles, semiconductors, and medical products under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, for unfair trade and tech practices. As per the White

The U.S. has alleged that more than 40 countries ore regions are importing Chinese goods, modifying them, and exporting them to the U.S. at tariffs below what they would have faced had they directly been exported from China

House report, this resulted in a shrinking of the U.S.’s trade deficit with China in 2019 and 2020. On July 24, 2026, the U.S. added a further 12.5% tariff for gaps in forced-labour compliance and the lack of comprehensive legal import prohibitions. According to the report, since 2018, Chinese exporters have increasingly been routing goods through third countries to evade tariffs. “Products that previously moved directly from China to the United States were shipped through jurisdictions where limited assembly, finishing, repackaging, relabeling, or documentation changes could create the appearance of a different national origin,” the report stated.

What is India’s involvement?
The White House has identified more than 40 countries associated with “elevated illegal transshipment risk”, with India among the top “enablers” of China’s evasion of tariffs. The other countries/regions named as the top enablers are Mexico, Canada, the European Union, Japan, and South Korea. The U.S. has alleged that these countries are importing Chinese goods, modifying them marginally, and exporting them to the U.S. at tariffs below what these goods would have faced had they directly been exported from China. This, the report said, has led to significant revenue loss for the U.S. government. “The Office of Trade and Economic Analysis estimates that approximately \$67 billion in U.S.-bound goods were transshipped from China through the top hubs – Mexico, India, and Vietnam – in 2025, producing an estimated \$28 billion in lost tariff revenue,” the report said. As an example, the report mentioned the Pune-Gujarat-Chennai production belt, saying that the region “absorbs” pumps and compressors from China, thereby affecting industrial supply chains in Cincinnati, Dayton, and Columbus in the U.S.

What does this mean for the U.S.?
Broadly, the report’s findings suggest that the U.S.’s tariff policy has failed to reduce U.S. imports and increase domestic production. While U.S. imports from China fell from \$525.8 billion in 2017 to \$327.5 billion in 2025, total U.S. imports from all countries rose sharply from \$2.41 trillion to \$3.50 trillion. In short, the U.S. replaced many Chinese finished goods with imports from other countries rather than with domestically produced goods. As Ajay Srivastava, founder of the think tank



U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping during a state dinner at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. AP

What did Trump say about India’s voting system?

Why is the President pushing for stricter voter ID rules in the U.S.? How are elections conducted in the U.S. and how are they different from those in India? What is the SAVE America Act? What do Americans think about the requirement of a photo ID?

Srinivasan Ramani

The story so far:
U.S. President Donald Trump posted on his social media platform, Truth Social, that India’s Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar had asked his administration how elections are held in the U.S. without a valid photo identity card. He also pointed out that just 1% of India’s 64.64 crore electors who voted in the last general elections voted by mail (unlike the large number who do so in the U.S.) Mr. Trump reiterated his demand that Congress pass the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE America) Act, which would require documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote in federal elections and a photo ID to cast a ballot, among other restrictions.

How are elections conducted in the U.S. and how do they differ from elections in India?
Article I, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution (the Elections Clause) empowers the State legislatures to determine the “times, places, and manner” of federal elections even as it allows Congress to alter or make such regulations. There is no national election authority like the Election Commission of India. There is the Federal Election Commission, but it is only empowered to regulate campaign finance as registration, balloting, and counting are done by

The Bipartisan Policy Center in the U.S. estimates that over 20 million eligible American citizens do not have ready access to a passport or a birth certificate. Newly registering young adults have also faced problems producing these documents

the States’ county and municipal jurisdictions. This is due to the strongly federal nature of the U.S., unlike India’s quasi-federal system. The U.S. Congress also passed the National Voter Registration Act, 1993, which required States to offer voter registration at motor vehicle and public assistance offices, and the Help America Vote Act, 2002, which provided funding for States to buy new voting machines and called for State-wide elector databases. Voter eligibility in the U.S. is therefore a State concern, and registration is elector-initiated. While documentary proof of citizenship is not demanded, a potential elector has to affirm citizenship under penalty of perjury on the registration form. Thirty-six States ask for some form of identification at the polling place and 23 ask for a photo ID. This is unlike India, where electoral rolls are compiled in each State via house-to-house enumeration conducted by the ECI, which has superintendence over the whole process of registration. Eligible electors are then issued the Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC), though other documents, including Aadhaar, can be used as identification at the booth as well.

Is non-citizen voting a real problem in the U.S. as Mr. Trump has made it out to be?
Independent studies have found that almost all non-citizen registrations in the U.S. are accidental and only a small proportion of them votes. The Trump administration’s claims have not survived scrutiny. *The New York Times* reported that after announcing in July that it had identified 2,78,000 non-citizens on the rolls of four States, including 15,903 in Nevada, the Department of Homeland Security told Nevada’s election administrators this month that it had identified just 185 potential non-citizens so far. It described the earlier figure as a “ceiling” and shared a list without names. Surveys show that a large majority of the electorate supports the requirement of photo identification at the polls. Yet, even this is short of the more onerous requirement of proving citizenship at the point of registration, which is what the SAVE America Act requires.

What is the SAVE America Act, and why is it opposed by Democrats and others?
The SAVE America Act was passed by the U.S.

Global Trade Research Initiative, said, “Mr. Trump’s tariffs changed the source of imports but failed to reduce America’s overall dependence on imported goods”.

What are the implications for India?
This is yet another way that the U.S. is finding fault with India’s trade policies. During his first term, Mr. Trump found fault with India’s tariffs on luxury motorcycles, after which India reduced them. Last year, he blamed India for financing Russia’s war with Ukraine by importing Russian oil; his government hiked tariffs on imports from India to 50% as a penalty. More recently, the U.S. Senate passed a Bill with Mr. Trump’s backing that would result in tariffs of up to 100% being levied on India for its Russian oil imports. The Bill is waiting to be introduced and passed in the House of Representatives. Apart from this, the U.S. has also imposed a 10% tariff on imports from India as a penalty for not doing enough to curb the import of goods made using forced labour. Another investigation on excess capacity is ongoing, which could potentially see tariffs being hiked even further. The latest allegations that India is helping China evade tariffs are not accompanied by penal actions yet, but that possibility remains. Mr. Trump could decide to impose further tariffs on countries he deems are helping China in this regard.

How could India’s economy be impacted?
For India, any penal action would be a blow to its growth story. Over the last few years, rather than predominantly importing Chinese finished goods, India has been importing raw materials and intermediate goods, using them to manufacture finished goods within the country, and then exporting them. For example, electronic components made up 3.3% of India’s imports from China in the first quarter of 2015-16. This has grown to nearly 13% as of the first quarter of 2026-27. Several other goods used in manufacturing in India, such as electric machinery, chemicals, plastics, have seen their shares rise over the same period. On the other hand, the share of finished goods such as telecom instruments have fallen from about 18% to 11% over the same period of time. Similarly, the share of manufactured fertilizers have fallen from about 7.5% in 2015 to less than 1% in 2026. The share of consumer electronics in imports from China have halved over the same period. The ‘Make in India, For the World’ story still relies heavily on inputs from China. If India is forced to curb those imports, its manufacturing costs will rise, making Indian products less competitive globally.

House of Representatives in February along party lines, with Republicans outnumbering Democrats. It requires every new registering elector or an existing elector who wants to update his/her record to produce a passport, or a birth certificate, or naturalisation papers along with a government photo ID. Mail-in voters – a widely used option in the U.S. – have to enclose a copy of their photo ID. States will then run names on electoral rolls through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the latter could flag non-citizens for removal. Election officials who register people who lack the documents can face up to five years in prison. The Bipartisan Policy Center in the U.S. estimates that over 20 million eligible American citizens do not have ready access to a passport or a birth certificate. Newly registering young adults have also faced problems producing these documents. These concerns have led the Democratic Party to oppose the SAVE America Act, which has stalled in the Senate.

Is India’s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process delivering the “pure” rolls that the ECI promises?
The SIR, launched by the ECI to “purify” the electoral rolls, uses a peculiar methodology in which electors must self-enumerate on forms distributed door-to-door by the ECI before being included in the draft roll. After scrutiny by election officials, who will compare the forms with the previous SIR conducted more than two decades ago in the States, the draft rolls will be updated (the corrections and clarifications phase) before new SIR rolls are released. The three phases of the SIR conducted by the ECI have been beset by anomalies in each State. By phase 2 of the SIR, for instance, more than 7 crore names were deleted during the process. The issues with the SIR are reflected in the drastic fall in gender ratio in the new rolls across most States. In West Bengal, in particular, an analysis published in *The Hindu* showed that there has been a religious skew in the deletions as well, which mattered in the way the election results panned out in the State. Despite these infirmities and anomalies, the Supreme Court held that the exercise was well within the ECI’s statutory mandate. The SIR in India has shifted the onus of verifying voter eligibility onto electors, unlike the earlier process in which election officials prepared the rolls by identifying and enrolling eligible citizens through house-to-house surveys. Opponents of the SAVE America Act have raised a similar concern about the Trump administration-backed legislation.

The man who steadied the ship

The former BNP general secretary who steered the party through the difficult years of the Hasina government, when Khaleda Zia was in jail and Tarique Rahman was in exile in the U.K., has been elected President of Bangladesh

The period following the end of the last BNP government in 2006 was not

Mr. Alamgir's active political career formally began when Gen. Ziaur Rahman took charge after the November 7, 1975 military uprising in Dhaka. Later, several leftist and socialist leaders joined Ziaur Rahman's political party, the BNP, and Mr. Alamgir was one of them. His first experience of working for a BNP

During the next eight years, he taught economics in Dhaka and nurturing his links with the BNP that was being revived by Khaleda Zia. His father had reinvented his political career at this time and served as a Minister in the government of Hossein Mohammed Ershad. Mr. Alamgir left the government job towards the end of the 1980s when he won the chairmanship of the municipality of

He became a state Minister for agriculture in 2001 when Khaleda Zia became PM once again. He subsequently handled civil aviation and tourism as well. Mr. Alamgir came into national limelight during the difficult years of the BNP when Khaleda Zia was out of power and later in prison, and Tarique Rahman was forced into exile in the U.K. It was during this period, when Sheikh Hasina steered Bangladesh from 2009 onwards, that Mr. Alamgir took on

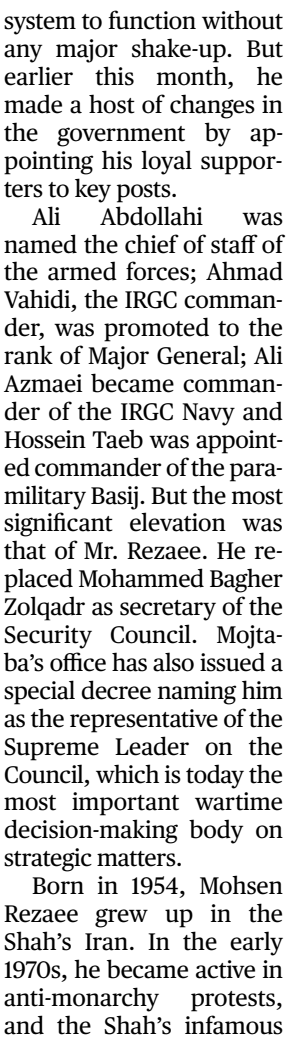
G.M. Quader described Mr. Alamgir as a pragmatist who wants to build relations with important stakeholders such as India, and said the biggest test before him as the President of Bangladesh will be whether he can bring his pragmatic approach into politics and administration. "Bangladesh's politics needs to be more inclusive as we need to discuss all challenges before the country in a transparent manner. Hopefully, as President of the country, Mirza Fakhru will be able to convince the government of Bangladesh to be just that," Mr. Quader told *The Hindu*.

He became a state Minister for agriculture in 2001 when Khaleda Zia became PM, and subsequently handled civil aviation and tourism as well

The Islamic apparatchik

A former IRGC commander and a close confidant of the Supreme Leader, the General has been appointed Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council

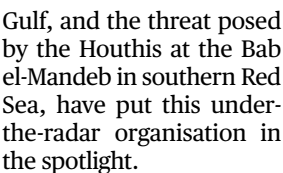
In March, when Mojtaba was appointed the Supreme Leader after the assassination of his father and predecessor Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Mr. Rezaee was picked as the military adviser of the new leader. The country was under attack. A host of senior leaders were killed in the initial phase of the war – from Ali Khamenei to Ali Larjani, who was the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council. Initially Mojtaba opted for replacements for the assassinated leaders and allowed the



Mr. Rezaee has long belonged to the “principalist” faction of Iran’s political class – the group broadly

The hardline insider is today a central figure in Iran's wartime leadership. By elevating Mr. Rezaee to secretary of the Security Council, Mojtaba Khomeini is sending a message that is lost on no one.

For 25 years now, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) has been providing seafarers, shipping companies and authorities “essential, verified and corroborated security information”. According to its website, it is a “trusted authority in the maritime security sector, helping protect crucial trade routes”. Always working in the background, the West Asia war and Iran’s stranglehold over the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian



The UKMTO is a British Royal Navy-sponsored organisation that was formed in 2001 with an office in Dubai to handle distress calls during piracy threats, particularly near Somalia. In 2014, it was moved to Portsmouth in the U.K. The 'UK National Strategy for Maritime Security', presented in the British Parliament in 2014, outlines the U.K.'s broad-based thinking on maritime strategy of which the UKMTO is a part. The document said how "every aspect of our national life" is connected to the wider world and "most of these connections are provided by the sea". Hence, it was seen as an imperative to "organise and use our current national capabilities to identify, assess and address maritime security issues at home and overseas".

The UKMTO has three 24/7 phone lines and an e-mail to report emergencies or incidents. Ship masters are requested to file multiple reports – an initial report when entering the

Today, the UKMTO has positioned itself as the primary point of contact for commercial vessels with military forces in the region. The reporting system aims to, in the UKMTO's words, "increase security and provide anti-piracy support to maintain the freedom of navigation to all vessels".

Congo receives over 16,000 doses of Ebola vaccine amid health crisis



Somali pirates hijack oil products tanker off Yemen in latest attack



Two men injured in stabbing at Canada's Edmonton gurdwara



Armed men abduct more than 60 worshippers from Nigeria mosque



U.S. imposes 50% import tariffs on \$20 bn worth of Canadian products

Russian and Ukrainian strikes kill at least 10 people

U.S. and Iran keep up their hostile rhetoric ahead of sanctions

Imran Khan's sister files contempt plea over violation of SC hospitalisation order

U.S. federal judge strikes down Trump's 75-country visa ban

Sport

Rohit clinches gold with an impressive show

Kavyashree stars on a day of upsets

32): Men: Manush Shah (RBI) bt S. Preshay Rair (RSPB) 16-14, 11-3, 9-11, 11-7; Abhimanyu Mitra (IA&AD) bt G. Sathiyam (PSPB) 12-10, 11-6, 11-8; Divyansh Srivastava (U.P.) bt Sarthak Arya (Od) 5-11, 11-6, 11-2, 11-4; Sanil Shetty (PSPB) bt Ayan Ghosh (Ben) 11-9, 11-6, 11-5; Manav Thakkar (PSPB) bt Neil Mulye (Mah) 11-8, 11-7, 5-11, 11-7; Priyansu Bhattacharyya (RSPB) bt H. Jehu (Miz) 11-3, 7-11, 11-6, 12-10. **Women:** Yashaswini Ghoshpade (PSPB) bt Aarti Chaudhary (U.P.) 11-3, 9-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-7; Sreeja Akula (RBI) bt Anjali Rohilla (IA&AD 11-8, 11-5, 14-12, 11-8; Syndrela Das (Ben) bt Ayihika Mukherjee (RBI) 11-6, 6-11, 11-8, 11-1; Kavyashree Baskar (TN) bt Ahona Ray (Ben) 11-9, 11-9, 7-11, 3-11, 11-9; Anusha Kutumbale (RSPB) bt Hardee Patkar (Mah) 11-4, 8-11, 13-11, 11-7; Swastika Ghosh (PSPB) bt Prithoki Chakrabarti (RSPB) 5-11, 11-7, 12-10, 11-8; Suhana Saini (Har) bt Avisha Karmakar (Ben) 7-11, 12-10, 10-12, 11-9; Tanishka Kalbhairav (Kar) bt Madhurika Patkar (PSPB) 8-11, 12-10, 11-8, 7-11, 11-8.

PERFECT SCENARIO

Gambhir terms three-Test series format ideal



PTI

A three-Test series gives a chance to the team that has lost the first match to make a comeback and win the series. You cannot do that in a two-Test series as the team that lost the first game can only draw the series at best — India head coach Gautam Gambhir ahead of the second and final Test against Sri Lanka.

ONE FOR THE FUTURE

Gambhir praises Suthar for capitalising on the chances



PTI

Manav Suthar came in for praise from India coach Gautam Gambhir. “Manav got the big opportunity when he made his Test debut against Afghanistan. This was a big series for him and he put his hand up, which is good for him. He is young and if he keeps working hard, he can take the team forward,” Gambhir said.

SIMPLE PLAN

We need to play well from the outset, says Dhananjaya



PTI

It’s about putting runs on the board. That’s what India did (at Galle). We are trying to improve and get some runs and take 20 wickets. We are one down and we are disappointed. Here we need to play well from the outset. Even though we are short on experience, we have a lot of talent — Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva.

LEARNING CURVE

‘It’s been an amazing week, we played some great matches’



SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

They are World No. 1 and we knew they wouldn’t give away easy points. But it’s been an amazing week, we played some great matches and had a lot to learn from. I think today was just not our day. Towards the second part of the second game, we lost our rhythm and they found theirs — Gayatri Gopichand

‘Even if you score 1,000 runs, you still got to get 20 wickets’

INDIA IN SRI LANKA

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
COLOMBO

In his prime as an opener, Gautam Gambhir loved the scent of a battle and drew inspiration from it. The same combative streak lingers in his second avatar as coach.

Speaking to the media at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground here on Saturday, there was a point in which he was asked about criticism.

The former India star was quick with his riposte: “I am here to win trophies!” Later, he added: “People in the press-box and commentators know that we are going through transition.”

Looking ahead to the second Test commencing on Sunday, Gambhir said: “Even if you score 1,000 runs, you still got to get 20 wickets, that’s how you win matches. So be it three left-arm spinners or an off-spinner or three seamers, we will take a call on what is the best team suited for this surface, it is about the team and the results.”

Praising Devdutt Padikkal and Manav Suthar for their success in the first Test, Gambhir said: “It is encouraging to see them step up and perform straight away but then again we should not judge on just one or two performances. There will be ups and downs and we all know cricket is tough.”



It remains to be seen whether off-spinner Saransh replaces Kuldeep in the XI. PTI

Gambhir did not reveal if there would be swap between Kuldeep Yadav and Saransh Jain, but he did tell about his chats with the former: “I want Kuldeep to just try and bowl good spells rather than looking desperate to take a wicket.”

Refusing to be drawn into a discussion over India’s chances in the ICC World Test Championship, Gambhir said the immediate focus was on the second game.

Take on fitness issues

And as for players breaking down with injuries, he said: “We had a discussion, we want our best players to play as much cricket as possible”.

India holds the aces against a depleted Sri Lanka at SSC

The emphatic win in the opening Test at Galle will stand Gill & Co. in good stead; the host needs big runs to exert scoreboard-pressure on the visiting side in its attempt to square the series

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
COLOMBO

From the incandescent natural beauty that Galle offered, Shubman Gill’s men have moved to the bustling metropolis that Colombo has always been. This multi-lingual city and a maritime junction both for ancient and modern trade routes, was vital to Ceylon then, and equally critical to Sri Lanka now.

Leading 1-0 and stepping into the second Test commencing at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) Ground here on Sunday, India holds the edge over Sri Lanka. The 165-run triumph at Galle will stand the visitor in good stead, a victory shaped by two young players – Devdutt Padikkal and Manav Suthar. The pitch was a dull brown on match-eve, and fringed by the green outfield and rolled-up covers just in case it rained. Initial purchase for batters and later bonanzas for spinners, are the usual tropes associated with cricketing turfs in the Emerald Isle. And this surface will be no different.

In a batting unit that leant heavily on vice-captain K.L. Rahul and his Karnataka mate Padikkal, it is also time for Yashasvi Jaiswal and Gill to join the party. Dhruv Jurel has done his bit in the middle-order and Rishabh Pant has been his



Big challenge: The Sri Lankan spinners as well as the hot and humid conditions will test Gill. ANI

robust self.

Even if Ravindra Jadeja offers batting solidity in the lower-order, India has a fragile tail, and it leaves the job of scoring runs entirely on the specialist batters. Countering the Sri Lankan spinners under shimmering heat that is intrinsic to the venue, will be a test of patience and technique.

Among the bowlers, Mohammed Siraj remains the spearhead with Prasidh Krishna having effected breakthroughs at Galle. While the spin-department is sorted with Suthar and Jadeja, there could be a swap between Kuldeep Ya-

dav and Saransh Jain in the playing XI. The latter’s off-spin could come in handy against left-handed batters.

For Sri Lanka, the fixture offers a chance to draw level in the series. Dinesh Chandimal, dealing with a concussion, will be missed in a batting order that is a touch short on experience. But the way Sonal Dinusha batted in the first Test, offered hope. At Galle, in the second innings, he was casually sitting on the side-wall, soaking in the sun, and awaiting his turn to bat.

Dinusha’s senior colleagues have to contribute

as Sri Lanka needs big runs to exert scoreboard-pressure on India. A Test debut for Kamil Mishara is on the cards. The southpaw blitzed an unbeaten 145 in a recent domestic T20, but against India and in a Test, he would have to temper that innate aggression with caution.

The bulk of the home attack will lean on spinners Prabath Jayasuriya and Keshara Nuwantha. Their interrogation of the Indian batters would be the key that would determine how this game will proceed.

Gill’s men have ticked most of the boxes on this tour. They landed early, had a warm-up game, pocketed the Test at Galle, and in their last week in Sri Lanka, would want to retain the feel-good factor. Sri Lanka, though, will be keen on an ambush.

The teams (from): Sri Lanka: Dhananjaya de Silva (Capt.), Lahiru Udara, Kamil Mishara, Pasindu Sooriyabandara, Kamindu Mendis, Sahana Arachchige, Sonal Dinusha, Niroshan Dickwella (wk), Keshara Nuwantha, Prabath Jayasuriya, Milan Rathnayake, Lahiru Kumara, Asitha Fernando and Vishwa Fernando.
India: Shubman Gill (Capt.), K.L. Rahul (Vice-capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Devdutt Padikkal, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dhruv Jurel, Sarfaraz Khan, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Aaquib Nabi, Gurnoor Brar, Kuldeep Yadav, Manav Suthar and Saransh Jain.
Match starts at 10 a.m.

Pujara backs Padikkal to do well at No. 3

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Former India batter Cheteshwar Pujara backed Devdutt Padikkal at the crucial No. 3 spot in Test cricket, but added that his long-term prospects depend on tougher challenges that lie ahead.

Padikkal’s red-ball stock took an upturn after the southpaw struck a fine 167 in the first Test against Sri Lanka. “Devdutt has been outstanding. He got the opportunity because unfortunately Sai (Sudharsan) was not fit,” Pujara said during a virtual media interaction on Saturday.

“But Devdutt was ready – the way he has been performing in the domestic circuit and IPL, we have seen that he has worked on his game and improved his technique.”

Pujara added that Sai Sudharsan should be accommodated in the team when fit. “India should go ahead with Devdutt at No. 3

for some time, but you cannot leave someone like Sai Sudarshan out of India’s Test squad. I am not saying that he should be batting at three, but he should be there in the scheme of things.” The real test for Padikkal will come when India faces New Zealand (away) and Australia (in India) in the next six months. “If Devdutt performs consistently in both those series, then he will cement his spot.”

The 38-year-old called on the team management to rally behind spinner Kuldeep Yadav, who was not among the wickets at Galle.

“I hope the team management and captain show a little more faith on him. If you are a third spinner, you are bound to have moments where you are not picking up wickets because you are not getting too many overs,” said Pujara.

(Watch Sri Lanka vs. India second Test live on Sony Sports Ten 2 SD & HD and Sony LIV from 10 a.m. on August 23).

Australia gets lead as 18 wickets fall on day one

Agence France-Presse
MACKAY

Australia scratched out a 101-run lead over Bangladesh on Saturday in the second Test, with 18 wickets falling on day one after Mitchell Starc and Shoriful Islam both took six in a fast-bowling masterclass.

The Aussies skittled out Bangladesh for 64 with

Starc taking five wickets in 22 balls during the morning session.

Australia stumbled to 165 for eight at stumps with Cameron Green standing tall on 51 alongside Nathan Lyon (10).

The scores: Bangladesh 64 in 34 overs (Starc 6/12, Cummins 3/25) vs. Australia 165/8 in 40 overs (Smith 42, Green 51 batting, Shoriful 6/35); **Toss:** Australia.



Upset alert: Newly promoted Hull stunned United. GETTY IMAGES

Arsenal up and running; Manchester United stalls

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Arsenal made the perfect start to its Premier League title defence with a stylish 3-0 win against Coventry in the opening game of the season on Friday.

Kai Havertz struck early in the first half and Bukayo Saka doubled the lead before Martin Odegaard netted after the interval to complete Arsenal’s win.

Manchester United crashed to a humiliating 2-0 defeat at promoted Hull on Saturday in a dismal start to its campaign. Michael Carrick’s side

was rocked by first half goals from Semi Ajayi and Nobel Mendy.

The results: Premier League: Hull 2 (Ajayi 17, Mendy 38) bt Manchester United 0; Everton 2 (Dewsbury-Hall 42, Barry 53) bt Crystal Palace 0; Ipswich 2 (Emersonn 24, Clarke 90) bt Sunderland 1 (Angulo 39); Nottingham Forest 0 lost to Leeds 1 (Stach 88); Brentford 3 (Lewis-Potter 12, Janelt 33, Kayode 49) bt Tottenham 0.

Serie A: Inter Milan 4 (Calhanoglu 6, Zielinski 48, Esposito 55, Bisseck 63) bt Monza 1 (Varela 29); Udinese 1 (Kamara 29) drew with Como 1 (Riquelme 54).

On Friday: Premier League: Arsenal 3 (Havertz 15, Saka 23, Odegaard 49) bt Coventry 0. **LaLiga:** Real Betis 1 (Riquelme 63) bt Real Sociedad 0.

Treesa and Gayatri’s winning streak ends

BADMINTON WORLDS

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

It was a dream run that had to end at some point. Giant-killers Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand finally ran out of steam in the semifinals of the badminton World championships. They went down fighting to China’s Sheng Shu Liu and Ning Tan 18-21, 21-13, 21-8 here on Saturday.

It was a match that started with the Chinese firm favourites. It saw the players and fans go through a roller-coaster of fortunes and emotions but eventually the top-seeds, reigning World champions and runners-up at the Paris Olympics two years ago, advanced to the final.

The Indians, already assured of a medal, lost but were not discredited. If anything, the performance only burnished their growing reputation as serious challengers. Starting slow, Treesa and Gayatri relied more on skills and smart play than raw power to



Ebb and flow: After losing the first and taking the second, Sheng and Ning were unstoppable in the decider. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

race to a 7-2 lead before Sheng and Ning reiterated why they are so feared on the circuit.

The Chinese reeled off 10 consecutive points to go 12-7 up. It looked like it would be yet another straight game win for them before Treesa and Gayatri changed their tactics.

The Indians had played a different game to their previous outings so far, relying more on cross-court volleys and soft drops at the net instead. But now

with the decider.

Korea’s Baek Ha Na and Lee So Hee beat Li Yi Jing and Luo Xu Min 21-17, 21-12 in the other semifinal.

Meanwhile, Akane Yamaguchi will face An Se-young for her title defence.

Alex Lanier became the first Frenchman ever to reach the title clash of the marquee event and will take on Kodai Naraoka.

The results (semifinals): Men: Alex Lanier (Fra) bt Victor Lai (Can) 16-21, 21-13, 21-14; Kodai Naraoka (Jpn) bt Chou Tien Chen (Tpe) 17-21, 21-11, 21-10. **Doubles:** Aaron Chia & Soh Wooi Yik (Mas) bt Kim Won Ho & Seo Seung Jae (Kor) 21-17, 21-18; Liang Wei Keng & Wang Chang (Chn) bt Lee Jhe-Huei & Yang Po-Hsuan (Tpe) 21-18, 21-14. **Women:** Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) bt Pornpawee Chochuwong (Tha) 21-12, 21-17; An Se-young (Kor) bt Wang Zhiyi (Chn) 24-22, 21-16. **Doubles:** Baek Ha Na & Lee So Hee (Kor) bt Li Yi Jing & Luo Xu Min (Chn) 21-17, 21-12; Sheng Shu Liu & Ning Tan (Chn) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand 18-21, 21-13, 21-8. **Mixed doubles:** Feng Yan Zhe & Huang Dong Ping (Chn) bt Amri Syahnawi & Nita Violina Marwah (Ina) 20-22, 21-14, 22-20; Thom Gicquel & Delphine Delrue (Fra) bt Jiang Zheng Bang & Wei Ya Xin (Chn) 19-21, 21-13, 21-11.

Battle lines drawn for singles coronation

Devyanshi Bihani
NEW DELHI

The men’s singles final will crown a new badminton World champion. The women’s title clash will pit the defending champion against a three-time victor.

In men’s singles, 21-year-old Alex Lanier will face Japan’s Kodai Naraoka for a world title neither has won before, with both guaranteed their first World championships medal. Lanier beat Canada’s Victor Lai 16-21, 21-13, 21-14. “At some point you need to trust how good you are,” Lanier said. Naraoka lost the opening game 17-21 to veteran Chou Tien Chen before winning the next two 21-11, 21-10. Chou, 36, had been chasing a second record after becoming the oldest men’s singles medallist in World championships history, but Naraoka’s patience and rallying eventually ended that bid.

The women’s final brings together An Se-young and Akane Yamaguchi, with Se-young holding a 19-15 advantage. Yamagu-



Se-young. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

chi moved through with a composed 21-12, 21-17 victory over Thailand’s Pornpawee Chochuwong, becoming the only women’s singles player to win six World championships medals.

Se-young survived a gruelling opening game against Wang Zhi Yi. She appeared to struggle with her left leg late in the second set, but stayed in the contest and sealed victory with a net dribble at 20-16.

The Japanese star now stands between Se-young and a second straight title. “I’m looking forward to how I perform,” said Se-young.



Corroded health: A villager shows his damaged nails, attributing it to heavy metal contamination in groundwater.



Stagnant hazard: Yellowish-green water in a trough near Chhiwali village in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur district.



Neighbourhood watch: A warning sign on toxic waste pileup painted on a wall near Asifpur-Abhaypur village in Fatehpur.



A trail of slime: Chemical sludge seen at an open dump in Fatehpur district. Dumping of hazardous basic chromium sulphate over the years has eroded soil cover in many areas.

Toxic water runs deep

Unchecked industrial waste pileup has affected at least three villages in Uttar Pradesh, where yellow-coloured groundwater and patches of yellow-green top soil – indicators of chromium contamination – has been reported in several areas



Shashi Shekhar Kashyap
shashi.shekhar@thehindu.co.in

Decades of improper industrial waste management have contaminated groundwater with toxic hexavalent chromium across parts of three districts of Uttar Pradesh, exposing villagers to unsafe water and serious health risks. Groundwater from handpumps glows bright yellow in different villages of these districts – a telltale sign of toxic hexavalent chromium contamination. Patches of yellow-green earth can also be seen in villages across these districts, revealing the illegal dumps and toxicity hiding beneath the surface. The dumping started from 1976, as per the National Green Tribunal (NGT). But it was scattered and in different districts at different points of time. The earliest, largest chromium dump came up around 1976 in Rania, Kanpur Dehat, say NGT reports. There were 62,225 metric tonnes of chromium waste dumped there. It was removed only about a year ago, following NGT orders and

missed deadlines. There is an NGT direction to erect a boundary wall around it to minimise the dust from flying out, but the hazards remain. Over the last five years, the government collected blood samples of people living in the affected areas. It was found that 73%-96% of the samples had levels of hexavalent chromium above safe limits, according to a 2025 government report. But despite years of complaints and legal intervention, the government's efforts to identify contaminated areas, provide safe drinking water and healthcare, and clean up toxic waste remain slow and inadequate. Sadly, many villages with contaminated groundwater or chemical dumps are not even part of the State government's list of identified chromium-affected areas, indicating that the actual affected area is even larger than what the government has accepted so far and thousands more people could be at risk.

Text by Nikhil M. Babu



Sad plight: A woman seen using a handpump to draw what seems to be water loaded with highly toxic hexavalent chromium at Shivrathpura village in Akbarpur tehsil of Kanpur Dehat district.

