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Noida (Delhi-NCR)	Admissions Open	28 अक्टूबर | सुबह 11:30 बजे
Indore	20 Oct | 11:00 AM	21 अक्टूबर | शाम 5:30 बजे
Jaipur	22 Oct | 8:00 AM	19 अक्टूबर | सुबह 8:00 बजे
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Will 'examine everything' in SIR case, says top court

Petitioners demand safeguarding of 'complete records and decisions' by the ECI concerning voter roll revision; court lists case for mid-November, issues notice on plea against tampering of Form 6

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will "examine everything" after a group of petitioners sought to safeguard records concerning the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise.

The petitioners, including Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, sought a direction from the top court to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to either preserve or file before the court the "complete records and decisions" concerning the voter roll revision.

The demand was made by senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who represents Mr. Gandhi along with advocate S. Prasanna, before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant. "We will examine everything," Chief Justice Kant responded to Mr. Singhvi, listing the case for mid-November.

> They (ECI) issued a press note that the Supreme Court judgment in the Bihar SIR authorised the tampering of Form 6... Please see the audacity of this institution, which is justifying the tampering of Form 6
>
> **MENAKA GURUSWAMY**
> Counsel for a petitioner



Petitioners' demand

The rescheduling of the case happened after senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for lead petitioner Rakesh Kumar Singh, along with other petitioners like Shailendra Mani Tripathi, sought time to respond to an ECI affidavit to their petitions filed on Monday.

"The affidavit talks about decisions, consultations, whether unanimous decisions were taken, etc... Whereas we have only an innocuous, non-invasive demand... To file the records before Your Lordships or pass a direction to preserve the files," Mr. Singhvi submitted.

The court separately issued notice on a petition filed by Mamata Trinamool Congress leader Dola Sen, represented by senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, against the functioning of the ECI and the "tampering" of Form 6.

"They (ECI) issued a press note that the Supreme Court judgment in the Bihar SIR authorised the tampering of Form 6... Please see the audacity of this institution, which is justifying the tampering of Form 6," Ms. Guruswamy submitted. She said the ECI affidavit "accepts many of the charges we are making."

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'DECEITFUL AFFIDAVIT' » PAGE 11

IN BRIEF

Jamia stir enters Day 16, Section 163 imposed

NEW DELHI
The Delhi police imposed restrictions under Section 163 of the BNSS around the Jamia Millia Islamia campus on Tuesday amid an agitation demanding the restoration of the students' union that entered its 16th day. » Page 2

SC questions govt. over policy for medicine prices

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Tuesday said "economic policy" could not take precedence over citizens' lives as it questioned the Centre over regulation of prices of essential medicines. » Page 12

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

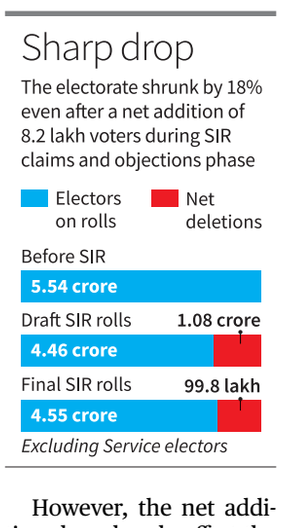
Over 99 lakh names deleted from voter list in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A whopping 99.32 lakh names have been struck off from the electoral rolls in Karnataka following the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise. The number of voters in the final list published on Tuesday came down from 5,54,32,314 before the exercise began, to 4,55,00,011, including 44,322 Service electors.

The constituency-wise electoral rolls can be accessed on the website of the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).

At the draft stage, the electorate had shrunk to 4.46 crore, with nearly 1.08 crore names deleted. The final roll has seen a net addition of 8.19 lakh names compared with the draft roll.



However, the net additions have barely offset the deletions, knocking off nearly a crore from the pre-SIR electorate.

The net addition figures does not indicate how many people who were wrongly excluded have managed to get back on the rolls. Nor does the figure provide a separate breakup of first-time voters added during the SIR, making it difficult to ascertain how many of those deleted have been reinstated. Those who applied for inclusion through Form 6 within the claims and objections period will have their names included in the final roll if their applications are accepted. Those who applied after the deadline will be included in supplementary lists, which will be published every quarter after the SIR.

Karnataka CEO V. Anbu Kumar said that the population-to-electors ratio should ideally be between 60 and 70, and that of the State stood at 66.11.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

U.P. CEO's office apologises for 'tone', tenor of social media posts over voter list errors

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Uttar Pradesh, Navdeep Rinwa, on Tuesday apologised over the "tone" and tenor of social media posts made by the poll body, following a row over the acerbic nature of the remarks, which pertained to erroneous voter slip entries.

The controversy began when Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh questioned Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over an erroneous entry, where 'Ramhit Yadav' became 'Ram *ne* Yadav *ko maara*' (Ram hit Yadav) in the voter list of the recent Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council election.


U.P. CEO Navdeep Rinwa

"Gyanesh Kumar, why did Ram hit only a Yadav? Is your computer casteist? Are you running the agenda of any political party?" the MP said in a post on X.

The U.P. CEO's office attributed the error to a translation software glitch.

In an acerbic response, Mr. Rinwa's office cited another instance of a similar error, where the name of the father of a voter, Ravi Sharma, was incorrectly recorded as "Ram *ne* Sharma *ko maara*".

"A bizarre name, 'Ram *ne* Sharma *ko maara*', has appeared in the voter list for the recent Legislative Council elections. Computers/software are not casteist. We admit that a mistake was made, but fortunately for us, even when the mistake occurred, caste discrimination was not involved," Mr. Rinwa's office said.

This was followed by another mocking remark by Mr. Rinwa's office, which said, "Thank God, Ram did not kill a member of a minority community. Otherwise, we would have been accused of being communal as well."

In response to this, the AAP MP held a press conference in Lucknow on Monday, alleging that Mr. Rinwa was responding like an "agent of the BJP".

On Tuesday, Mr. Rinwa's office issued an apology. "The tone, language and sharpness of the comments in the quoted post from this handle are not in keeping with the kind of communication expected from an official handle," the apology posted to X read. "We sincerely apologise to those who have been shocked and angered by them."

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Section 163 enforced as stir for student polls at Jamia enters 16th day

20 detention buses deployed outside university; one of the gates used by hostellers to enter campus welded; students hold talks with varsity panel after failing to meet V-C, say demands still unfulfilled

Shrimansi Kaushik
NEW DELHI


Security personnel deployed outside Jamia Millia Islamia as Section 163 of the BNSS was enforced on Tuesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Delhi Police enforced Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita around the Jamia Millia Islamia campus on Tuesday, banning the assembly of five or more persons.

The prohibitory order comes amid a continuing agitation demanding the restoration of the students' union. The protest entered its 16th day, with students refusing to call off their stir despite the university's decision to hold elections within 15 days of the approval of the students' union constitution. The students have demanded a definite date for the polls and a clear timeline for approving the constitution.

The university gates were heavily guarded by police personnel on Tuesday, with barricades erected carrying banners announcing the enforcement of Section 163. Over 20 detention buses, riot control vehicles, and a water cannon van were parked outside the campus.

Gate 4C, used by hostel students for internal access to the campus, was covered with aluminium sheets and welded together. "We have enforced Section 163 here as we expect a huge gathering of protesters. The university administration suspects a law and order situation could arise in the area," said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Utkarsha.

According to the protesting students, one of them was issued a show-cause notice for being present on campus. They claimed that a team of university officials visited the protest site during the day, sought their identity cards and departmental details, following which the notice was served.

Meanwhile, students held talks with an administrative committee after they were not able to meet the Vice-Chancellor and present their demands directly to him. "We are trying to get them to agree to all our demands," said Ribinisha Kanneth, one of the protesting students.

Scuffle breaks out

In the evening, a scuffle allegedly broke out between students and the police over doctors not being allowed to enter the campus for a health check-up of those on hunger strike.

1 in 3 of 1,236 deletions in Trilokpuri roll 'wrongly removed', reveals audit

Suruchi Kumari
NEW DELHI

One in three names removed from Delhi's draft electoral roll and covered in a door-to-door public audit across four polling booths in the Trilokpuri constituency, including two booths of Indira Camp, was "wrongly categorised" as absent, shifted, dead or duplicate (ASDD), a survey by civil society organisations has found.

Of the 1,236 audited deletions, 416 people were found living at their registered addresses. Only 87 of them had filled Form 6 seeking inclusion of their names in the rolls, the audit found. Out of 1.23 lakh electors on the Trilokpuri draft roll, 61,998 names were removed under the ASDD categories, it found.

The findings were shared at a public hearing organised on Tuesday by civil society groups, including Jan Sarokar, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, National Federation of Independent Women, and Voter Adhikar Manch.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who attended the hearing, said, "This public audit has shown 416 wrongly deleted voters in just four booths, but people all over the country are now able to see through this farce." He also alleged that the special intensive revision (SIR) was depriving ordinary citizens of their right to vote.


Residents queuing up at a voter facilitation camp organised by civil society groups in Trilokpuri constituency on Tuesday. SURUCHI KUMARI

> This public audit has shown 416 wrongly deleted voters in just four booths, but people all over the country are now able to see through this farce
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> LoP in the Lok Sabha

'Dead' found alive

A voter facilitation camp was also organised at the hearing where daily wage workers and women arrived with their documents. Many of them were unaware that their names had been deleted from the draft roll. The audit revealed that 55% of those marked 'absent' were living at their registered addresses while three of the 102 people categorised as 'dead' were found alive.

Among them was Vijender, 67. His wife, Kamlesh, whose name remained on the roll, was furious. "I want to ask the Booth Level Officer (BLO) what rush he was in to declare him dead," she said.

Nearby, Pinki sat with a Form 6. The names of five family members, including her mother-in-law Anita, who has voted for 50 years, had been deleted. "How are they cutting votes like this?" she said.

'Reverification on'

An Assistant Electoral Registration Officer present at the hearing said reverification was on. However, residents said they were yet to hear from their BLOs. The facilitation camp assisted 280 families to fill forms.

Elderly residents Chandrawati, 72, and Ramji Lal, 78, were shocked to find their names missing after five decades of voting. "We live alone and survive on a ₹2,000 pension. No BLO came to our house," Ms. Chandrawati said.

With the deadline for filing claims and objections ending on October 30, civil society groups have demanded that it be extended by a month.

Traffic Police proposes 4 new circles to cut travel time by 20%

Lavpreet Kaur
NEW DELHI

Faced with persistent traffic congestion – ranging from long queues on National Highway 48 backing up towards Gurugram to snarls at Dhaula Kuan and Mathura Road – Delhi Traffic Police has proposed a comprehensive rejig of management in the New Delhi Traffic Range, with the aim of reducing congestion and travel time by 15-20% on major corridors.

According to a proposal seen by *The Hindu*, the New Delhi Traffic Range is likely to be expanded from 11 to 15 traffic circles, with jurisdictional boundaries being redrawn so that the same traffic unit can manage both ends of key roads and flyovers. The proposed new circles include Dhaula Kuan, Kartavya Path, Jantar Mantar, and Safdarjung Enclave.

The traffic range, which comprises New Delhi and South West districts, faces unique challenges – from frequent VIP movements and security restrictions around government establishments to heavy airport-bound traffic.

The move is aimed at resolving situations where traffic entering a stretch from one road falls under a different circle than the road receiving it, which complicates coordination and hampers management of traffic flow.

Critical junction

One of the key stretches identified in the proposal is the Dhaula Kuan flyover, a critical junction linking NH-48, the Ring Road, Sardar Patel Marg, and Vande Mataram Marg. At present, the flyover falls under the South West traffic district.

Under the new plan, it is proposed to be brought under a dedicated Dhaula Kuan circle. "Bringing the relevant stretches under a single traffic unit will enable the traffic inspector to regulate flow on both sides rather than dealing with congestion at one point in isolation," an official said.

The proposal also calls for augmenting manpower from around 1,000 personnel to over 1,800.

Centre's reply sought on plea against demolition of mosque

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought the Centre's response to a plea seeking protection of the Race Course mosque, located on the Jaipur Polo Ground premises, from demolition. The Centre had taken over the Jaipur Polo Ground in June.

Justice Anish Dayal issued a notice and asked the Centre's counsel to return with instructions on Thursday. The counsel said no demolition was under way, but water and power supply to the mosque had been disconnected during razing of other structures.

The Delhi Waqf Board said the mosque is a Grade II protected structure.

SIR: 94% of flagged names cleared for final poll roll

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Over 94% of the 33.14 lakh names flagged for no mapping or logical discrepancies in Delhi's draft roll have been cleared for inclusion in the final roll, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said on Tuesday.

Of the 33,14,032 cases, 31,26,576 (94.34%) have been disposed of, the CEO said. Meanwhile, 2,67,441 Form 6 applications seeking inclusion in the roll have been received, against 47.56 lakh electors excluded during the special intensive revision (SIR). The deadline for filing claims and objections is October 30.

THE HINDU
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The deadline for submission of bids is 5 November 2026, 11 AM.

An additional tax of 6% of the purchase price shall be payable by the successful bidder. The successful bidder shall also be responsible for all applicable vehicle registration charges and related fees payable to the competent local authorities.

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Inspections may be arranged from Monday to Friday, excluding weekends, subject to prior confirmation

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*** INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) ***

The Executive Engineer, Electrical Division HPPWD, Una-174303 on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in table :-

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost. (In Rs.) excluding GST	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of Form (In Rs.)	Time limit	Eligibility of Contractor
1.	Construction of Aqua park at Nadaun, Tehnsil Nadaun Distt. Hamirpur (HP) (SH:- Providing E.I., Package Sub Station, Diesel Generator, Solar Power Generation therein)	1,03,90,623/-	2,07,800/-	5,000/-	One year	Class-A
2.	A/R & M/O of various type different capacity Air Conditioner installed in various N.R. building under ESD Hamirpur Section Hamirpur Distt. Hamirpur (HP) (Chargeable to C/o Senior Secondary Boy School at Nadaun Distt. Hamirpur (HP)	2,92,482/-	5,800/-	350/-	One year	Specialized Job
3.	A/R & M/O of various type different capacity Air Conditioner installed in various N.R. building under ESD Hamirpur (Barsar Section) for 2026-27 (Chargeable to C/o Mini Secreteriate building at Barsar Distt. Hamirpur (HP)	1,03,486/-	2,070/-	350/-	One year	Specialized Job
4.	Construction of Judicial Court Complex at Amb Distt. Una (HP) (SH:- Annual Video Comprehensive maintenance of CCTV Surveillance system and allied equipment therein)	7,87,830/-	15,800/-	350/-	Six months	Specialized Job
5.	Repair of E.I. in PHC building Behal, Tehsil Sh. Naina Devi Ji at Bilaspur in Dsitt. Bilaspur (HP)	2,69,047/-	5,380/-	350/-	Six months	Class-D
6.	Running and operation of Bolero Camper HP20J-5483 in Electrical Division HPPWD, Una Distt. Una (HP) (SH:- Providing Skilled driving services for Six months from awarded date	1,28,880/-	2,580/-	350/-	Six months	Class-D
7.	C/o Girls Hostel (For 42 Girls) For DIET Hamirpur at Gauna Karour Distt. Hamirpur (HP) (SH: Providing E.I. therein)	24,02,014/-	48,050/-	500/-	One year	Class-B

Starting date of Downloading bid:- 28/10/2026 up to 09.00 A.M. **(For each above)**
Deadline for submission of bid :- 05/11/2026 up to 11.00 A.M. **(For each above)**

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the Department website www.hptenders.gov.in. The Technical bids to be opened on dated **05/11/2026 at 01.30 P.M.**

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Notice regarding 3rd Round of Online Counselling for MDS All India Quota Seats of Vananchal Dental College & Hospital, Garhwa; Hazaribagh College of Dental Sciences and Hospital & Awadh Dental College & Hospital, Jamshedpur on the basis of NEET MDS-2026 Result

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, New Delhi has reduced the Qualifying percentile and cut off marks for NEET (MDS) 2026 vide letter F.No.V.12025/84/2024-DE dated 12.10.2026 NBE notice dated 12.10.2026 is available on the Board's website.

The minimum qualifying percentiles and Cut-off score have lowered as follows:-

CATEGORY	REVISED MINIMUM QUALIFYING CRITERIA	REVISED CUT-OFF SCORE
General(UR/EWS)	29.424th Percentile	234
General -PWD	24.424th Percentile	218
SC/ST/BC-I/BC-II Including PWD of SC/ST/BC-I/BC-II	19.424th Percentile	200

Online Application Forms are invited from qualified eligible candidates of NEET MDS-2026 examination for the preparation of all India merit list, for All India Quota M.D.S. seats of Vananchal Dental College & Hospital, Farathiya, Garhwa; Hazaribagh College of Dental Sciences and Hospital & Awadh Dental College & Hospital, Jamshedpur.

2. Interested eligible candidates are requested to fill the **Application Form Online** from **29.10.2026 to 01.11.2026** on Board's official website **http://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in** by Clicking on **" Click Here for All Online Application Submission – JCECEB 2026"** tab by following the given directions.

The Candidates already enlisted in All India & NRI Quota merit list of 2nd Round and already applied for 3rd round Counselling need not have to apply again. Other terms and conditions and Eligibility criteria are same as per Advt. No.– JCECEB/48/26-86 dated-18.09.2026 which can be seen on Board's website **http://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in** in Important Notice Column.

Revised Time Schedule for Online 3rd Round of Counselling for MDS All India Quota Seats:-

Sl. No.	Activity	Re-Scheduled Date
1.	Online form filling & Document Uploading	29.10.2026 to 01.11.2026
2.	Publication State Merit List for 3rd Round of Online Counselling	03.11.2026
3.	Online Registration & Choice Filling for Seat Allotment	04.11.2026 to 07.11.2026
4.	Issue of Provisional Seat Allotment Letter	10.11.2026
5.	Certificates/Documents Verification and admission in concerned Institute	11.11.2026 to 16.11.2026

Application Fee:- Applicants will required to pay Application Fee through Payment Gateway by Credit Card/Debit Card/Net Banking as given below:-

Sl. No.	Category	Fee
1.	General / EWS/BC– I / BC – II	` 1000/-
2.	SC/ ST / Female Candidate of All Category	` 500/-
3.	Divyang	–

Counselling Fee:–

Sl. No.	Category	Rate
1.	General/ EWS/ BC& I/ BC & II	` 2000 /–
2.	SC/ST / Female Candidate of All Category	` 1200 /–

Security Deposit:-

Sl. No.	Institution	Security Deposit
1.	GOVERNMENT	30,000/- (UR/EWS) 15,000/- (ST/SC/OBC/PWD)
2.	Private	Medical College-2 Lac Dental College-1 Lac
3.	Both (Government/Private)	Medical College-2 Lac Dental College-1 Lac
4.	Stray/Mop-up	50,000/-

(a) Security Money will be forfeited if admission is not taken after seat allotment in Second Round and next Round of Counselling. Apart from this, Security Money will not be returned even in case of cancellation of admission in case of giving wrong information by the candidate at the time of registration and not presenting the required original certificates at the time of admission.

(b) The Security Money will be refunded if the candidates have taken valid admission and no seat is allotted after any stage of Counselling.

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

PR 392627 Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board(26-27)D

Timings
DELHI

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28			
RISE	06:30	SET	17:40
RISE	19:12	SET	08:47
THURSDAY, OCT. 29			
RISE	06:31	SET	17:39
RISE	20:12	SET	09:57
FRIDAY, OCT. 30			
RISE	06:31	SET	17:38
RISE	21:19	SET	11:02

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	32	15
Safdarjang	32	15
Palam	30	16

Delhi Palam Today
31ºC The dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
30ºC Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to continue.

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NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Mechanical Workshop, N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur for & behalf of President of India invites "OPEN" E-Tender through online (e-tendering) for the following work: **Tender No. & Description of Work: EL-MWS-GKP-2026-27-20;** Provision of D-Check of Greaves Cotton Make Power Cars, Qty-06 Nos. Power Cars in Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur; **Approx. Value:** ₹1,37,10,043.52; **E.M.D. Money:** ₹2,74,200/-; **Cost of Tender Document:** 0.00; **Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter:** 24 Months; • E-tender online will be submitted up to 11:00 hrs. on dated 18.11.2026. • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway IREPS official website **www.ireps.gov.in.**
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CPRO/EL-242 Gorakhpur
DO NOT SMOKE BIDI/CIGARETTE IN TRAINS

HC refuses to stay probe against scribe in SC/ST Act

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday refused to stay the investigation in a case filed against a woman journalist for allegedly making casteist remarks against a police officer during a protest near Jantar Mantar earlier this month.

Justice Mini Pushkarna said the court was not rejecting the interim prayer at this stage and it was also not passing any order on it.

The court issued notice to Delhi Police and Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Vivek Bhagat, the complainant in the case, on the journalist's petition seeking quashing of the FIR, and asked them to file their replies before November 16, the next date of hearing.

"Unless and until I have their (police) stand, I can't stay the investigation. I will hear it on merits once I have their reply. The investigation will continue," the judge said. "The matter needs consideration; list for final hearing on November 16," the judge added.

The High Court also passed a similar order on another plea by a male colleague of the woman journalist seeking quashing of the FIR registered against him. Earlier, the woman journalist had filed a sexual assault complaint against ACP Bhagat and it is being investigated by the Delhi Police Crime Branch.

During the hearing on Tuesday, the scribe's counsel said the FIR by the ACP was lodged only to intimidate her into not pursuing the complaint against him.

M.P. govt. transfers officers amid 'deaths' linked to illicit liquor

Aditya Mishra to take over as Dewas SP, Neha Meena named Collector after villagers allege 13 deaths in the district this month; Cong. continues stir over the issue, State chief writes to Shah

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL


Families of the deceased staging a protest with Congress leaders outside the Dewas Collectorate on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Madhya Pradesh government on Tuesday announced a major bureaucratic reshuffle involving nine IAS and IPS officers, transferring the Dewas Collector and Superintendent of Police (SP) amid allegations that at least 13 people had died after consuming spurious liquor in villages in the district.

According to the government order, Balaghat SP Aditya Mishra will take over as Dewas SP, replacing Punit Gehlot, who has been transferred to the Police Headquarters in Bhopal. Neha Meena, former Seoni Collector, has been appointed Dewas Collector, replacing Ritu Raj, who has been posted as deputy secretary in General Administration Department.

The reshuffle also saw the transfer of Sagar Collector Pratibha Pal and SP Anurag Sujania, who were in charge when a hooch tragedy claimed more than 25 lives in September.

Residents of Chandana and Binjana villages in Dewas have alleged at least 13 liquor-related deaths within a month, even as the authorities have denied that a hooch tragedy has occurred in the district. On Monday, the police arrested 10 people for allegedly selling illicit liquor in the area.

The district administration said liquor samples collected from the area did not contain any poisonous substances.

"We are awaiting forensic reports on two deceased persons whose viscera samples were sent for further examination to confirm the causes of their deaths. Test reports on illicit liquor seized from the area are also awaited," Mr. Gehlot said on Monday.

Cong. continues attack

Meanwhile, the Congress, which has accused the Bharatiya Janata Party government of "shielding" the liquor mafia in the State, stepped up its attack on Tuesday. State unit president Jitu Patwari wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah seeking the Centre's intervention in the functioning of the State government.

Mr. Patwari also staged a sit-in at the Dewas Collector's office on Tuesday, along with party workers and affected families, describing the deaths as "institutional killings".

SIT to probe Guwahati hotel killing; accused held

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Assam police on Tuesday formed a six-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the killing of five persons, including two women, at a Guwahati hotel on Monday night. Ankur Jain, Guwahati's Joint Commissioner of Police, will head the SIT.

Ghanakanta Gogoi, who allegedly shot them dead, was arrested an hour after the incident. The police said a dispute over the lease and management of the hotel led to the killings.

In a statement, the police said information was received regarding multiple gunshots being fired inside a hotel in the city's Ulubari area at 9 p.m. The police found four persons dead in the hotel reception area, while two others were found injured on the approach road.

AAP sarpanch's son shot dead in Amritsar; Oppn. targets govt.

Press Trust of India
AMRITSAR

The son of an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) sarpanch was shot dead by unidentified assailants outside a gurdwara in Chite Kalan village in Punjab's Amritsar district on Monday night, the police said. The deceased was identified as Tirath Singh, son of woman sarpanch Paramjit Kaur. His brother Karaj Singh alleged that the attack happened because the family often spoke out against drug peddlers.

The Opposition parties criticised the government over the incident.

Shiromani Akali Dal senior leader Bikram Singh Majithia, in a post on X, said, "Daily killings in Punjab, widowed women. Who will answer, *Guru Dokhi* Bhagwant?" Leader of the Opposition and senior Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa said murder incidents had become a daily thing under the Mann government.

Women force administration to discuss Ladakh as a 'dry' U.T.

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR


Women sitting on a protest in Ladakh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Facing women-led protests over opening of liquor shops, the Lieutenant Governor-led administration on Tuesday agreed to discuss declaring Ladakh a dry Union Territory (U.T.), saying the matter requires "careful deliberation and consultation with all stakeholders concerned".

"The demand is a significant matter that requires careful deliberation and consultation with all stakeholders, which all agreed to," said Ladakh Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra.

The administration held a meeting with the representatives of the All Ladakh Gompa Association, Ladakh Buddhist Association, the Anjuman Imamia-Leh and the All Ladakh Tour Operators Association. It came in the wake of local women in Leh holding a sit-in for the past six days. They raised slogans, carried placards saying 'Don't trade public health for government revenue', and demanded that the "liberal liquor policy" be rolled back.

On May 31 this year, the L-G administration introduced a new liquor licence policy and decided to increase retail outlets from two to 20 and extend sales to remote pockets such as Nubra, Changthang, Sham, and Zanskar, the region frequented by tourists from across the country. The new excise policy allowed consumption of liquor within hotel rooms, simplified licensing procedures by reducing required documents from 16 to 6, and removed the requirement for district administration approval for licences.

Mr. Kundra said the meeting with the civil society groups "underscored the need for continued engagement and dialogue towards a balanced and informed consideration of the issue".

Meanwhile, an official spokesman said the representatives of Ladakh groups were informed that the 2026-27 excise policy has been rolled back and the 2025-26 policy is now in force.

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Sl. No.	Name of Resolution Agent	Date of Termination
1.	Seagull Recovery & Educational Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.	19.09.2026

Asstt. General Manager (CCRU), LHO, Patna

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VICTORIS
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INBRIEF



U.P. approves robotics park and AI hub in Greater Noida

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Tuesday approved the establishment of a robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) park in Greater Noida spread over 69.52 acres, estimated to generate more than 1 lakh jobs and add ₹2,000 crore annually to the State's economy. "In a step towards establishing Uttar Pradesh as a leading hub for advanced technology, industrial innovation and robotics manufacturing, the Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Tuesday approved a proposal to set up the PRAGATI (Platform for Robotics and AI Growth Through Technology and Innovation) Park," read an official statement.

Prohibitory orders imposed in Himachal's Nahan town

Prohibitory orders restricting the assembly of people have been imposed till October 29 in certain parts of Nahan town in Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district, where a dispute between two communities had turned violent, officials said on Tuesday. District Magistrate, Sirmaur, Priyanka Verma, imposed the orders late Monday night following reports that people belonging to the Sikh and Valmiki communities from Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Punjab are expected to arrive at the Valmiki Chowk to hold a protest in favour of their communities. On Friday, a dispute arose between two groups over the installation of a 'welcome gate' by the Sikhs. PTI

Rape-murder accused shot dead in Bengal; second 'police encounter' in three months

Police say they opened fire in self-defence after accused 'snatched' an officer's service revolver and fired at them; death of two accused in two separate incidents cannot be called 'encounters': State BJP chief

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA



On July 8, a similar 'encounter' took place in Baruipur when the police took the prime accused in a rape and murder case to reconstruct the crime scene. FILE PHOTO

A 23-year-old man arrested for the alleged rape and murder of a Class 11 student was shot dead in a "police encounter" in West Bengal's Bongaon police district in the early hours of Tuesday, officials said. This is the second such incident in the State in the last three months since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government came to power in May this year.

The accused, Prahlad Das, allegedly snatched a police officer's service revolver during the reconstruction of the crime scene in Bongaon between 3 a.m. and 3.30 a.m., fired at police personnel and jumped into a pond in an attempt to escape, according to police sources.

The police opened fire in self-defence, the sources added. Das was rushed to a local hospital, where he was declared dead.

The accused's death came two days after the 17-year-old girl's body was found behind her neighbour's house on Sunday, a day after she went missing from her home. Das was arrested the same day, and a court sent him to 10 days of police custody. A Special Investigation Team was formed to investigate the case.

Additional police personnel were deployed in the area after local residents started protesting against the incident, leading to tension in the neighbourhood. Forensic teams visited the encounter site later on Tuesday to collect samples. The victim's father said, "It is good that the police encountered him. But will this bring back my daughter?"

On July 8, a similar encounter took place in Baruipur, South 24 Parganas district, when police took Prabhas Mondal, the prime accused in the rape and murder of a minor girl, to reconstruct the crime scene.

BJP State president Samik Bhattacharya said the deaths of two rape-murder accused in alleged gunfights with the police in two districts cannot be called "encounters". "In many situations, police may have to open fire, especially when they are attacked," he said.

Oppn. attacks govt.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) State secretary Mohammad Salim criticised the government, saying instead of relying on the rule of law, people are taking the law into their own hands. On Monday, the Mamata All India Trinamool Congress raised concerns over women's safety in the State.

T.N. jailbreak: 17 prisoners escape; 13 of them caught

L. Srikrishna
THENI



A police team searching for prisoners who escaped from the Thekkampatti sub-jail on Tuesday. G. KARTHIKEYAN

In a coordinated escape attempt, 17 remand prisoners broke out of the Thekkampatti sub-jail near Andipatti in Theni district of Tamil Nadu around 11 p.m. on Monday after attacking prison warders. As of 5 p.m. on Tuesday, 13 of them were apprehended by special police teams.

Following the incident, the district police sounded an alert and deployed a large number of police personnel at checkpoints across Tamil Nadu and on borders with Keralam.

Inspector General of Police (South Zone) Vijayendra Bidari rushed to the spot and held an inquiry with Theni Superintendent of Police Praveen Gowtham and others. As many as 17 special teams were formed and plainclothesmen had been deployed to different locations since 3 a.m.

The police conducted search operations with three high-definition drones in the forest areas of the district.

Preliminary inquiries revealed that on Monday night, 17 accused, who were all remand prisoners aged 20-25 years, escaped after assaulting the jail staffers, who opened the gates of the cell following claims that an inmate was having epileptic fits. Soon, all the inmates walked towards the main gate in small groups. At the main gate, they assaulted the armed guard, took the gate keys, and fled. With the terrain around the jail being mountainous, the prisoners escaped deep into the forests.

A police officer monitoring the combing operation in Theni said within a few hours, they secured one of the escapees from a forest area. In the next few hours, three others were nabbed. The fifth person to be caught was a person with disabilities. Eight other escapees were secured in the evening.

Arunachal Minister holds talks with 'dam-affected' people amid concerns over Siang project

Press Trust of India
ITANAGAR



A drone view showing Adi community settlements believed to be at risk of submersion if the proposed 11,500-MW Siang Upper Multipurpose Dam project is completed in Siang district. REUTERS

Arunachal Pradesh Minister Ojing Tasing on Tuesday held discussions with a delegation of the East Siang Downstream Dam Affected People's Forum (ESDDAPF) on the concerns surrounding the proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP).

The forum was led by its president Oni Tamuk and general secretary Jobomchang Mengu, and represents communities spanning 72 villages that could be affected by the project.

In a post on X, Mr. Tasing, the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister, said the interaction provided a platform to discuss the project and its prefeasibility report (PFR), address apprehensions and clarify misconceptions about its potential implications for downstream communities in East Siang district. Emphasising the need to balance national priorities with local interests, Mr. Tasing, who represents the Pangin Assembly constituency in Siang district, said a project of such significance must advance with the trust and confidence of the people.

The proposed project is a hydropower and water-storage initiative, with a planned capacity of around 11,200 MW. The project is being examined for its potential to strengthen India's energy and water security, and facilitate flood moderation. Its strategic significance has also been linked to concerns over possible upstream interventions in the Brahmaputra basin.

The project, however, has generated concerns over its potential social and environmental consequences, including the implications for downstream communities.

40 FIRs over anti-SIR protests in Delhi; police scan CCTV footage to identify demonstrators

Lavpreet Kaur
NEW DELHI



Police personnel detaining a protester demanding the resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar in New Delhi on Oct. 11. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Delhi Police has registered around 40 FIRs in connection with the protests against the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the national capital since October 10, with teams analysing CCTV footage to identify those involved in the demonstrations, officials told *The Hindu*.

The cases have been registered under various charges, including violation of prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), vandalism and obstruction of public servants, among others. While the accused have not yet been named in these FIRs, the police are working to identify the protesters and those who "mobilised" them, officials said.

Police teams are examining CCTV footage as part of the probe, and action will be initiated against those identified, officials said.

The FIRs were registered as protests continued over several days following a call by various youth outfits, including the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), on October 10, demanding the rollback of the SIR and the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Demonstrations by student groups, youth organisations and women's organisations followed, along with a rally by the INDIA bloc on October 12.

Officials said the police had been detaining protesters and registering cases on a daily basis for alleged violations during the demonstrations. Timely registration of FIRs was necessary to document the alleged offences and avoid delays that could be difficult to justify during court proceedings.

'Car with sticks'

The police have also registered an FIR and arrested four occupants of a car allegedly seen carrying wooden sticks and batons near Connaught Place on October 11. The Uttar Pradesh-registered vehicle has been seized and remains in police custody.

The car triggered controversy after it was spotted near the protest site with a large number of wooden sticks inside. Journalists and protesters raised concerns about the vehicle, but police personnel initially allowed it to leave the area. The occupants were later seen near the demonstrations brandishing sticks and confronting protesters.

After videos of the incident circulated widely on social media, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) said on X that the vehicle had been taken to a police station for verification and that a search had found "nothing illegal or objectionable".

The occupants were also found to have no criminal records, the police said. However, they have now registered an FIR and arrested the four occupants.

HC quashes FIR against Pune student for digital post

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday quashed a criminal case registered against a 20-year-old engineering student for reposting a controversial comment on 'Operation Sindoor', observing that the post was an isolated act followed by voluntary deletion and remorse.

A chance is required to be given in such cases, a single Bench of Justice Milind Jadhav said, noting that the student has already suffered custody. "That in itself for a young student is a scar which cannot be erased easily," Justice Jadhav said.

The female student from a private college in Pune was arrested on May 9, 2025, over the Instagram repost related to India-Pakistan tensions following Operation Sindoor.

A Delhi event unveils fault lines in the Dalit-OBC formulation of Samajwadi Party politics

NEWS ANALYSIS

Anuj Kumar
GHAZIABAD



SP chief Akhilesh Yadav paying tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his birth anniversary, in Lucknow on April 14 this year. ANI

In the high-stakes arena of Uttar Pradesh elections, the line between social representation and competitive polarisation is razor-thin. Samajwadi Party (SP) spokesperson Rajkumar Bhati discovered it last week when he faced trolls from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and a reprimand from the party's top leadership after participating in a Buddhist Dhamma Diksha ceremony in Delhi.

During the annual ceremony, Mr. Bhati, a prominent OBC leader of SP in western U.P., participated in the mass recitation of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 22 vows. The viral video recorded him explicitly repeating the controversial opening segments of the pledge, which include the statements: "I will not consider Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh as gods, nor will I worship them. I will not consider Rama and Krishna as gods, nor will I worship them." He was also filmed repeating the vow to refuse any religious rituals performed by Brahmin priests.

The 22 vows, which Ambedkar took with his followers on October 14, 1956, stem from his formulation of Navayana Buddhism. He drafted the vows as an explicit checklist to guarantee a complete, irreversible psychological break from the Hindu social order.

A Gurjar by birth, Mr. Bhati organised a massive rally for party president Akhilesh Yadav in March this year. His Dalit push seemed in line with the party's Lohiate policy of numerical aggregation, uniting everyone outside the so-called upper-caste hegemony to capture state power. Ram Manohar Lohia's "Socialisto *ne bandhi ganth, pichhde paavein sau mein saat*", referring to roughly 40% OBC and 20% SC vote in the State, still echoes in the air. He also put forward the idea of *roti-beti* for intermingling of castes. SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav put the slogan into action by joining hands with Bahujan Samaj Party founder Kanshi Ram in 1993, captured by the popular slogan, '*Mile* Mulayam-Kanshi Ram, *hawa mein ud gaye* Jai Shri Ram' - but the caste barriers remained. Now Mr. Akhilesh seeks to revive Lohia's logic through his comprehensive PDA (Pichhda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak) formula.

Ambedkar's 22 vows

However, his uncles, Ram Gopal Yadav and Shivpal Yadav, reacted to Mr. Bhati's overtures, reviving Ambedkar's fears about numerical aggregation. While Mr. Ram Gopal threatened to strip Mr. Bhati of his post in the party, Mr. Shivpal said, "*Hum Ishwarwadi hain*." Political observers feel the Yadav leadership can't separate its cultural ties to Lord Krishna. A Shiva temple has come up in the Yadav stronghold of Saifai, whose trust is headed by Mr. Akhilesh.

Facing an FIR, Mr. Bhati clarified that he repeated the words out of respect for the organisers and Ambedkar, without intending to change his religion. But he also underlined that Ambedkarites would understand the spirit of his stance and respond to his right-wing trolls.

The Bhati episode mirrors previous political flashpoints, demonstrating that while mainstream parties actively engage in competitive adulation of Ambedkar, their leadership quickly distances itself the moment a politician explicitly recites the radical, anti-scriptural elements of his 22 vows.

In 2022, Rajendra Pal Gautam, a prominent Dalit leader and senior Minister in Arvind Kejriwal's Delhi Cabinet, took the same vows at the same event and faced similar pressure from the BJP and its *parivar* ahead of Gujarat polls. Mr. Gautam resigned and subsequently joined the Congress in 2024. Today, he is the All India Congress Committee in-charge for U.P. and is seen as the central leadership's eyes and ears.

Whether Mr. Bhati is on a similar trajectory and sees a space in an idea-rich, cadre-thin Congress if SP gives in, only time will tell. Rumblings in the INDIA bloc suggest the SP leadership wants Congress to bring in a share of the mature Dalit vote.

When Ajay Rai was replaced and the State Congress presidency was split between Mona Misra and Imran Masood, a senior SP insider told this journalist that if the Congress really wants to turn the clock back, instead of focusing on Brahmins and Muslims, it should try to win back 40-plus Dalit voters from Mayawati's hold. "The rest we will manage," he said. This is the voter Mr. Bhati was addressing.

Vote bank in sight

For now, Mr. Akhilesh, who has often cited an incident where a temple was cleaned with 'Ganga jal' after his visit, hasn't taken a stance on Mr. Bhati's vows. Political observers feel the BJP seeks to appropriate Ambedkar the same way Brahminical scholars appropriated Gautam Buddha as part of the Hindu pantheon, but the Hindutva ecosystem doesn't want to extend reservation benefits to those who openly negate the presence of Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh, and herein the Opposition sees a vote bank.

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NDA bags 2 seats in Karnataka MLC polls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/ HUBBALLI/ KALABURGI

The ruling Congress could be staring at an embarrassing loss in the Karnataka Legislative Council elections where the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has won in two seats and is leading in the other two where counting was still under way at the time of going to press.

The biggest upset for the Congress came from the Bengaluru Teachers' constituency where five-time MLC and former Deputy Chairman Puttanna lost to NDA candidate A.P. Ranganath [of the JD(S)] by 908 votes.

"This election is a precursor to a new sunrise. My warm wishes to those who rejected the arrogance of power and money. This is an indication for the 2028 elections," Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said on X.

BJP's Shashil Namoshi will enter the Legislative Council for his fifth term after defeating Congress candidate Sharanappa Mattur by 3,297 votes in the North-East Teachers' Constituency. At the time of going to press, BJP candidate and sitting member S.V. Sankanur was leading against his Congress rival Mohan Limbikaiby a margin of 3,529 votes in Karnataka West Graduates' Constituency. In Karnataka South East Graduates' Constituency, BJP candidate K.M. Suresha was leading against Congress candidate Shashi Hulkuntemutt.

'Intentional act' by accused: SIT report on woman biker incident in Gurugram

Press Trust of India
GURUGRAM


The incident was captured on a helmet-mounted camera worn by the woman and on a camera belonging to a fellow biker. FILE PHOTO

The special investigation team (SIT) probe into the road rage incident involving female biker Shivani Chauhan has found that accused Kalyan Baisla deliberately rammed his car into her motorcycle after misbehaving with her and all charges in the FIR, including attempt to murder, are likely to be retained in the chargesheet, police said on Tuesday.

The incident, captured on a helmet-mounted camera worn by Ms. Chauhan as well as on a camera belonging to a fellow biker, took place on September 13 and sparked outrage after she shared the video on social media.

Ms. Chauhan alias Siya was travelling with her friends from Golf Course Road towards Extension Road when the accused in a white car allegedly followed them, made obscene gestures, and then rammed his vehicle into her motorcycle from the side before fleeing. The impact knocked her off and sent her skidding on the road. There were four persons in the car. Mr. Baisla and his cousin Lavnish were in the front.

Following his arrest, Mr. Baisla had admitted the collision was his fault but denied hitting her deliberately, claiming he "lost control near a U-turn". However, the SIT report has concluded "this was not an accident, but a calculated, intentional act", a senior police officer said.

The probe revealed that Mr. Baisla had "deliberately rammed his vehicle into the female biker's motorcycle following an act of misbehaviour", the officer said.

The five-member SIT, led by ACP (Crimes Against Women) Sushila, recently submitted its report to the Police Commissioner.

"The SIT has prepared a draft of the chargesheet. It will be filed in court within a week, in accordance with the sections of law applied in the FIR," said Ms. Sushila.

Following Ms. Chauhan's complaint, the Gurugram police filed an FIR under sections 78 (physical and digital stalking), 79 (use any word, sound, gesture, object, or intrusion of privacy with the intent to insult the modesty of a woman), and 109 (attempt to murder) and 3(5) (common intention) of the BNS.

Keralam Oppn. upset over Arlekar's KPSC move

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM


Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Leader of the Opposition in Keralam Assembly Pinarayi Vijayan has said the Opposition will demand a discussion in the Assembly on former Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar's "unilateral" recommendation to remove the Kerala Public Service Commission (PSC) chairperson and members.

The CPI(M) veteran cited reports which claimed that the recommendation had been made to the President for the first time in the State's history.

The Governor had allegedly exercised excessive powers even before the report of the investigation announced by the State government into the PSC's functioning had been completed. The ongoing Crime Branch probe has not found any lapses on the part of the PSC chairperson or members thus far, he said in a statement.

According to Mr. Vijayan, the Governor could take decisions relating to administration only in accordance with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers under Article 163 of the Constitution. Under such circumstances, the former Governor's action was "unusual and unconstitutional", he said.

Referring to Article 316, the Opposition leader stated that PSC members have a tenure of six years. Their removal required compliance with the procedure prescribed under Article 317. According to him, the President could take a decision on their removal only after an inquiry by the Supreme Court and the submission of its report.

Mr. Vijayan urged the government not to accept the action, and cautioned against supporting the purported legal violations being done by the BJP-led Centre through Governors.

'Probe progressing'

Meanwhile, the State has informed the High Court the investigation was "vigorously" progressing into the alleged irregularities in the Planning Board exam conducted by the KPSC.

Justice A. Badharudeen granted time to the de facto complainant, V.S. Jayalal, to file his objections in the case. It apprised the court the commission had suspended two persons in connection with the alleged irregularities. The State sought to know how the commission could seek to quash the FIR registered in the case, if it was taking action on the allegations.

The allegations arose from the evaluation process of an exam for the appointment of Chief (Industry and Infrastructure Division) in the Kerala State Planning Board.

The KPSC had approached the court seeking to quash the sanction granted by the government to prosecute commission's employees and the FIR registered in connection.

HIMACHAL PRADESH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (HPIDB)
New Himrus Building, Himland, Circular Road, Shimla – 171001
(on behalf of the Department of General Administration, Government of Himachal Pradesh)



SELECTION OF AN OPERATOR FOR OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF STATE GUEST HOUSE - "HIMACHAL NIKETAN" AT DWARKA, NEW DELHI

HPIDB, on behalf of the Department of General Administration, Government of Himachal Pradesh (the "Authority"), invites technical and financial bids online from eligible entities for out-sourcing the Operation, Maintenance and Management of "Himachal Niketan", the State Guest House of Himachal Pradesh at Sector- 19, Pocket-I Dwarka, New Delhi.

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APPOINTMENT

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ENTERPRISE CONNECT

A Business Initiative

Water, Air and Now Power: KENT RO Expands into New Energy



KENT RO Systems Ltd., whose RO water purifiers are used in about one crore Indian households, today launched KENT New Energy, a new division for home energy products. After water purification and Kühl BLDC fans, the launch takes KENT RO into a third household essential: reliable power. The division has two product lines. Solar Energy Storage for homes with rooftop solar capable of running heavy loads such as air-conditioners and pumps. Power Backup products is for homes that run on conventional inverter. Both are supported by the company's own software for remote monitoring and voice-based set-up. "Our vision is to build on the trust KENT has earned and extend our role across three essentials of everyday life: water, air and power," said Mr Mahesh Gupta, Chairman and Managing Director, KENT RO Systems Ltd. "We began by helping families access purified drinking water. Now we want to empower them to generate, store and manage electricity in their own homes. By making solar power and modern storage accessible to more households, we aim to lower their long-term energy costs and contribute to India's energy transition." The Energy Storage Systems pair high-capacity lithium batteries with solar hybrid inverters. High-capacity lithium batteries store solar and grid power for use in the evening and during outages. It comes in 5.1 kWh, 11.8 kWh and 16 kWh capacities, is rated for more than 6,000 charge cycles and carries a 10-year warranty. Up to 16 packs can be connected in parallel for larger requirements. The solar hybrid inverters combine solar, grid and battery power and are designed to run high-load appliances through an outage. The single-phase range comes in 3 kW, 5 kW and 6 kW models. The 3 kW model can easily run one inverter AC along with the home's lighting load, while the 5 kW model supports two inverter ACs, a submersible pump and lighting. For larger requirements, the three-phase range offers 10 kW, 12 kW and 15 kW capacities.

PNB Observes Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 on the theme "Probity for Prosperity"



Punjab National Bank is observing Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 from 26 October to 1 November 2026, in line with the directives of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). This year's theme, "Probity for Prosperity" highlights the importance of integrity, ethical conduct, and accountability as the foundations of sustainable growth and national prosperity. The inaugural ceremony commenced with a floral tribute to Loh Purush Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, honouring his legacy of unity, integrity, and public service to mark the beginning of a week dedicated to strengthening ethical values, promoting transparency, and reinforcing preventive vigilance across the organisation, held at PNB's Corporate Office in Dwarka, New Delhi, the ceremony was graced by Executive Directors Shri M. Paramasivam and Shri D. Surendran, Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) Shri Raghvendra Kumar, and other senior officials of the Bank. The integrity pledge was administered by ED Shri M. Paramasivam and CVO Shri Raghvendra Kumar. Also, employees across the Bank's offices and branches nationwide showed solidarity by taking the pledge.

RVNL observes Vigilance Awareness Week–2026 with the theme 'Probity for Prosperity'



Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) inaugurated Vigilance Awareness Week–2026 at its Corporate Office in New Delhi on 26 October 2026. The week-long observance will continue until 1 November 2026 under the theme 'Probity for Prosperity.' The broader vigilance awareness campaign is being observed from 17 August to 16 November 2026. On the occasion, Sh. Saleem Ahmad, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), RVNL, administered the Integrity Pledge to the officers and staff, reaffirming the organisation's commitment to integrity, transparency, accountability and ethical conduct. Addressing the gathering, he emphasised the importance of fairness in official functioning and urged employees to adhere to prescribed procedures, exercise due care in decision-making and uphold accountability to prevent procedural irregularities and vigilance-related complications.

SAARC-SAU Regional and Transdisciplinary Centre for Precision Nutrition and Health Inaugurated at South Asian University



South Asian University (SAU) inaugurated the SAARC–SAU Regional and Transdisciplinary Centre for Precision Nutrition and Health (CPNH) on 9 October 2026, marking a significant step towards strengthening regional cooperation and advancing collaborative research to address anaemia, malnutrition, and public health challenges across South Asia. The Centre has been envisaged and initiated in collaboration with SAARC, UNICEF and the Cornell Joan Klein Jacobs Center for Precision Nutrition and Health, Cornell University, USA. The presidential address was delivered by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President of South Asian University. Special remarks were delivered by H.E. Ambassador Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General of SAARC; Prof. M. Srinivas, Member of NITI Aayog; Dr. Joan N. Matji, Global Director of Child Nutrition and Development at the Child Survival and Development Centre of Excellence, Nairobi, Kenya, representing UNICEF online; and Prof. K. Srinath Reddy, Chancellor and Founder President of the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). All were among the distinguished dignitaries who attended the inauguration.

End of "Vanvas": Possession Begins at Last Stalled Amrapali Project Phase-I



This festive season, families who spent years paying rent and home-loan EMIs at the same time finally hold the papers to homes of their own, symbolically ending their "Vanvas". At a ceremony at Leisure Valley Adarsh Awas Yojana, Tech Zone IV, Greater Noida West, Shri R. Venkataramani, Attorney General for India and Ld. Court Receiver (Amrapali), and Dr. K.P. Mahadevaswamy, Chairman and Managing Director, NBCC (India) Limited, handed over 51 No Objection Certificates (NOCs) and possession letters to homebuyers, the final step before they receive their keys. Adarsh Awas Yojana was the last of the stalled Amrapali projects where handover to homebuyers had not yet begun. With this ceremony (late evening of 23.10.2026), every stalled Amrapali project that NBCC is completing under the Supreme Court's supervision has now started delivering homes. The ceremony was also attended by Shri Ravi Bhatia and Shri D.K. Mishra, Members of the Court Committee (Amrapali); Dr. Suman Kumar, Director (Commercial), NBCC (India) Limited; officers of the Court Receiver's office and ASPIRE; senior NBCC officials; and members of the Ad hoc Apartment Owners' Association (AOA) of Adarsh Awas Yojana, along with homebuyers and their families.

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Sd/-
Director

Small fish

While carriers of narcotics are caught in the net, big sharks operate freely

Operation Trident, a multi-agency crackdown on an international syndicate operating across the India-Myanmar-Bangladesh corridor, marks a significant step-up in the government's campaign against drug trafficking. The Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, has set December 31, 2029, as the deadline to eradicate drug networks across the country. The October 23 raids, which led to 18 people being arrested, were based on NCB investigations following the arrest of an alleged Myanmar-based kingpin in Delhi this May. However, the dismantling of the entire network would require identification of all suppliers in Myanmar and their successful prosecution. The government's strategy, involving States and Union Territories, over 40 Ministries, central agencies and the pharmaceutical sector, is outlined in the Vision Document on Drug Control (2026-2029), launched by Mr. Shah at the Narco-Coordination Centre meeting on June 26, 2026. It envisages dismantling 100 major cartels and improving prosecution outcomes. The broad strategy reflects the complexity of the problem and signals a more focused approach. Data for 2025 also show an increase of over 50% in arrests and a nearly 53% rise in cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act compared with 2024.

However, the government's action-plan will depend on consistent implementation and efficient coordination among agencies, and striking at the real brains behind it all. In several cases, foreign-based key operatives still remain at large and big sharks often do not fall in the net. The 2021 Mundra port case in Gujarat, involving the seizure of about 3,000 kg of heroin, is a case in point wherein the principal Afghanistan-based suppliers have yet to be brought to book. Also, the quantity of drugs seized does not, by itself, indicate whether drug availability or consumption has declined. Punjab remains a prominent example of the continuing public health challenges associated with drug abuse. The alleged drug-related killings of anti-drug activists in Mansa and Gurdaspur, along with the alleged death by suicide of a father in Sangrur who had raised concerns about the easy availability of synthetic drugs in his locality, underscore the human cost of the problem. These incidents also raise questions about the protection of those who speak out against drug trafficking and networks. These concerns lend urgency to the objective of dismantling entire networks and apprehending the "big sharks", rather than concentrating disproportionately on individual carriers. The key is to identify the ultimate beneficiaries by meticulously following the money trail and ensuring their conviction.

Fouled waters

River pollution from industrial effluents indicates state failure

The Supreme Court has pulled up, once again, the Rajasthan government over industrial effluents flowing into the Jojari river and the deadly risk it poses for the people depending on it. The problem is decades old – public interest litigation in the Rajasthan High Court alerted State machinery to the problem in 2011 – indicating an oversight by the State bordering on the systematic. The Jojari, the Luni, and the Bandi are seasonal rivers in the State's arid western region, flowing through Jodhpur, Balotra, and Pali districts. This region has also evolved as a textile-dyeing and steelworking hub, and untreated or insufficiently treated effluents from these factories have run directly into the rivers and soil, endangering the health of around 20 lakh local residents. The region also suffers rampant illegal sand mining in riverbeds. The sewage treatment plants have been able to accommodate only around half of the sewage generated in the three urban centres, according to the State's submissions to the Court in 2025, even as the Court recorded substantial underutilisation at common effluent treatment plants. The combination is suggestive of industrial sources bypassing treatment facilities, poor connections between the sources and the facilities, and/or insufficient capacity at particular sites or in specific periods.

The Court initiated a *suo motu* writ petition in 2025 and constituted a High-level Ecosystem Oversight Committee chaired by Justice Sangeet Lodha to audit the plants and draft a plan to restore the rivers. Based on the committee's scathing status reports, Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta banned construction within 100 metres of the rivers' edges and hazardous industries within 500 m of the present path, or of the flood lines where available. The Court has also upbraided local authorities for failing to enforce pollution norms by citing the Court's own stay of a 2022 National Green Tribunal order imposing a compensation on the Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation and the local administration in Jodhpur and Barmer. The State regulatory apparatus has been dysfunctional: officials were aware of illegal mining operations in some areas, yet they regularised leases in those areas. Given the dereliction in play, the Court is correct to treat the possibility of collusion between State officials and industrial mafias seriously. Justice Mehta's observation that the State could be held liable under the 'polluter pays' principle is also a significant indictment of state failure, through negligence. Now, importantly, the State still has to restore the Jojari and attend to its wellbeing, which is relevant to a recent tendency by the Court to substitute itself for regulators rather than disciplining them into discharging their functions. This needs to change.

New Delhi's 'balancing act' risks eroding Russia's trust



Muqtedar Khan

Professor of International Relations at the University of Delaware and a Senior Non-Resident Fellow of the Middle East Policy Council. He hosts a YouTube show on World Affairs called 'Khanversations'

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on August 31-September 1, 2026, and the BRICS summit in New Delhi on September 12-13, 2026, were remarkable. Iran received considerably more attention and support from members of both the groups, far more than anticipated. More consequential, however, was the shift in India's stance on the United States-Israel war against Iran and Russia's war in Ukraine.

Traditionally, the SCO and BRICS summits have offered the three major powers – Russia, India and China – an opportunity to demonstrate their mutual solidarity. For Russia, it is a platform from which it can signal to the West that it is not isolated and still has powerful allies. The expansion of the SCO and BRICS under China's leadership showcases its growing power to the West. For India, the SCO and BRICS have been useful for demonstrating its strategic autonomy. India has sought to remain welcome in both western and non-western forums, from the G-7 to the SCO and BRICS.

A surprise pivot

At Bishkek, however, India sprang two surprises. First, it endorsed the Bishkek Declaration, which condemned the attacks on Iran as violations of international law, reaffirmed Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and mourned the killing of its Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in U.S.-Israeli air strikes on February 28, 2026.

Although the declaration did not name the U.S. or Israel, its meaning was unmistakable. India reaffirmed its opposition to military strikes on Iran by endorsing the Bishkek Declaration, which condemned the attacks and reiterated support for Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Second, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an unusually blunt appeal to Russian President Vladimir Putin to bring Russia's seemingly endless war in Ukraine to an end.

India has generally sought to avoid directly condemning the U.S. or Israel for their military actions against Iran, even though Iran, like India, is a member of both the SCO and BRICS. India had previously avoided explicitly accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza, although it had supported UN resolutions calling for a ceasefire and reaffirmed its commitment to Palestinian statehood. Indeed, New Delhi had emphatically declared that it stands with Israel, while often working in multilateral forums to soften language that is critical of Washington and Tel Aviv. But in both the Bishkek and Delhi Declarations, India signed on to very strong criticism of Israel as well as very strong affirmation of Palestinian rights and the two-state solution.

> India's performative diplomacy could undermine its longstanding friendship with Moscow

One interpretation of this pivot in policy is that India may have signed on to the declaration to avoid alienating Mr. Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, and thereby jeopardising their attendance at India's BRICS summit. Without the two leaders, India's presidency of BRICS this year would have been a complete failure. Since Operation Sindoor (2025), India has faced a growing perception of diplomatic marginalisation. Meanwhile, Pakistan has gained diplomatic prominence through Washington's selection of Islamabad as a mediator in the conflict with Iran, while several Gulf nations have sought defence agreements with Pakistan. Consequently, India needed a successful and high-profile BRICS summit, which it got.

Contradictory shifts

While there is a shift in India's policy, New Delhi has not abandoned Washington entirely. Mr. Modi's public appeal to Mr. Putin to end the endless war in Ukraine can therefore be read as a counter-signal to Washington. Had the message been intended only for Moscow, it could have been conveyed privately. Delivering it publicly suggested that Mr. Modi was also reassuring the West. India may have joined the SCO and BRICS consensus on Iran to secure a successful BRICS summit, but it was now leaning more toward the western position on Ukraine than before.

These apparently contradictory shifts reveal the strain on India's foreign policy. New Delhi wants to support Israel while condemning attacks on Iran; buy Russian oil while aligning more closely with the West on Ukraine; and remain central to BRICS and the SCO while assuring Washington that it is not part of an anti-American bloc. Multi-alignment is becoming an increasingly difficult exercise in this era of change and turbulence. India's balancing act is unlikely to sit comfortably with either Moscow or Beijing.

Although Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi did not meet bilaterally at the SCO summit in Bishkek, they held talks on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in New Delhi. The meeting preceded Mr. Xi's high-profile G2 summit with U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington, which was held in September 2026. Neither summit declaration mentioned the war in Ukraine, avoiding criticism of Moscow even as Mr. Modi publicly urged Mr. Putin to end the conflict. India thus endorsed two declarations accommodating Russia's position without fully embracing it.

From Mr. Putin's perspective, this was the second time that Mr. Modi had used what might be called '*jumla*' (performative) diplomacy at Russia's expense. At Samarkand on September 16, 2022, Mr. Modi told Mr. Putin that "today's era is not an era of war". External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar subsequently repeated that phrase in western capitals to demonstrate that India's purchase of discounted Russian oil did not signify political support for Russia's invasion.

The selectivity of these admonitions is difficult to ignore. Mr. Modi has not used comparable language toward Mr. Netanyahu, even as Israel has attacked several countries and territories across West Asia, many on multiple occasions, and has committed genocide in Gaza. Nor has Mr. Modi publicly directed the same admonition at Mr. Trump following American attacks on Iran. India itself attacked Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Mr. Putin may therefore conclude that Mr. Modi's declaration that this is "not an era of war" reflects neither a consistent principle nor a universal opposition to war, but diplomatic messaging designed to reassure the West at Russia's expense.

Mr. Modi's latest appeal – that "endless war" must give way to an "end of war" – may reinforce that perception. Would Mr. Modi deliver the same message to Mr. Trump about the increasingly prolonged war with Iran – or to Mr. Netanyahu about his unending campaign of revenge in Gaza? How is Moscow interpreting this double standard?

Where ties with Russia stand

Russia, nevertheless, still needs India, at least for now, as a major purchaser of its oil and military equipment. At the same time, Moscow can see that New Delhi has steadily reduced its dependence on Russian arms by turning increasingly to France, Israel, and the U.S. The relationship remains important to both countries, but it is becoming increasingly transactional – and vulnerable to their diverging strategic priorities.

Russia is now leaning ever more toward its "trusted partner" – China, while Mr. Modi's performative diplomacy designed to stay in the good books of Washington risks undermining the long enduring Russia-India friendship.

India's next investment cycle will shape its carbon future



Amarendu Nandy

An Associate Professor in the economics and public policy area at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ranchi, Jharkhand



Aayush Anand

A GARP Certified Sustainability and Climate Risk Professional and works with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)

The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) recent warning that the world could cross the 1.5°C warming threshold within the next few years is likely to renew calls for faster decarbonisation. India, too, will face this pressure, but its choices are still open. Much of the housing, industrial infrastructure, power networks and urban development needed for its next phase of growth is yet to be built.

NITI Aayog estimates that 86% of the building stock that India will have in 2070 is yet to be built. Total floor space will more than double, from about 18 billion square metres in 2020 to 42 billion by 2070. India's crude-steel capacity, at about 200 million tonnes in 2024-25, is targeted to reach 300 million tonnes by 2030-31. Cement output is projected to rise from about 427 million tonnes in 2024 to 660 million tonnes by 2030.

The advantage of choice

The usual reading of these numbers is that India's infrastructure deficit makes decarbonisation harder. Demand for steel, cement and electricity will continue to rise even as India tries to reduce emissions. True, but only partly. The other side of the development deficit is that much of India's future capital stock remains a choice rather than an inheritance. Its future emissions will depend on what it chooses to build now and the technologies and standards that are embedded in that investment.

Mature economies face the opposite problem. The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that around 80% of the building stock that advanced economies will use in 2050 already exists. In the European Union, 85% of buildings predate 2000, around three-quarters perform poorly in terms of energy efficiency, and only about 1% are renovated each year. India has legacy problems too, but has more room to avoid creating them. It can build in efficiency from the outset and reduce the risks of stranded assets, premature retirements, or expensive retrofits later. In buildings, India need not wait for technology to catch up. The know-how is there, and so is the regulatory framework. The gap is in implementation.

> Its future emissions will depend on what it chooses to build now and the technologies and standards incorporated into those investments

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)'s State Energy Efficiency Index reports that the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) 2017 has been notified by 27 States, but legally incorporated in only 21. BEE has since issued the Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code (ECSBC) 2024 for commercial and office buildings and the Eco-Niwas Samhita (ENS) 2024 for residential buildings. States should embed these standards in building permits, occupancy certificates, and grid connections, where non-compliance can carry a cost.

The issue in the power sector

Power presents a different problem. India has added renewable generation quickly, but the network to move it has not kept pace. The IEA estimates that transmission bottlenecks have held back around 60 GW of renewable capacity. The Ministry of Power's plan envisages roughly 590 GW of generation additions between 2023 and 2032. So, an unresolved transmission gap will become more serious as generation expands. As transport, cooling and parts of industry electrify, the gains from cleaner generation will depend on whether that power can be reliably moved to where it is needed. Transmission and storage, therefore, must be planned alongside, and in some cases ahead of, new generation and demand.

In steel and cement, the low-carbon transition is harder. The Ministry of Steel acknowledges that hydrogen-based green steel is not yet viable in India, while NITI Aayog places large-scale carbon capture in cement further down the transition path. Mandating technologies could raise costs and, worse, lock firms into processes that later prove uneconomic.

Public procurement could be a better instrument. The Union and State governments, Indian Railways, the National Highways Authority of India, and other public agencies buy large quantities of steel and cement and can help create an early market for lower-emission materials.

India already has a green-steel taxonomy, and the Ministry of Steel has proposed aggregated procurement through competitive bidding. Tenders could set emissions-intensity thresholds without prescribing the production route. Competitive bidding would then reveal the green premium while rewarding producers who find the most efficient ways to meet the thresholds. As the premium narrows with economies of scale and technological advances, the thresholds could be tightened. They could also be aligned with the emissions-intensity targets under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), ensuring consistent policy signals.

Costs and risks

Finance can also skew these choices. The IEA estimates that India's cost of capital for grid-scale renewables is about 80% higher than in advanced economies. Since clean infrastructure is front-loaded in cost, that gap can make an otherwise viable project uneconomic. Targeted instruments such as payment-security mechanisms, partial credit guarantees, or concessional debt can ease financing or off-taker risk. But where the technology is still unproven, cheaper public finance will simply shift more risk onto the public balance sheet.

India cannot avoid the investment required to build the economy it still needs. What matters is what kind of capital the investment leaves behind. Where technology is mature, there is little reason to build inefficiency into assets that will last for decades. Where it is still evolving, preserving flexibility has value. Getting those choices right now can spare the country costlier corrections later.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brazil's choice

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's victory in Brazil's election highlights both democracy's resilience and the formidable challenges facing elected leaders (Page 1, October 27). Democracies cannot afford endless ideological battles between the right and the left while citizens struggle for employment, affordable health care and peace. Regardless of who governs, statesmanship demands confronting global economic realities rather than exploiting public anxieties for electoral gains. Victory at the ballot box is merely the beginning. Delivering dignity, security and opportunity is the true test of leadership. Political parties worldwide must introspect.

Brij B. Goyal,
Ludhiana, Punjab

The headwind turned tailwind win of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is a sure sign of the sturdy will of people wedded to democracy to quell the right-wing wave in South America. It is also a strong sign that the wind is blowing against the machinations of U.S. President Donald Trump in South America. Overall, the wins in Brazil and Serbia are signs of change globally.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Keralam

Vanishing paddy fields

The debate over the decline of Keralam's paddy fields must go beyond blaming the restrictive provisions of the Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act, 2008, or the bureaucracy implementing it. The large-scale conversion of agricultural land has been driven by rising land values, urbanisation, changing employment patterns and the declining viability of traditional paddy cultivation.

The State cannot escape responsibility.

Restrictions on land conversion should have been accompanied by measures to make cultivation economically sustainable and protect wetlands. Rising labour costs, fragmented holdings, labour shortages and increasing demand for housing have made paddy farming less attractive. A meaningful assessment must examine the policies that permitted land conversion, who benefited and what measures were taken to protect food security, biodiversity, groundwater recharge and flood regulation. Keralam needs a balanced policy that protects farmers' livelihoods and the environment while accommodating legitimate development needs.

T. Ravindranthan,
Chennai

Fragile hill ecosystems

It is deeply shocking that the pristine Nilgiris district continues to bear the brunt of nature's fury during every monsoon (October 26 and October 27). The loss of greenery, the felling of trees and an indiscriminate construction of commercial complexes, resorts and lodging houses continue unabated, aided by faulty administrative policies and vested interests. Tourism must not be promoted at the cost of environmental destruction.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

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

The SIR and its error margin



Nishtha Gupta

Technology policy researcher based in New Delhi

For nearly a month, Indians across the country have courted the ire and might of the state over a question no citizen in a democratic nation should have to ask. Their anger stems from the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise which has removed more than 13 crore names from the rolls since June 2025. Over a quarter were claimed dead or duplicated, while most were marked as absent or shifted. At one booth in Delhi's Bela Estate, officials cut 728 out of 729 voters, citing address proof discrepancies. Who decided that so many names should come off the rolls and on what basis?

While the political answer is being debated on the streets and in Parliament, it is clear that the SIR has changed how a voter's place on the roll is decided. In 1995, the Supreme Court held that a name already on the roll should be presumed to be there legally. The SIR replaced that presumption with a data-matching exercise. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has relied heavily on software for a public task where a single error costs a citizen their vote.

Rolls from the last intensive revision (mostly in 2002) were hastily digitised from Bengali, Kannada, and other regional languages, auto-transliterated by the machine into English, and matched against new enumeration forms. Then a second layer of "logical discrepancies," such as a parent-child age gap of less than 15 years, was applied. Among those who failed the test were twins (age gap less than nine months), voters of the Oraon tribal group whose surname Xalxo was auto-translated to Khalkho, and those whose father's name was 'Md.' in one list and 'Mohammed' in the other. To reconcile the record, little logic or reasoning was applied. According to the Internet Freedom Foundation, these rules flagged 17% of West Bengal's electors and 41% of Madhya Pradesh's. A system that suspects four in 10 voters in a State needs to come under scrutiny.

Such sweeping pattern-matching guarantees false positives. In West Bengal, 91% of exclusion appeals decided by the tribunals were reversed; a reversal rate that high should worry whoever designed the process. And by the time their eligibility was restored, these people had already lost the opportunity to vote in the 2026 Assembly election.

Drawing the line

This is why it matters where the line is drawn for who is "suspicious". How many eligible voters are risked to remove one ineligible voter? Legally, Election Registration Officers (EROs) determine where the limit lies. Yet in the SIR, the ECI has never revealed what the acceptable margin of error is or the data itself. Two of the three Election Commissioners are on record objecting to the centralisation of the database and the restrictions imposed on local officers' authority. In Goa, officers heard 97 flagged voters and found all eligible, but couldn't restore them because the software had no option to reverse the earlier action.

The ECI claims that automation is only meant to assist human decisions. This would be true if officers actually had the chance to evaluate every flagged entry. In Delhi, each booth-level officer received about 200 notices to verify within a very tight deadline. When the queue becomes practically unmanageable, the machine's verdict on an individual case inevitably becomes the State's verdict.

The citizen then pays to undo this through hearings and lost wages, or is forced to remain disenfranchised if unable to appeal. In West Bengal, the damage went beyond voting when a June State order marked the ration cards of SIR-removed voters as inactive. The SC has since restored access to food. India has sold its digital public infrastructure to the rest of the world on the premise of inclusion at scale. Built on faulty data, the same architecture excludes at scale, and an error in one register follows a person into the next.

This doesn't mean that the rolls shouldn't be cleaned. What must change is where the risk tolerance lies. A dead voter left on the roll is a clerical error. A living voter who is struck off loses their constitutional right. The ECI should disclose the matching rules and error rates and open itself to an independent audit. No name should be struck off until an officer with actual time and authority verifies the real person behind the data.

The model is already travelling. In January, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar offered the ECINet platform to help other countries build their own versions. In August, U.S. President Donald Trump cited India's photo ID rules to push for stricter U.S. voter laws. Whatever standard the world's largest democracy accepts for electoral error, other nations will follow.

A dead voter left on the roll is a clerical error. A living voter who is struck off loses their constitutional right

Are coronary stents necessary?



Dr. Enas A. Enas

Preventive Cardiologist and Physician-Scientist, Founding President of the CADI Research Foundation USA



Dr. Basil Varkey

Professor Emeritus of medicine

Keralam Chief Minister V. D. Satheesan's recent remarks questioning "unnecessary" angioplasty procedures have drawn objections from medical organisations concerned that it could undermine public confidence in doctors. But the Chief Minister's remarks demand more than a reflex response; it requires a thoughtful, honest response built on up-to-date evidence based on clinical and research studies.

Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI), by balloon angioplasty and stent placement, has transformed cardiovascular care. During an acute heart attack caused by a suddenly blocked coronary artery, prompt angioplasty and stents can restore blood flow, save heart muscle and improve survival. There is no debate about this approach and second opinions are unnecessary as time is of essence in such an emergency. Stents also offer substantial relief to selected patients with persistent activity-limiting angina (chest pain caused by lack of oxygen-rich blood).

There is a crucial distinction between stenting as a life-saving measure in the above situations to medical treatment via stenting because a narrowing of blood vessels is seen on an angiogram. A coronary angiogram shows the anatomy of the arteries; it does not, by itself, establish that a narrowing requires intervention. The decision to intervene and how to intervene must take account of the patient's symptoms, the severity of the blockage, its effect on blood flow, the overall pattern of coronary disease and the expected benefit of intervention.

The landmark ISCHEMIA trial, published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* in 2020, enrolled 5,179 patients at 320 sites in 37 countries with stable coronary artery disease and moderate to severe ischemia (restricted blood flow to the heart). The patients were assigned either to an initial invasive strategy – angiography followed by angioplasty or coronary bypass surgery – or to a conservative strategy of optimal medical treatment, with revascularisation reserved for those who had an acute event or angina. After a median follow-up of 3.2 years, there was no significant difference between the two groups in composite outcomes (cardiac arrests, hospitalisation for unstable angina or heart failure) and all-cause and cardiovascular mortality were similar. After a follow-up of 5 years, there was still no significant difference between the two groups in composite outcome or mortality. The core lesson is that most patients with stable coronary artery disease with ischemia on optimal medical treatment would do as well as those who undergo stenting or bypass surgery.

Concerning scale

The growing scale of PCI in India deserves careful examination. National Interventional Council figures show that annual PCI procedures rose from approximately 1,13,000 in 2008 to more than 7,26,000 in 2024 – an increase of more than six-fold. In contrast, PCI procedures in the U.S. fell by about 40% between 2003 and 2016, reflecting progress in prevention and treatment.

These figures do not by themselves prove that stents are overused in India considering its large population, the substantial burden of premature coronary disease, the socio-economic progress in the past decades and the improved access to cardiac care centres. Nevertheless, the divergence in trends between the two countries raises an important question: how much of the increase in PCI is a reflection of fulfilling a genuine clinical need, and how much of it is a reflection of differences in practice patterns, financial incentives and gaps in knowledge on the efficacy of optimal medical treatment?

Optimal medical therapy, based on evidence-based guidelines, is the foundation of care for all coronary artery disease patients. The elements of optimal therapy include LDL-cholesterol lowering, appropriate anti-platelet treatment, blood-pressure control, evidence-based diabetes management and lifestyle changes. A coronary stent treats a specific narrowing; it does not cure the underlying disease of atherosclerosis or eliminate the risk of future heart attacks. Patients remain vulnerable to disease elsewhere in the coronary arteries and must continue preventive treatment.

The way forward is neither condemnation of cardiologists nor unquestioning acceptance of every recommendation for angioplasty. Most doctors strive to act in their patients' best interests, but no profession is immune to inappropriate practice. The ultimate test of healthcare is not how many procedures are performed, but how many lives are saved and whether patients receive the right treatment at the right time at an affordable cost.

There is a crucial distinction between stenting as a life-saving measure to medical treatment via stenting because a narrowing of blood vessels is seen on an angiogram

The numbers behind Lula's historic victory

Lula secured an unprecedented fourth term in Brazil due to a campaign strategy focussing on high voter mobilisation and populist labour reforms

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Gandla Sneha
Sachin Swaraj

Lula da Silva's reelection as the President of Brazil on Sunday was no less than a historical feat. The 81-year-old, who defeated his far-right opponent Flavio Bolsonaro, gained at least 10 million votes in less than three weeks **(Chart 1)**.

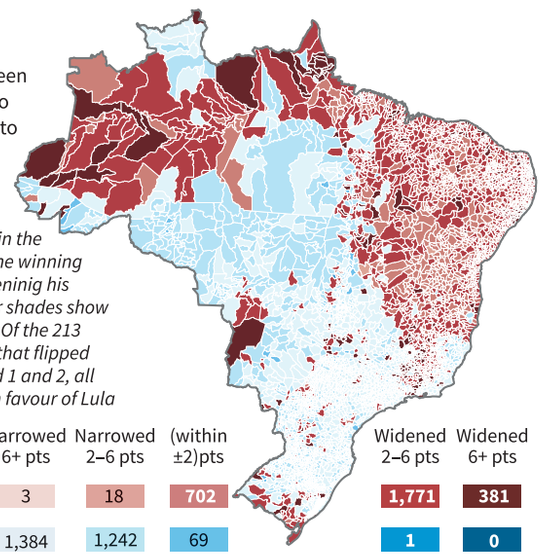
Much of his victory has been credited to a campaign strategy focussing on high voter mobilisation and populist labour reforms including cash payout schemes for the poor and a new debt relief package post the first round of elections – in which he trailed behind Bolsonaro. This was unprecedented in the country's elections as no candidate who had lost the first round in the past had emerged victorious in the second **(Table 2)**. His victory carries implications much beyond Brazil. For much of South America that has been hit by a conservative right-wing wave, Mr. Lula's victory offers a change **(Table 3)**.

Under Mr. Lula's third presidential term, Brazil saw notable economic growth, accompanied by increased labour force participation. The country's real Gross Domestic Product grew cumulatively by 9% between 2023 and 2025, the highest among nine other countries in the region. The share of Brazil's working population increased consistently since 2022. This was accompanied by a rise in average monthly earnings **(Chart 4)**.

Meanwhile, the country's unemployment rate and poverty declined to its lowest in at least a decade. As of 2024, Brazil recorded an unemployment rate of 6.8% and 23% of its population were living below poverty, that is $6.85 a day as per the country's definition **(Chart 5)**. However, the country's household and government debt have surged to new highs increasing borrowing costs **(Chart 6)**.



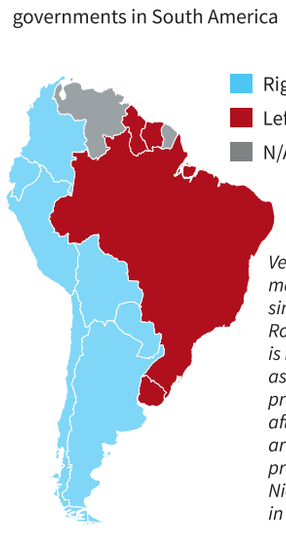
Chart 1: Changes in margins between Lula and Flavio from Round 1 to Round 2



Darker shades in the map indicate the winning candidate wideninig his margin. Lighter shades show the narrowing. Of the 213 municipalities that flipped between Round 1 and 2, all but one were in favour of Lula

	Narrowed 6+ pts	Narrowed 2–6 pts	(within ±2)pts	Widened 2–6 pts	Widened 6+ pts
Won by Lula	3	18	702	1,771	381
Won by Flavio	1,384	1,242	69	1	0

Chart 2: Countries with left and right leaning governments in South America



Venezuela is marked in grey since Delcy Rodriguez is in charge as interim president after the U.S. arrested former president Nicolas Maduro in January 2026

Chart 5: Poverty (left axis) and unemployment (right axis) have declined to their lowest in a decade

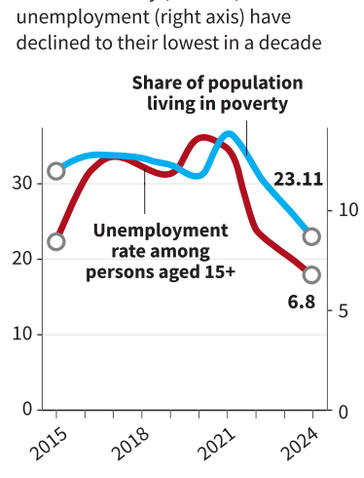
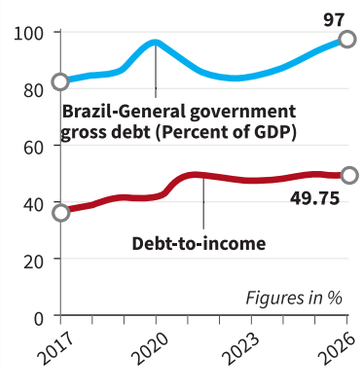


Chart 6: Brazil's household and national debt have surged to new highs in the last decade



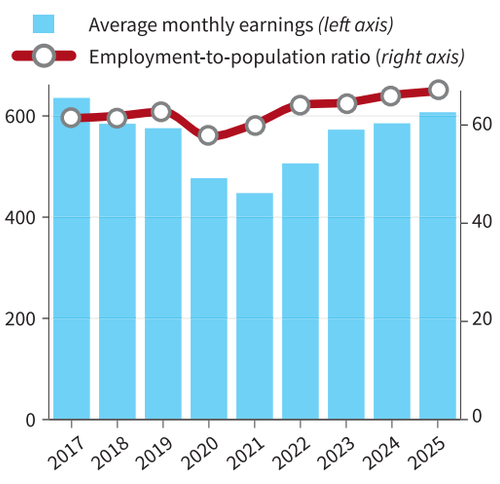
Data for 2026 till October 2026. Gandla Sneha and Sachin Swaraj are interning with The Hindu Data Team

Table 3: Past results of candidates in Round 1 and Round 2 of the Brazil Presidential elections

Year	Round 1	Round 2
1989	Collor (30.48%)	Collor (53.03 %)
1994	Fernando Henrique (54.28%)	-
1998	Fernando Henrique (53.06%)	-
2002	Lula (46.44%)	Lula (61.27%)
2006	Lula (48.61%)	Lula (60.83%)
2010	Dilma (46.91%)	Dilma (56.05%)
2014	Dilma (41.59%)	Dilma (51.64%)
2018	Bolsonaro (46.03%)	Bolsonaro (55.13%)
2022	Lula (48.43%)	Lula (50.90%)
2026	Bolsonaro (47.03%)	Lula (51.79%)

** In 1994 and 1998, no runoff was held because the winning candidates had already secured a majority, receiving more than 50% of the votes*

Chart 4: The share of population employed in the labour force and their average monthly earnings (in $)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 28, 1976

ITDC plan to build hotels abroad

New Delhi, October 27: Indian Tourism Development Corporation, world's second biggest public sector undertaking of its kind running a chain of hotels, motels, travellers lodges, beach resorts and forest lodges in the country is planning to set up initially about half a dozen 'Indian restaurants' at 'strategic' places in the world.

According to Lt. Gen J.T. Sataravalla, Chairman and Managing Director of ITDC, now that the Corporation has already built up the necessary hotel infrastructure at important tourist centres within the country, it wants to popularise the famous Indian dishes to the foreigners at these restaurants abroad and also attract them to visit India.

The location of these Indian restaurants abroad has not yet been finalised but they will be set up at some of the important world capitals. Some of them are likely to be located in the oil-rich Gulf countries. The managers of these restaurants will be specially trained in marketing Indian tourism abroad.

The ITDC, which expects to earn Rs 7 crores of foreign exchange during 1975-76, has already entered the field in giving technical assistance abroad in running hotel industry. It is setting up an Indian restaurant at Prague with Czech collaboration.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 28, 1926

Message from Mars?

An "Englishman" correspondent cables under date London, October 25: Wireless experts are installing special apparatus on the highest peak of Mont Blanc and will attempt to communicate with Mars on Oct. 27.

[To-day Mars comes within 42,000,000 miles of the earth. An earlier message stated: The periodical "Popular Wireless" is using a 14 valve superheterodyne receiver to listen in. It is pointed out that certain Morse letters and other mysterious signals are received from time to time which are not attributable to any earthly station. Arguments for and against the feasibility of signalling are revived, but the pro-Martians say that Mars as a senior planet possesses older brains on her. In order to open up a conversation amateurs throughout the world are invited to listen in.]

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Share of SIR notices disposed of by poll officials in Delhi

94 in per cent. More than 31.26 lakh notices or 94.34 per cent of the total 33.14 lakh notices issued to voters under the ongoing SIR exercise in Delhi have been disposed of, and the names parked for inclusion in the final list to be published on December 4, the office of the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said on Tuesday. The notices are to be disposed of by November 30. PTI

Flights cancelled in two A.P. cities due to Cyclone Arnab

21 At least 21 flights were cancelled at Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam airports on Tuesday as a very severe cyclonic storm approached the Andhra Pradesh coast, officials said. In its latest bulletin, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that Cyclone Arnab was over the Bay of Bengal, about 170 km south-southeast of Visakhapatnam, at 11.30 am. PTI

Station masters to be recruited nationwide by Nov 25

1,265 The recruitment process for railways station masters will provide a notification covering examination procedures and vacancy distribution for the post. The online application window will close on November 25, 2026. The Railways Ministry advised candidates to review instructions before submitting their forms. PTI

Uttarakhand govt.'s supplementary budget for 2026-27

7.8 in ₹ thousand crores. The State government said that of the total supplementary budget, ₹4,164.32 crore is earmarked for capital expenditure, and ₹3,679.86 crore for revenue expenditure. More than half of it is directed toward capital investment. With the supplementary budget of ₹1,11,703.21 crore, the total budget for 2026-27 will reach ₹1,19,547.39 crore. PTI

Number of fighters killed in fresh clashes in Yemen

97 At least 63 Houthi fighters and 34 pro-government combatants have died, mostly near the Bab al-Mandab strait, the Red Sea's strategic southern chokepoint, they said. The clashes are the fiercest since the Houthis seized swathes of territory from the Saudi-backed government in a lightning offensive last month. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On the question of KIIFB's future

An expert panel constituted by Keralam's UDF government to review the functioning of KIIFB has recommended winding it up and absorbing its functions into the State government, prompting a closer look at the merits of off-budget borrowings by States and the need to boost public investment in Keralam

ECONOMIC NOTES

R. Nagaraj

In July, Keralam's newly elected UDF government set up an expert panel to review the functioning of Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB). The panel, headed by a former civil servant, was tasked with recommending measures to restructure KIIFB and strengthen the government's institutional capabilities, among other things. The committee has recently submitted its report, which has been tabled in the State Assembly.

Apparently critical of KIIFB's functioning, the committee has recommended winding it up; absorbing its functions and capabilities into the State government, news reports say. The principal reason for the panel's recommendation is that with the clubbing of KIIFB's borrowing function with the State budget, the special purpose vehicle (SPV) has lost its primary purpose.



KIIFB reportedly boosted the State's infrastructure investment by raising extra-budgetary resources, including securing soft loans known as "Masala Bonds" from international agencies. FILE PHOTO

A disputed investment model

KIIFB, restructured by the LDF government, reportedly boosted the State's infrastructure investment by raising extra-budgetary resources, including securing soft loans known as "Masala Bonds" from international agencies after the disastrous floods of 2019. However, the SPV's functioning and financial performance have remained contentious. The comptroller and auditor general's (CAG) strictures against KIIFB have become a convenient beating stick for the Centre and the Opposition parties in the State. In the fog of the debate, KIIFB's original purpose and economic principles underlying it seem to have been lost sight of.

Though Keralam has sound traditional transport infrastructure such as road network and rail connectivity, it lags behind in modern facilities, such as high-speed railways or highways, especially when compared to the neighbouring States. Keralam reportedly spends a mere 1.5 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) on infrastructure. This was so in spite of Keralam's own-tax revenue to GSDP ratio being among the highest among major States, as per the RBI data.

KIIFB was set up in 1999 and underwent a major restructuring in 2016; the institution's record in expanding public goods is apparently well acknowledged. However, its functioning raised many queries. The CAG found that the SPV's finances flouted its procedural audits, which became a sticking point between the Centre and the State. Moreover, as KIIFB functioned outside the purview of the State budget, without generating financial profits from its lending, its borrowings being serviced out of the State's revenue became the heart of the contention.

Rationale for off-budget borrowing

In the good/bad old days of "planning", State finances broadly followed the "gap-filling" approach; meaning the Centre made up the difference between a State's projected revenue growth and its "developmental needs" as per the State plans. It was a negotiated process, part financial and part political. Evidence shows that richer and politically influential States got the lion's share of the divisible pool of the plan resources.

The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) 2003 changed that by seemingly imposing a "hard budget constraint", with the fiscal deficit capped at 3 per cent of GSDP. The RBI now monitors the size of the State debt. The coupon (interest) rate of the State loans depends on the State's debt sustainability measures. The hard budget constraint has reportedly improved State finances, or at a minimum, made them transparent.

However, most States have devised a variety of means for securing extra-budgetary resources, or off-budget borrowings (OBBs) – as evident from the RBI's compilation of State finances. The CAG, tracking OBBs, finds that there is a bewildering variety of them. And the actual OBBs are far higher than what it is able to count, as per its own findings. Incidentally, Keralam is not among the worst offenders.

Globally, a variety of financial institutions and fiscal arrangements have existed outside of the budgetary process. Numerous kinds of para-statal organisations are a feature – not a bug – of the fiscal landscape, especially among fast-growing Asian economies. China, for instance, has a bewildering variety of financial arrangements that enable provinces to draw resources from the national development banks to sustain employment at the local level, augment production and exports and ensure political stability.

Then, realistically, what should be the rules for managing extra-budgetary resources and institutions for Keralam? Simply speaking, if extra-budgetary resources are productively used and they comply with the government expenditure principles, having such off-budget institutions/borrowings may not be undesirable. This follows the Domar rule: so long as the output growth rate exceeds the interest rate on such loans, they are being used productively. Since such investments have a public good character, individual projects may not be yielding adequate revenue or covering the full costs. However, if in the aggregate they contribute to growth in state output (GSDP) and follow the Domar rule, then such investments are in principle viable.

However, if the State-level SPVs borrow from external sources for social purposes or green financing, which usually have lower interest rates for longer maturities, they need to be assessed differently, as they involve exchange rate risk. Given Keralam's fragile ecology and need for substantial low-cost resources for protecting it, external borrowing for such purposes by creating SPVs may be desirable, as KIIFB reportedly proved to be after the floods in 2019. The expert committee's recommendation to dissolve KIIFB is the easier part. In the present political milieu, efforts to boost public investments to catch up with the neighbouring States are a harder job – with the Centre strictly monitoring Keralam. The State will have to devise newer and administratively innovative means to tap OBBs, as most States do. The task is primarily a political one.

(R. Nagaraj is an economist.)

THE GIST

- An expert panel constituted by Keralam's UDF government to review KIIFB's functioning has recommended winding it up, primarily on the grounds that the integration of KIIFB's borrowing function with the State budget has deprived the special purpose vehicle of its primary purpose
- However, if extra-budgetary resources are used productively and in compliance with the principles governing government expenditure, such off-budget institutions and borrowings may not be undesirable

What was leaked in the Censor Board data breach?

What impact could the leak have? When was the leaked data taken down? What is the status of the probe?

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

A data breach at the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) left hundreds of applications' data exposed online, *The Hindu* found. The data comes from over 500 titles, of which dozens are feature films. The leak comes from the censor board's e-Cinepramaan portal, used by filmmakers to submit their applications. The records ranged from December 2025 to August 2026.

What were the leaked documents?

The leaked documents included shooting scripts, with detailed shot-by-shot translations and other annotations. These scripts appear to have been specifically prepared for the censor board's review of these films – one script even included labels on swear words used over the course of the film and other clarifications on dialogue.

The breached data also included a summary of cuts that were ordered by the CBFC. This is supposed to be public information anyway under Section 5A(2) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, but the censor board put this data behind an "under maintenance" message on its website.

In what could be the most sensitive of the exposed documents, film distribution agreements – both from international filmmakers distributing into India and Indian filmmakers authorising dubbed versions in a different part of the country – were exposed. At least three such agreements had unredacted or improperly redacted information on what fees were paid to license a film for distribution in India. *The Hindu* is withholding specifics here.

"Commercial agreements in the film industry often contain carefully negotiated provisions governing creative control, casting, remuneration, profit-sharing, intellectual property rights, promotional obligations, and even specific conditions concerning a film's storyline, portrayal or production," Vasundhara S., managing partner at Verum Legal told *The Hindu*.

"When commercially sensitive or specially negotiated creative terms enter the public domain, the confidentiality underpinning these agreements is compromised," Ms. Vasundhara said. "Such disclosures can weaken negotiating positions, reveal commercially valuable information, influence future contractual negotiations and potentially expose parties to disputes arising from confidentiality obligations."

"If I am a competing party or a counterparty, I'd be in a much better position to negotiate now that I have confirmation as to what terms these guys would agree to for certain types of works, beyond what is generally known in the market," Abhinav Hansaraman, a commercial lawyer in Delhi said.

Where was the data posted?

The documents were posted as dockets that contained practically everything but a copy of the film itself, and posted on the site of the non-profit Internet Archive portal. The data dump, most of it was posted on a single day, lay on the site for days, open to anyone to review and download. It is unclear if the data dump's existence was known to anyone.

The majority of the documents were posted earlier this month, but were all taken down on October 12. The user, whose display ID was former CBFC chairman Prasoon Joshi's name in Russian, also deleted their account. *The Hindu* was unable to contact them.

How did CBFC respond to the breach?

Last week, *The Hindu* contacted the CBFC for comment on the breach. The censor board did not appear to have immediate information on the breach. A week after being provided granular details of what documents were leaked from which film application, CBFC chairperson Shashi Shekhar Vempati said in a statement that it was looking into the breach. "CBFC has reviewed the information shared regarding alleged unauthorised access to CBFC's e-Cinepramaan Portal," the CBFC said. "However, based on the information examined so far, no trace has been found of the certification-related documents that were claimed to have been accessed."

The Internet Archive told *The Hindu* in a statement that the account in question was taken down by the user themselves. "As a matter of caution, a complaint has been filed with Cybercrime, and CERT-In has also been notified of the allegations and provided with the information shared," the CBFC added in its statement to *The Hindu*. CERT-In is India's computer emergency response team, which is tasked with handling data breach and hacking incidents.

"The technical team has also conducted a thorough analysis of the servers and databases to assess whether any external attacks may have compromised their security," CBFC added. "The findings of this analysis are being considered alongside the ongoing forensic examination."

On October 4, the e-Cinepramaan portal was unavailable for hours. The user stopped uploading any further documents shortly thereafter. No individual filmmaker's account seems to have been compromised, the CBFC said in its statement, and committed to a "thorough security audit" of the e-Cinepramaan portal.

CACHE



Safety check: Dating app users should first vet the platforms they register with, making sure that they agree with how data is collected and processed. GETTY IMAGES

What did a U.S. investigation uncover about Tinder's failure to detect scams?

U.S. lawmakers shared troubling statistics about how dating app users on Tinder and Hinge were matching with scammers, due to outdated AI protections; the probe also acknowledged that Match Group had introduced new safety measures this year to detect scammers

Sahana Venugopal

Earlier in October, U.S. lawmakers revealed how users of dating apps were being exposed to serious financial and physical risks. They pinned this to the outdated AI stack in these applications.

In an investigation centred around the Match Group, the lawmakers found that the algorithm matched U.S. users of dating apps like Tinder and Hinge with scammers.

The report, titled 'Outmatched: Tinder, Scammers, and Match Group's Efforts to Catch Up', highlighted that users connected with nearly 1.5 million scammers on these two popular dating applications in the first nine months of 2025.

At the core of these disturbing findings were outdated machine learning models installed to detect bad actors. These had not been updated in years, according to the report.

This information came from internal documents that the Match Group shared with the committee, led by senator Maggie Hassan. As the accuracy of scam detection dropped, Tinder began depending on other measures that it knew were often ineffective.

"In fact, Match Group knew that Tinder was more likely to show a profile if it belonged to a scammer or other bad actor rather than a regular user," stated an official press release about the report.

However, the investigation acknowledged that the Match Group later put in place new safety measures, such as an AI model in Tinder this year that was designed to detect scammers and bad actors.

What kinds of scams were prevalent on the apps?

The report included statements from victims who described how romance scammers cheated them out of tens of thousands of dollars after building a relationship with them on the dating apps.

A common trend was to cite a major emergency in order to pressure the victim into sending over money. Using the victims' phone number and/or email ID, the scammers would proceed to harass them online until the victim sometimes paid them in the hopes of de-escalating their aggression.

Another type of scam involved the same malicious user operating as different people on the same dating app, to ensnare more victims.

The report pointed to an inconsistent dating app AI strategy, where patchy machine learning systems led to heavy caseloads and "overwhelmed" human moderators who were unable to focus on visibly risky accounts. As per a document from the Match Group itself, Tinder could have better tackled dangerous accounts by building better AI signals or reducing its reliance on manual rules.

"In practice, these moderation lapses meant that bad actors that reached moderation were not immediately banned and instead may have continued to interact with and harm legitimate users until the platform gathered additional evidence," explained the report.

What is the takeaway for Indian dating app users?

A bouquet of dating apps come under the Match Group, including Tinder, Hinge, Match (formerly Match.com), Plenty of Fish, and more such offerings, catering to users in diverse countries and cultural communities.

In other words, a security lapse in one app comes with serious implications for the users of other Match Group-owned apps. Tinder and Hinge are popular in India as well, claiming the top ranks in terms of downloads via app marketplaces.

According to the Match Group, Hinge is expected to reach $1 billion in revenue in 2027, while Tinder is expanding its in-person events that are already live in the U.S. and Europe.

Indian users often register with apps that suggest profiles and tout AI-powered matchmaking as a selling point. However, as the U.S. committee report noted, cutting-edge AI tools require constant upkeep, testing, and upgrades in order to ensure that customers remain shielded from emerging threats.

Regulators must also play a larger role in monitoring dating app services.

How can users avoid scammers on dating apps?

Dating app users should first vet the platforms they register with, making sure that they agree with how data is collected and processed.

Users should also be aware of the reporting options they have in case an online or offline interaction turns unsafe. Customers can research the apps' founders, investors, and brand ambassadors, to make sure that there is an alignment of values.

Dating app users should promptly report fraudulent user profiles and cease interacting with them. AI-generated user photos and videos, even when posted as a joke, often violate platform policies.

Another red flag is a dating app user who becomes intimate too quickly or is eager to discuss finances early on. Furthermore, scammers often pressure dating app users to contact them on external sites, so they can view the user's phone number or harvest other personal details.

Users must withhold personal phone numbers, email IDs, home addresses, private social media channels, and employer information until they meet a match in-person and feel comfortable with proceeding.

THE DAILY QUIZ

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

At the age of 81, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has secured an unprecedented fourth term as the President of Brazil. Here's a quiz on the veteran leader

Joan Sony Cherian

QUESTION 1
Lula is a founding member of the Workers' Party or the Partido dos Trabalhadores. When was it formed?

QUESTION 2
After Lula won his third term in 2022, an incident mirroring the 2021 January 6 Capitol hill riots happened in Brazil where Brazil's Congress and Supreme Court buildings were stormed. Why?

QUESTION 3
Brazil's top political leaders were hit by scandal when in 2017 a high-profile anti-corruption investigation exposed money laundering and corruption among the top brass. It also led to Lula's arrest on the same charges in 2018. Name the anti-corruption probe.

QUESTION 4
Campaigns and pictures routinely feature the number '13' in association with Lula. What is the significance of the number?

QUESTION 5
In 2004, a *New York Times* article on President Lula infuriated him so much that the reporter of the article had his journalist via revoked by the Brazilian government. They said the article was "offensive to the honour of the President". Name the reporter and what the article said.



Visual question: Here, Lula is seen with another global leftist leader and icon. Name the revolutionary leader. AFP

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name of Pakistan's Prime Minister when martial law was proclaimed in October 1958. **Ans: Feroz Khan Noon**
2. Mirza abrogated this when he proclaimed martial law on October 7, 1958. **Ans: The Constitution of 1956**
3. The system of indirect elections, which was introduced by Ayub Khan in 1959 as the foundation of his political structure. **Ans: The Basic Democracies system**
4. Ayub Khan relinquish the presidency in this year, ending his period in power. **Ans: 1969**
5. Iskander Mirza went into exile to this country after his removal from office. **Ans: The United Kingdom**
Visual: This is a front-page report in *The Pakistan Times* dated March 10, 1951, announcing arrests in a conspiracy that preceded Ayub Khan's military coup by seven years. State the name by which the conspiracy is known. **Ans: The Rawalpindi Conspiracy Case**
Early birds: KN Viswanathan| Mohan Lal Patel| Tamal Biswas| Baburam Sapre| Arun Kumar Singh



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of "hogwash"? (Geetha Udaykumar, Mannarkudi)
This is a word, which is normally used in informal contexts. When somebody says something and you respond by saying, "hogwash", what you are implying is that as far as you are concerned what the individual has said is nonsense. Here are a few examples.

What she told me was hogwash.

I have no time to listen to your hogwash, Seema.

The word has the same meaning as "baloney".

I am not here to listen to your baloney.

His baloney didn't go down well with the boss.

Bad food and drink can also be called "hogwash".

The stuff that was served at the wedding was hogwash.

Don't go to the new restaurant. The food is hogwash.

Shouldn't it be World Trade Centre and not "Center"? (P.P. Hafeez, Kerala)
The word "Center" has been spelt correctly. That's the way the Americans spell it. A few words, which end in "re" in British English, the Americans spell it "er". Here are a few examples: meter, center, and theater.

Which of the following sentences is correct? "He walked into the apartment" or "He walked in the apartment"? (B. Abhishek, Bengaluru)
Both the sentences are grammatically acceptable, but their meaning is very different. When someone "walks into" an apartment he enters it. In other words, the individual has stepped into the apartment. He was outside all the while and now he has stepped inside.

Similarly, when you say that someone has "moved into" his new apartment, what you are implying is that he has shifted to his new apartment. He has made the new place his home. When you say that someone "walked in the apartment" what you are saying is that the individual walked around inside the apartment.

Unlike the earlier example, the individual is not entering the apartment. He is already inside and he is moving about. The action takes place within the apartment.

What is the meaning of the idiom "sink your teeth into something"? (P.K. Abu Baker, Calicut)
When you sink your teeth into something, you undertake to do something; you perform the task with a great deal of enthusiasm and interest. Here are a few examples.

His new role as a villain gave him something that he could sink his teeth into.

The new project is really interesting. Can't wait to sink my teeth into it.

It is also possible to say "get one's teeth into something". Here are a few examples.

He just couldn't get his teeth into his new role.

My wife has been telling me to get my teeth into some social work.

Published in The Hindu on May 21, 2002

Word of the day

Purveyor:
someone who supplies provisions

Synonym: supplier

Usage: *The company is a leading purveyor of gourmet food.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/purveyor

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pə(:)ˈveɪə/

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

From Page One

SC says it will 'examine everything' in SIR case

The affidavit was in response to a legal battle which began with protests on the streets of the national capital for the removal of Mr. Kumar. The agitations had graduated into the filing of multiple petitions, ranging from ordinary individuals and activists to Opposition leaders led by Mr. Gandhi, in the Supreme Court.

The ECI said a CEC cannot be removed, except in accordance with the procedure and on the grounds for the ouster of a Supreme Court judge.

The affidavit saw the ECI put up a united face, with Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi speaking in one voice that their SIR decisions were in line with the law, and that any attempt to restrain the functioning of the CEC was illegal.

Media reports preceding the public protests had alleged friction within the ECI, with both Election Commissioners complaining about procedural irregularities, coupled with the unilateral and authoritarian conduct of the CEC during the mammoth SIR exercise. The SIR has excluded approximately 13 crore voters from the electoral rolls.

The affidavit has denied charges that Form 6 was changed. It has justified that the additional declaration form provided alongside Form 6 was not a "part" of the statutory form.

Voters whose names were deleted from the electoral roll during the SIR exercise have to fill up their Form 6, as well as "map" their previous electoral roll entries to those of their parents and grandparents in the additional declaration form.

The affidavit also submitted that officials with the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer had filed appeals against the inclusion of deleted voters. Petitioners have contended that these appeals, numbering over 16 lakh in West Bengal, were choking the Appellate Tribunals.

"There is a lot to be said on this affidavit," Mr. Vikas Singh submitted. Senior advocate Maninder Singh appeared for the ECI and questioned the petitioners' request to the court.

Over 99 lakh deletions in Karnataka voter list

"Karnataka has more than 6.87 crore total population (projected as on the proposed publication year 2026), as per the Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036 published by National Commission on Population Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and 4.54 crore (general electors) in the final roll," the CEO said.

However, Mr. Kumar did not explain how a gap of about 2.33 crore between the projected population and the electorate is accounted for, including how much of it comprises people below 18 years, non-voter residents and eligible voters who may have been left out.

The final electorate comprises over 2.25 crore male voters, 2.29 crore female voters and 2,841 third-gender voters. It includes over 6.83 lakh young voters aged 18-19 and more than 3.92 lakh voters aged above 85, besides 44,322 service electors. The largest pool of electors, 1,02,57,680, belongs to the 30-39 age group, followed by 94,17,853 voters aged between 40 and 49.

Between June 16 and September 23, the last date for claims and objections, over 7.87 lakh Form 6 applications were received. Of these, 76,231 were rejected and 3,193 remained pending, while 7.08 lakh were accepted, as *The Hindu* previously reported.

Jaishankar to travel to U.S. for three-day G20 meeting

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

A week after United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to India, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will travel to the U.S. city of Atlanta to attend the meeting of G20 Foreign Ministers hosted by Mr. Rubio. The three-day visit from October 29 to 31 will include meetings with his counterparts from other G20 countries amidst a series of global developments and the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has not announced the visit thus far, but diplomatic sources confirmed that his engagements will include the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu.

The Quad Ministers earlier met in Delhi in May this year but could not schedule a summit of the leaders in India, whose turn it has been to host the summit since 2024. Instead, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, U.S. President Donald Trump, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will hold a Quad leaders' meeting in Manila.

Science successful only when society benefits from it: Modi

PM stresses on importance of taking science from laboratory to land; he says India is no longer playing catch up and emerged as leader in scientific, technological developments in 21st century

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said science succeeds only when it travels from the laboratory to the land and improves people's lives.

Addressing the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC), he said it must not become "merely a forum for discussion" but should deliver measurable outcomes.

Mr. Modi said India's science and technology story has long been one of catching up with other countries, but in the 21st century the country has emerged as a leader in scientific and technological developments. He said, "The discovery of zero showed that India has a culture of discovery. Chandrayaan's landing near the lunar south pole, Mangalyaan's success on the first attempt, and the vaccines developed during the COVID-19 pandemic are examples of this."

The audience at the conclave comprised three Nobel Laureates, top technocrats of India's scientific establishment, startup founders and scientists from both India and abroad.


Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave 2026 in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Focus on research

Mr. Modi said a country's technological capabilities depend on its research. He said efforts to "speed up" the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) work are underway. Referring to research funding, he cited a commitment of ₹1 lakh crore, including ₹12,000 crore for taking research from the laboratory to the market, with private investors partnering equally. He also referred to new commitments of ₹24,000 crore.

The number of patents filed in India had risen from about 50,000 to 1.5 lakh, Mr. Modi said, describing this as evidence of a strengthening culture of innovation rather than merely an increase in number.

Science in the age of AI

On artificial intelligence (AI), he posed what he called an "important question" about how to exercise scientific judgement in the age of AI.

"Science works by questioning paradigms and looking at problems with fresh eyes," he said. "AI can perform routine tasks quickly and raise productivity, but should not limit scientists' thinking or independent thought, and its answers must meet the accuracy standards of scientists."

Referring to the birth anniversary of nuclear scientist Homi J. Bhabha on October 30, Mr. Modi said a developed India will need large quantities of nuclear energy. He noted that the 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) has reached first criticality, strengthening the country's long-term energy position.

He also pointed to Indian space start-ups, a rocket made in India that placed a satellite in orbit on its first attempt, and the country's satellite docking capability. Indian-made AI chips are reaching other countries, an AI model has been built domestically, and work is underway on battery technology based on Indian raw materials, he said. The needs of sectors ranging from nuclear energy to space to AI and semiconductors differ, he said, but India's emerging technologies are rising together.

Describing India as a young country with vision and imagination, Mr. Modi said it needs a generation capable of leading in technology. He summed up the guiding principle as: "We will do it."

SC Collegium recommends 4 judges as HC Chief Justices

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended four judges for appointment as Chief Justices of the High Courts of Gujarat, Delhi, Telangana and Uttarakhand.

Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak, who is currently serving as a judge in the Gujarat High Court, has been recommended for appointment as its Chief Justice in a Supreme Court Collegium resolution of October 26.

Justice Pathak's parent High Court is Gauhati.

Justice P. Sam Koshy, whose parent High Court is Chhattisgarh and is currently serving on the Bench of the Telangana High Court, has been proposed for the Delhi High Court Chief Justiceship.

Justices Tapabrata Chakraborty of Calcutta High Court and Sudhir Singh of Patna High Courts have been recommended for appointments as Chief Justices of Telangana and Uttarakhand High Courts, respectively.

The Supreme Court Collegium has approved the proposal for appointment of Ajay Sharma, Judicial Member, CESTAT, Mumbai, and advocate Vaibhav Anant Sugdare as judges of the Bombay High Court.

Nobel winner backs GM crop innovation in Indian labs

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Richard J. Roberts, the 1993 Nobel laureate in Physiology or Medicine, on Tuesday dismissed as "nonsense" the idea that Indians adopting genetically modified crops would become dependent on foreign companies.

The work can be done in, and owned by, Indian laboratories, he said.

Dr. Roberts was delivering a plenary address at the second Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) at Bharat Mandapam.

In his address, he rejected the term 'genetically modified' as "very misleading" and referred to such crops throughout as "biotechnologically modified," or BM, arguing that "every life form on this planet has been genetically modified by evolution."

Asked about fears that an American corporation such as Monsanto (whose operations were subsumed into that of agrochemicals giant Bayer) could control the seed supply and erode the country's independence, Dr. Roberts replied: "I think it's nonsense. You can do improved agriculture here in the labs in India and own everything here in India. You don't have to go to America or Europe or anywhere else to make CRISPR-modified plants. Anybody can do it. You go to a lab, learn how to do it – maybe it takes you six to eight weeks – and then you can do it. It's really very straightforward


Richard J. Roberts

because we've come a long way in knowing how to improve crops. But you can own it here in India. "

CRISPR is a gene-editing tool in which a guide RNA steers the Cas9 enzyme to a chosen spot in an organism's DNA, where it cuts, letting scientists alter or insert genes at that site. The foundational CRISPR-Cas9 patents, however, are embroiled in an intellectual property dispute.

A divisive saga

GM food crops have a contested history in India. In 2010, then Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh imposed an indefinite moratorium on Bt brinjal, a genetically modified variant of the vegetable. In July 2024, the Supreme Court delivered a split verdict on GM mustard's environmental release, but unanimously asked the Centre to frame a national policy on GM crops. Golden Rice, engineered in 1999 by Ingo Potrykus and Peter Beyer to carry a vitamin A precursor in its grain, has also proved divisive.

Indian researchers reported in the peer-reviewed PLOS One journal in 2017 that backcrossing one Golden Rice transgene event into an Indian variety had yielded stunted, low-yielding plants, unfit for cultivation despite their high provitamin A content.

Asked whether Golden Rice could disturb India's agricultural systems, citing the invasive spread of eucalyptus, Dr. Roberts said he was not an expert in agriculture, underlining that there are people out there who truly are experts who can answer the questions much better than he can.

India permits Bt cotton for commercial cultivation, but no GM food crop.Kavitha Kuruganti, who leads the Coalition for a GM-Free India, has previously argued that the yield claims for GM mustard, which was cleared by a technical body but whose release subsequently stalled, are not supported by the developers' own data. India needs a biosafety policy rather than a policy on GM crops, she said.

Dr. Roberts framed GM as a question of food and nutritional security. "Food is medicine," he said, for people who cannot afford supplements or drugs. Crops eaten in developing countries, he argued, never received the breeding investment Western staples did because their farmers could not pay for it. "Golden Rice is not priced above ordinary rice, and several Indian government institutes hold licences for it," he said, and called Bt cotton a "success in India."

Delhi invites Pakistan Minister for SCO Civilisational Dialogue debut

Suhasini Haidar
Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

India will hold the first "Civilisational Dialogue Forum" of the 10-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) grouping, that includes Pakistan, from November 20-22 in Delhi, sources confirmed to *The Hindu*.

The dialogue, which will be organised by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of External Affairs, was proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the SCO leaders' Summit in Tianjin last year and adopted by the SCO Council.

According to the sources, the government has invited Pakistan's Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, for the event. Culture Ministers from the 10 member states, including China, Russia, Iran, Belarus and Central Asian states, 15 Dialogue partners and observer countries


Aurangzeb Khan Khichi

have been invited.

The event, which will be inaugurated by Mr. Modi, will be held at Delhi's iconic Purana Quila (Old Fort), a 16th Century fort built by Emperor Humayun. The fort is also the site of many excavations showcasing India's ancient past spanning nearly 3,000 years, from the Pre-Mauryan, Mauryan, Shunga, Kushana, Gupta, Post-Gupta period to medieval-era Rajput, Sultanate and Mughal periods, officials said, explaining its importance.

According to diplomatic sources, Pakistan has not so far confirmed who will lead its delegation to the dialogue forum. If Mr. Khichi attends, this will be the first time India will host a Minister from Pakistan since the 2023 SCO Foreign Ministers meeting, when the then Pakistan FM Bilawal Bhutto had travelled to Goa, and the first since the four-day conflict between India and Pakistan in May 2025.

While India has refused to take part in meetings of South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in Islamabad due to differences with Pakistan since 2016, it has joined SCO meetings there in the past, including SCO-Regional Anti-Terror Structure (RATS). In September, India sent SCO National Coordinator Alok Dimri to Islamabad to attend the first coordination meeting for Pakistan's SCO Presidency and events leading up to the leader's Summit in Pakistan, scheduled for August 2027. In November 2024, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had represented India at the SCO Heads of Government (HoG) Meeting, and all eyes will be on who will represent India at the SCO Heads of State Summit next year.

"India deals with SCO as an entity, as an important organisation," MEA Secretary (West) Sibi George said in response to a question from *The Hindu* at a briefing on August 27 about whether PM Modi would travel to Pakistan for the summit. "As far as our engagement with individual countries is concerned, a decision will be taken by the appropriate authority at the appropriate time and our appropriate level of participation will be decided accordingly," he added.

For the forum, each participating State has been invited to nominate a delegation comprising the Minister responsible for Culture and up to four government representatives.

SC issues notice to Centre over *Vande Mataram* petitions

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought a response from the Union government on two separate petitions filed by a Phule-Ambedkarite and a former Kerala bureaucrat challenging government orders imposing the six-stanza *Vande Mataram* on the people.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant issued notice to the Centre on petitions filed by B.D. Borkar and former IAS officer Balakrishnan Sathyabhama Mavoji, both of whom have termed the six-stanza *Vande Mataram* a 'divisive religious war song' and a step towards theocracy.

The petitions argued that government orders had imposed a "sectarian prayer to particular goddesses of one particular religion as the National Song" which violated fundamental rights of religion and attracted the criminal law.

The petitions, represented by jurist and advocate Mohan Gopal, said a State compulsion expressed through two successive government orders on January 28 and July 9 would lead to the "unstated but undeniable consequence of irreversibly deepening communal division and conflict in India by outraging the religious and spiritual feelings of minority religions".

Mr. Borkar has argued that the six-stanza version introduced by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in his novel 'Anandamath' would promote enmity and conflict between different communities by advancing the supremacy of a dominant community. The fabric of unity and harmony would be mutilated forever, he has said.

CBI records statement of journalist in Ankita Bhandari murder case

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The CBI on Tuesday recorded the statement of journalist Ashutosh Negi who was among the prominent voices seeking an investigation by the Central agency into the 2022 Ankita Bhandari murder case, officers said.

Mr. Negi was summoned by the CBI, which is probing the alleged role of a "VIP" in the murder of the 19-year-old resort receptionist, at its headquarters here.

The journalist was among the first to approach the Uttarakhand High Court for a CBI probe into the murder but the petition was turned down.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami recommended the CBI inquiry on the demand of Ankita's parents after an actress, who claimed to be the wife of a legislator, circulated audio and video clips purportedly indicating the involvement of a "VIP" in the murder.

APPEAL



Punitha is 9 years old suffering from "B - Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia". She needs Radiation and Chemotherapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is **Rs.8,00,000/-.** Her father is a farmer on daily wages and the family cannot afford this huge cost. Please support her for the treatment and give her a new lease of life. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your mail id is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org**

WWS

BRICS Forum raises concern over hostilities in West Asia

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Expressing "deep concern" about the escalating tension and hostilities in West Asia, parliamentary leaders from the BRICS nations slammed "unilateral coercive measures" and "unilateral economic sanctions" imposed in the region as contrary to international law.

A joint declaration issued after deliberations led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, at the end of the two-day 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum on Tuesday, also reiterated the need for a 'two-state' solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. "We express deep concern over the continued escalation of tensions in Middle East/West Asia and, recalling our respective national positions, call for exercising maximum restraint, as well as avoiding actions that could further aggravate the situation," it said.

The joint declaration also addressed the ongoing conflict in the Gaza Strip. "We reaffirm our unwavering support for the peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the two-state solution, with the two States living side by side, in peace and security, in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, asserting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, freedom and an independent, sovereign state," it said.

The Forum obliquely addressed the U.S.-Israel attack on Iran and the BRICS stance against attacks on member countries. "We call for the elimination of such unlawful measures which undermine international law and the principles and purposes of the UN Charter," the joint declaration said.

It also condemned the April 22, 2025 terror strike in Kashmir's Pahalgam.

Cong. calls poll panel affidavit on SIR 'deceitful, duplicitous'

Congress chief lists alleged irregularities in SIR across 12 States, one Union Territory; asks why PM, Shah are protecting the CEC; Congress flags ECI's changing statements on the additions to Form 6

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Doubling down on its attack against the Election Commission of India's special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls on Tuesday, the Congress said the Commission's affidavit in the Supreme Court was "deceitful and duplicitous".

Party president Mallikarjun Kharge listed instances of alleged irregularities in the SIR exercise in 12 States and one Union Territory, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah of trying to suppress the movement against "vote *chori*".

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh described the ECI's 248-page counter-affidavit as "deceptive, deceitful and duplicitous", adding that it was "extremely damaging" to the Commission itself. The ECI has sought the dismissal of petitions challenging its decisions on the SIR, maintaining that the exercise was authorised by law and that the relevant orders had been approved unanimously by all three members.

Form 6 changes

Mr. Ramesh alleged that the Commission had engaged in "patent deception and word games" over Form 6, which is used for voter registration. He said the ECI had earlier claimed that a new declaration attached to the form had been upheld by the Supreme Court, but was now arguing that the declaration was separate and that Form 6 itself had not been amended.

He maintained that the declaration was made mandatory for online submission and accused the ECI of violating the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. He also alleged that the ECINET platform had been used to centralise control over electoral rolls and override electoral registration officers, who are the statutory authorities.

Mr. Ramesh said allegations of mass deletions and other irregularities continued to emerge from States conducting the SIR.

"Once a person starts lying, they get entangled in their own web of deceit. And when this pattern continues for a long time, eventually their lies begin to surface in one way or another," Mr. Ramesh said.

In a separate post on X, Mr. Kharge said the Opposition INDIA bloc would continue its democratic struggle to protect every citizen's vote and the Constitution.

"As more skeletons tumble out of the Election Commission's cupboard, exposing Vote Chori, Modi-Shah are trying hard to suppress the people's movement! Why are they protecting CEC Gyanesh Kumar?" Mr. Kharge said in a post on X.

SC issues notice to Centre on plea by news publishers against data privacy law

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA), a group of 21 publishers from across the media spectrum, including ones owned by the Ambani and Adani groups, said the Union government's new privacy law will "shut down news rooms and usher in an era of censorship".

The DNPA, which represents 22 media publishers, including The Hindu Group Publishing Private Ltd., urged a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant to issue notice to the Union government on their plea for a stay of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025. The Supreme Court issued notice to the Centre and listed the case for detailed hearing on November 17. "We cannot pass *ex parte* orders of stay," CJI Kant said.

Senior advocate Madhavi Divan and advocate Anuj Tiwari, appearing for the DNPA, said the association was not asking for a stay but wanted the Centre to address the court on their plea for an interim stay of the privacy law.

Contravention with law

"If I (publishers) am left to the mercy of the data principal [the individual to whom the personal data relates to], who is also empowered to exercise control over the personal data, it will close down news rooms... They are changing the very concept of news," Ms. Divan submitted.

The CJI welcomed suggestions from the DNPA on how to balance the rights of innocent citizens against the misuse of Press freedom by the media while protecting the latter's right to disseminate information to the public.

"You (DNPA) are the best person to tell us... How do we ensure that a balance is struck?" the CJI addressed Ms. Divan.

The senior counsel said the privacy law was not meant for journalists at all. The very objectives of the law did not intend to fetter journalistic freedom exercised by traditional and recognised media houses, who were already regulated by bodies like the Press Council of India.

"If we report inaccurately, we will suffer... Now they are saying we have to ask them before publishing?" Ms. Divan challenged.

The DNPA has argued that the law was completely in contravention with the law laid down by the Supreme Court in its privacy judgment, which held the right inviolable and fundamental to human dignity and life.

"They impermissibly restrict the fundamental right to information and freedom of speech and expression," the petition said.

Govt. creating hurdles for protest, says Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday accused the Narendra Modi government of obstructing the INDIA bloc's proposed "public impeachment" of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on October 30, alleging that permission to hold the event at two venues had been denied following police intervention. The Delhi Police, however, said they had received no request for permission to hold the proposed mock impeachment event.

"The government-run Ashok Hotel had initially granted permission for the event but withdrew it following police intervention," Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal told reporters earlier in the day.

Twenty-one INDIA bloc parties had planned the mock impeachment as a curtain-raiser to the November 1 rally against alleged electoral irregularities and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Mr. Venugopal said.

After the Ashok Hotel event was obstructed, the Congress decided to shift it to Ramlila Maidan since the party had booked the venue from October 25 to November 3, he said.


K.C. Venugopal

"The day before yesterday, when our people came to set up infrastructure, the police didn't allow. This means it is not the Delhi Police's decision. It is the decision of Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi and [Home Minister] Amit Shah and they are protecting their pet Gyanesh Kumar," Mr. Venugopal alleged.

"Let it be very clear, come what may, we will not rest until Modi-Shah's puppet Gyanesh Kumar is removed. If they stop us here, we will go to Amit Shah's house, PM Modi's house, and stage a massive dharna there. But we will fight to the finish, until our mission is accomplished," the Congress leader said.

The Congress had sought permission only for a rally at Ramlila Maidan on November 1, which was granted, subject to several conditions, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Rohit Rajbir Singh told *The Hindu*. No separate request for a mock impeachment had been received, he said.

According to the permission letter issued by the Central district police, seen by *The Hindu*, the rally is scheduled to be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on November 1. The police have provided a no-objection from the perspective of law and order, subject to the organisers obtaining prior permission from the land-owning authority.

The police have imposed conditions on CCTV surveillance, security arrangements, water and toilet facilities, traffic management, and crowd control. The organisers have been directed to ensure that the rally remains peaceful and concludes by 5 p.m.

CPI forms human chain demanding CEC's resignation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India (CPI) on Tuesday organised a human chain from its party headquarters Ajoy Bhavan to ITO in New Delhi, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls had led to the disenfranchisement of citizens.

Addressing the gathering, CPI general secretary D. Raja said Mr. Kumar had "lost the confidence of the people" and that his continuation as Chief Election Commissioner posed a threat to the credibility of the electoral process. The party demanded the immediate rollback of the SIR exercise. He also criticised the denotification of Jantar Mantar as a protest site and called for its reopening.

The CPI, in a statement, said democracy could not function effectively if citizens were denied both their voting rights and the right to protest.

Sonia Gandhi says her memoir is bound to create '*tamasha*' when it is released

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The publication of her memoir is bound to create some "*tamasha*" (sensation), but it will allow her to set the record straight and tell her story, Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi said on Tuesday.

"There's bound to be some *tamasha* when this book comes out. After all, others have spent decades telling my 'story', now it's my turn," Ms. Gandhi said in a post on X on Tuesday, sharing a video offering a glimpse of her memoir, *Belonging: A Journey of Love*, scheduled for release on November 10.

In the 1.28-minute video, along with the post, Ms. Gandhi is seen going through the pages and reflecting on whether she should tell her entire story.

"I don't know if I should tell the whole story," she says, before recalling the time her late husband, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, was asked to become Prime Minister. "When my husband was asked to become the Prime Minister, which I was totally against....," she said, as the video moves on.

"Well, I felt that since a lot had been written about me and a lot of it was not quite correct. It was either invented or exaggerated. So, it gave me a feel of being able to now put down my story and describe facts and things as they really were," she added.

Four new faces join Omar Abdullah's Cabinet in J&K

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday inducted four new faces into the Council of Ministers, including an old hand from Srinagar, Ali Muhammad Sagar, and a female face, Shameema Firdous, taking the total strength of the Cabinet to nine in the Union Territory. Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Sagar, Ms. Firdous, Mir Saifullah, and Altaf Kaloo at the Lok Bhavan in Srinagar.

Satish Sharma, an Independent legislator from Jammu, was dropped from the Cabinet. He was holding the portfolios of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs; Information Technology; Youth Services and Sports; and Transport, Science and Technology.

The Congress, an ally of the ruling National Conference, has decided to stay away "till Statehood is restored".

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O., Bangalore - 560 072.
Advertisement No. A/2/2026 — 27th October 2026
APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM THE ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF PROFESSOR (RBI CHAIR)

Sl. No.	Designation	Pay Band and Grade Pay	No. of Posts
1.	Professor (RBI Chair)	Rs. 1,44,200/- (Academic Level 14), currently as per applicable VII Central Pay Commission (CPC)	1

The detailed advertisement and procedure for applying for the above posts is available at our Website: **www.isec.ac.in.**
The last date for receipt of applications is hereby extended up to **23rd November 2026.**
DIPR/CP/3357/Shirdi Sai/2026-27 — Sd/- Registrar ISEC

KARNATAKA SOAPS & DETERGENTS LIMITED
An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055. Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886,
Website: www.mysoresandal.org e-mail: **ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com**
Date: 27.10.2026
CORRIGENDUM
Publication of Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. **KSDL/2026-27/IND1310** dated 28-09-2026, published on the Karnataka Public Procurement (KPP) Portal for **Procurement of Sandalwood oil** & it is hereby informed that the last date for submission of bids has been extended.
Accordingly, the revised schedule is as follows:

Particulars	Revised Details
Last date and time for submission of bids	09-11-2026 at 3:00 PM
Date and time for opening of technical bids	11-11-2026 at 3:30 PM

All prospective bidders are requested to refer the corrigendum and apply to this tender with all the information and requisite documents within the last date of submission of bid.
This corrigendum shall be read as an integral part of the original tender document.
For any queries contact the undersigned
Sd/-Asst. Gen. Manager (Materials)

RAJASTHAN STATE TEXT BOOK BOARD
2-2A, Jhalana Dungri, Jaipur-302004 (Rajasthan)
No. : F-7/Production/RSTB/26-27 — Date :- 22/10/2026
Notice Inviting Bid
E-Bids are invited for supply of printing paper/cover paper having following details :

S. No.	Bid No.	Items	Specifications	Bid Value (in Crore)	Last date/ time of submission	UBN
1	380	Printing Paper	80 GSM Maplitho Paper, made from vigin pulp	172.00	11.11.2026 (06:00 PM)	TBB2627GLRC 00012
2	381	Cover Paper	220 GSM India Art Card Cover Paper, made from virgin pulp	18.00	11.11.2026 (06:00 PM)	TBB2627GLRC 00013

Details of the bids may be seen on the procurement portal **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, and https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**
Raj.Samwad/C/26/12505 — Secretary

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004
No. JDA/EE-C 2/200/2026-27/D-375 — Date : 22-10-2026
NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No.: **JDA/EE-C 2/27/2026-27**
UBN No.: **JDA2627WLOB00393**
Online Bids are invited up-to 06:00 PM of 13.11.2026 for **"Development of Footpath on Various Major Roads situated in Zone-C2, JDA, Jaipur".** The last date for Applying Bid and making online payment on JDA portal is up-to 6.00 PM of 13.11.2026. The estimated cost of NIB is Rs. 608.74 Lacs. Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at our office or the State Public Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in/jda
To participate in the bid, bidder must:
A. Participate in Tender & Deposit Payment on 'Online Tender Participation' Portal of JDA at https://jda.rajasthan.gov.in/jda or by Single-Sign-On at http://service.jaipurjda.org.
B. Submit e-Bid on e-Procurement portal of GOR at www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
Raj.Samwad/C/26/12442 — Executive Engineer- C 2

BRAHMAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GANJAM
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Letter No. No. 16519 / — Invitation for Bids — Date :14/10/26
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT
Bid Identification No.BMC(BAM):- 337 / 2026-2027

1.	The Municipal Commissioner, Brahmapur, invites percentage rate bids in ONLINE MODE only, as per annexure "A".	
2.	Nature of Work	Civil work
3.	No. of work	Nos. 02
4.	Bid Cost	The bidders shall remit online the cost of bid document for amount through the process as mentioned in the DTCN as per Annexure "A"
5.	E.M.D.	The bidder shall remit online the Earnest Money Deposit/ Bid Security at the rate of 1% of the estimated cost put to tender as mentioned under DTCN. Bidders desirous to hire machineries or equipments from outside the State or owned but deployed outside the State are required to remit online 2% of the amount put to tender as Bid Security. Exemption from EMD is permissible as per codal provisions of Govt. Of Odisha as per Annexure "A"
6.	Class of Contractor	AS per the Annexure "A"
7.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	From 11.00 hrs. of 27/10/26 to 17.00 hrs. Of 09/11/26
9.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids.	11.00 hrs. onwards on Dt.10/11/26
10.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bids.	Shall be intimated to the responsive Technically qualified bidder after evolution of Technical bids.
10.	Mode of submission of Tender	Tender Should submitted On line in - www.tendersorissa.gov.in
11.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum /corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.	

Commissioner,
Brahmapur Municipal Corporation,
Brahmapur, Odisha
13001/2255/2627 — OIPR-13001/13035/1/26-27/0029

Office of the Project Director
Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project
AVS Building, Jawahar Circle, JLN Marg, Jaipur – 302017 Tel No.: +91 141 2721966,
Fax No.: 0141-2721919 email : mail.ruidp@rajasthan.gov.in, web site: www.ruidp.rajasthan.gov.in
Invitation for Bids- RUIDP/Effluent/Pali/02
1. Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDP) invites online unconditional bids through e-procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for Package No. RUIDP/Effluent/Pali/02 for the work of "Effluent Collection and conveyance Network for Industrial Phase-I & II, Pali for conveyance of Industrial Waste Water to CETP unit no 6" from eligible class contractor.
2. RTPP Act 2012 and Rules 2013 with all amendment will also be applicable.
3. Bid document for downloading would be available at e-proc website **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** starting from 22.10.2026. Deadline for bid submission up to 15:00 hours on 20.11.2026.
4. Pre-bid Meeting for the work package will be held at 15:00 hours on 29.10.2026. All the prospective bidders are advised to participate in the Pre-bid meeting.
5. Any addendum, clarification to the bidder's queries and corrigendum etc. will be published on the e-proc web sites and will not be published in Newspapers.
6. Bidders may contact Additional Project Director, RUIDP (0141-2548404), Jaipur for any information on bidding process.
NIB Code : UID2627A0024
UBN No. : UID2627WLOB00022
Raj.Samwad/C/26/12421 — Project Director, RUIDP

INBRIEF



HC stays 'leave India notice' against Imran Khan till Nov. 2

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted interim relief to actor Imran Khan by staying the "leave India notice" issued against him by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), until the next hearing on November 2. The court recorded an oral assurance from Additional Solicitor-General Anil C. Singh, appearing for the Centre, that the notice would be kept in abeyance. Imran Khan, a U.S. citizen and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder, had approached the High Court challenging the notice issued following his alleged participation in a protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar at August Kranti Maidan.

Centre mulls law to curb child pornography, explicit content

The Union government informed the Supreme Court on Tuesday that it is contemplating a policy framework to tackle the menace of child pornography and the circulation of non-consensual explicit content involving adults. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta submitted before a Bench that the proposed law might extend to imposing liability on intermediaries not just to take down offensive content, but also to apprise authorities about the uploading of the content. During the hearing, senior advocate Aparna Bhat, appearing for NGO Prajwala, apprised the top court about the absence of safeguards for adults and the circulation of non-consensual content online, including sexual assault videos.

Cyclone Arnab to make early landfall; heavy rain batters A.P.

A.P. cancels several flights, trains, and brings 30,000 fishing boats ashore; Odisha shuts ghat roads, imposes transport restrictions, and begins evacuation of 48,000 people from southern districts

Nellore Sravani
Satyasundar Barik
VIJAYAWADA/ BHUBANESWAR



Tree branches cover a car in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday as Cyclone Arnab approached the coast. K.R. DEEPAK

Heavy rain pounded the northern districts of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday, leaving one dead and a trail of destruction, while southern Odisha remained on edge as the 'very severe cyclonic storm' Arnab moved closer to the coast.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the storm is likely to make landfall early – around 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. on Wednesday - near the Yanam-Kakinada region in Andhra Pradesh. Initially, the IMD had said that the landfall would take place around forenoon on Wednesday.

Jathara premises in Visakhapatnam rural mandal saw Tuesday's highest rainfall of 141.75 mm. Visakhapatnam district, where many places recorded rainfall above 100 mm and strong winds, bore the brunt of the cyclone. At least 200 trees got uprooted within the city limits.

Man dies

A 65-year-old man died at Mangalapalem after he came into contact with live electrical wires that had snapped and fallen into water.

Due to the severity of the storm on Tuesday, airlines cancelled at least 21 flights in Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam. At the Vijayawada airport, five flights bound for Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, Visakhapatnam and Kadapa were cancelled on Tuesday. The authorities have cancelled all flights on Wednesday as well.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said 290 cyclone shelters had been set up and 84,396 people evacuated to safer locations.

More than 30,000 fishing boats had been brought back from the sea, while 93 Andhra Pradesh boats and their crew were reported safe at Gopalpur in Odisha.

Odisha on alert

The Odisha government has begun evacuation of over 48,000 people from vulnerable southern districts, sources in the government said. Owing to the prospect of landslips, the government has shut several ghat roads.

The East Coast Railway said 22 express and passenger train services connecting Visakhapatnam, Secunderabad, Kirandul, Jagdalpur, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Rayagada, Howrah, Bhubaneswar and Koraput would remain cancelled or regulated on different dates between October 27 and November 5. Similarly, private bus operators have also placed restrictions on movement of their buses to southern Odisha.

Strong winds

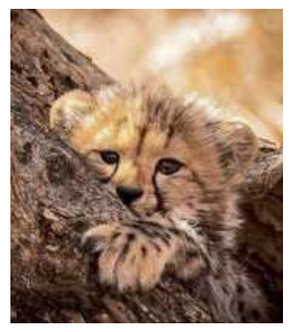
Manorama Mohanty, Director of IMD, Bhubaneswar, said southern districts such as Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Gajapati, Koraptut, and Rayagada could experience wind speed between 50 and 60 km per hour gusting to 70 kmph.

Thunderstorms accompanied with lightning and gusty surface wind is likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Gajapati, Ganjam on Wednesday, said the IMD.

"We plan to shift 48,000 people from vulnerable places to safer place in the first phase in eight districts. In Nabarangpur and Gajapati district, 11,000 each will be evacuated. In Malkangiri, 9850 people have been identified for shifting. About 6,500 in Ganjam and 5,000 in Koraput will take shelter in identified locations," said Special Relief Commissioner Rajesh Pravakar Patil.

Cheetah cub dies of gunshot injuries in M.P.; probe launched

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL



A special task force has been formed to probe the killing. REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

A male cheetah cub that was found with gunshot injuries outside the boundaries of the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh died on Tuesday during treatment in Jabalpur. This is the first such attack on a cheetah since the beginning of the reintroduction programme for the species in September 2022.

A four-member special task force has been formed to investigate the killing of the cub, KNG22, after a human angle was confirmed with the recovery of five firearm pellets from the body, Chief Wildlife Warden Samita Rajora told *The Hindu*.

The special task force, which consists of police personnel and forest officers from the region, has been deployed in the Sheopur Forest Division, where the cub was found on Sunday, along with the State Tiger Strike Force teams that were dispatched on Monday night, Ms. Rajora, a Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, said.

"We had brought the cub to Jabalpur on Monday where veterinarians led by expert surgeon Dr. Shobha Jawre performed an emergency surgery on him," she said, adding that the cub was found in an unconscious state, without any movement.

Population down to 58

Born to a female cheetah named Nirva, the 19-month-old male cub was under observation but died of injuries on Tuesday morning.

"We are probing all possibilities. Whether it is a case of poaching or someone killed the cub thinking it was a leopard, the persons responsible will be caught soon," the forest official said.

With the latest death, the country's total cheetah population is down to 58, of which 52 are at Kuno, four at the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, and two at Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve.

Police parade accused held for forcing 3 to walk naked

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The Kolkata Police on Tuesday paraded three men shirtless through a locality with ropes tied around their waists. The trio had been arrested on Monday for forcing a teenage boy, his father, and a friend to walk naked through the same area after the boy met a girl from their family.

Raising concerns, Association for Protection of Democratic Rights secretary Ranajit Sur said, "The family that committed the crime must be tried under the law, but what the police did today is a bigger crime, because the police represent the state, not themselves as individuals. This is like saying an eye for an eye. This is the way to normalise revenge."

Retired PSU staff ask President to expedite pension hike rollout

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Confederation of Pensioners' Associations (NCPA), an organisation representing retired employees of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and exempted Provident Fund Establishments, has written to President Droupadi Murmu urging her intervention to address the delay in providing higher pension based on higher wages.

The pensioners said in the letter that higher pension is no more a disputed issue as the Supreme Court has passed an order on the matter and the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is creating unnecessary delays and bureaucratic hurdles to deny pension. The NCPA said that the President must exercise her "august moral authority" and direct the Union Ministry and the EPFO to immediately withdraw an EPFO circular dated January 18, 2025. They alleged that the circular was designed to nullify laws passed by Parliament through executive internal orders.

They have also demanded that an immediate litigation audit must be conducted to withdraw all "frivolous appeals" against settled High Court judgments. "Direct the acceptance of Joint Options for pension on higher wages without punitive interest penalties accrued solely due to EPFO's administrative delays, and the establishment of a time-bound mechanism to grant immediate relief to ageing pensioners," the organisation said in the letter.

Economic policy cannot outweigh citizens' lives: SC on medicine prices

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI



SC questioned the Centre over its approach to regulating medicine prices. FILE PHOTO

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said "economic policy" could not take precedence over the lives of citizens as it questioned the Centre over its approach to regulating the prices of essential medicines.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta questioned Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, over the failure of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to cap trade margins on essential medicines despite concerns over excessive markups. It also sought to know why such a ceiling had been imposed on certain anti-cancer drugs only after the court's intervention. Earlier this month, the NPPA, the government's drug-price regulator, capped trade margins on 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines at 30% of their maximum retail price (MRP). The revised prices are set to take effect from November 9.

"For so many years, why were you silent? Suddenly, you decided to cap trade margins of cancer drugs?... Don't force us to ask harsh questions," the Bench remarked.

The oral observations came during the hearing of petitions filed by advocate Kishan Chand Jain and paediatric surgeon Sanjay Kulshrestha seeking stricter enforcement of price controls under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, (DPCO) to curb disproportionate margins across the pharmaceutical supply chain.

Ms. Bhati, however, told the Bench that "complete government control" over essential medicines could adversely affect the market. "We want investments to also come here... We can make these interventions from time to time, but complete control is not the answer," Ms. Bhati submitted.

The Bench also questioned why the 16% retailer margin prescribed under the DPCO should not apply to all essential medicines and sought the basis for classifying drugs as scheduled or non-scheduled. While scheduled formulations are subject to government-fixed price ceilings, non-scheduled medicines remain outside this framework.

"How do you decide which medicine is essential and which is not? Why should all medicines not be essential? That is where the game is... the NPPA seems to be totally defunct," Justice Mehta remarked.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for an association of hospitals, defended the steep markups on essential medicines, including anti-cancer drugs, contending that capping such margins would make hospital operations financially unviable. The Bench, however, dismissed the contention, remarking that patients could not be subjected to "dacoity". It reserved its order in the matter and gave the parties two weeks to file their submissions.

SSB D-G Sanjay Singhal given additional charge of ITBP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has assigned the additional charge of Director-General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) to Sanjay Singhal, who heads the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), with effect from October 31, when incumbent Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor retires.

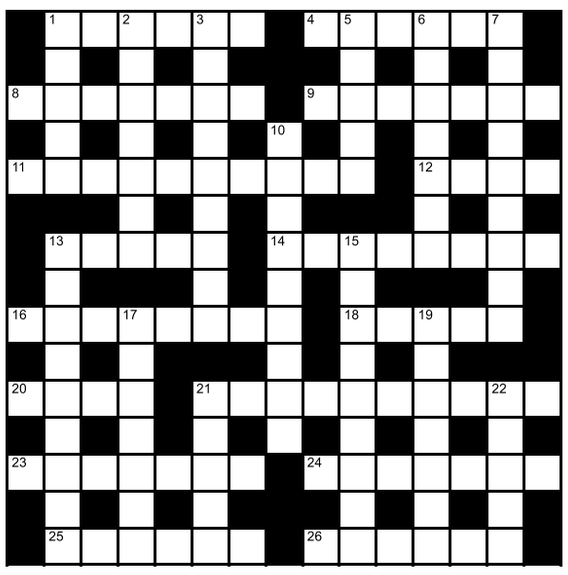
The ITBP guards the 3,488-km border with China, while the SSB guards borders with Nepal and Bhutan. On October 22, Mr. Kapoor said at an ITBP event in Rajasthan that "face-offs with Chinese troops continue at several locations in Arunachal Pradesh", leading to a political uproar and demands by the Opposition parties for clarity on the extent of Chinese incursion.

TH CROSSWORD + 14934

(set by Afterdark)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Taxes a member at East Germany (6)
4 Dispense ORT after a serious shortage at the front (6)
8 Matador in Guatemala's somewhat affectionate (7)
9 Desperately needs intervention of medical examiner in the estate (7)
11 Side rattled with maiden, bowler finishes early by gut (10)
12 Expression of displeasure as purse is picked at the front (4)
13 An apparatus for breathing given to learner in South Africa (5)
14 A diversion in team performance (8)
16 A runner has society's peripheral, perhaps (8)
18 Pandemonium at church, one obliges to vacate (5)
20 Teak, Rowan, Elm, Elders roots make a big plant (4)
21 Consensus is strong, without leader its rarity (10)
23 Joined in board, rainy in the flanks but has no trace of moisture (4-3)
24 In part, husband at India interferes to constrain (7)
25 Fires drunk outside general hospital on Sunday (6)
26 Tucker Nelson's heart is at centre (6)

Down

1 Primate is seen behind ridge, hiding (5)
2 Upstart's standard very elementary, to begin with no clues essentially (7)
3 Son and first brother persist to clean a hard surface, say (9)
5 That lady will attack (5)
6 Coroner ousts a section that is demanding (7)
7 Dogged cousin ate rolls (9)
10 Sponge cake made by small women is featuring on special list (5,4)
13 Magnificent bird sighted at the biggest NFL game (5,4)
15 Reportedly clergy recruited a rogue at church leading to corruption (9)
17 A cold person's in charge at electricity board above work unit (7)
19 Fusion in raga overcoming resistance leads to charge (7)
21 Pothole on street at the parade (5)
22 Getting money at Qatar on time is testing (5)

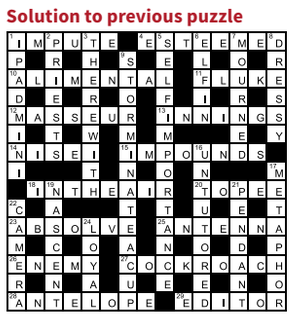
SUDOKU

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

No.SS7044 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

God accepts true love

True love knows no bounds. There have lived many great saints. However, none comes anywhere close to Kannappan, one of the earliest, if not the first of 63 Saivite saints. His love for the Lord was such that he made offerings that were unconventional to say the least. None has done what he did for the love of God. His devotion is proof that God accepts what is offered with true love and raises the devotee to an exalted state, said P. Swaminathan.

Born in Kalaththi into a hunter family, he is celebrated by all, including Sambandar, Pattinatthar, Sundarar and Tirunavukkarasar. Once, after a rich hunt, Thinnappan climbed a hill and came across a naturally formed Sivalingam. A wave of devotion swept over him and he rushed to make offerings to the Lord. He skewered a few pieces of choice meat, plucked a few wildflowers and gathering stream water in his mouth, he rushed back to the Lingam. Removing the garland with his foot, he replaced them with his flowers, and spitting the water on the Lingam to cleanse it, he offered the meat with devotion and stood guard through the night. A priest, who had been making offerings to the Lingam, was stunned to see the fresh offerings, which is when Siva decided to sport. Advising the priest to hide behind Him, the Lord watched as Thinnappan appeared, and began to bleed from one eye. Horrified, Thinnappan removed his eye and placed it on the Lingam. Immediately, the other eye began to bleed. When the devotee was about to offer his other eye, and place it with his foot on the lingam, Siva appeared, saying, "Stop, Kannappa." From then on Thinnappan became Kannappan, the greatest devotee.

INBRIEF



TMB posts record ₹451-cr. net braces for higher provisioning

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) reported its highest-ever quarterly net profit of ₹451.14 crore in the second quarter of FY27, registering a 42.09% year-on-year (YoY) increase on the back of strong core banking income and improved cost efficiency. However, the bank expects its provisioning requirements under the upcoming expected credit loss (ECL) framework to rise further as its balance sheet expands. Total business grew 27.25% YoY to ₹1.30 lakh crore.

AM Green to supply JERA green ammonia in Japan

JERA Co., Inc., which produces a third of Japan's power and is one of the largest global LNG buyers and AM Green Ammonia (India) have entered into a pact for long-term supply of green ammonia made in India. Under a Binding Heads of Agreement (HoA), AM Green would supply about 70,000 tonne green ammonia a year over five years with the potential to extend the term for additional supply. The green ammonia will be made at AM Green's Kakinada facility in A.P.

L&T net up 33% to ₹5,202 cr. in Q2 on higher revenue

Engineering major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) reported a 32.5% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹5,202.10 crore for the quarter ended September 2026, driven by higher revenue. The company posted a consolidated net profit of ₹3,926.09 crore in the year-ago period. L&T achieved consolidated revenue of ₹78,750 crore for the reporting quarter, up 16% year on year, driven by accelerated progress across its businesses, the company said in a statement. PTI

Coal India H1 capex up 27% to ₹7,966 cr., exceeds the set target

The mining firm's capital expenditure in the first half of the fiscal year surpassed the stipulated target of ₹7,286 crore for the period

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

State-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) raised its capital expenditure by 27% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹7,966 crore in the first half of the current financial year, exceeding its stipulated target of ₹7,286 crore for the period.

CIL used over 48% of annual capex outlay of ₹16,500 crore, reflecting a strong investment push towards boosting mining infrastructure, expanding operational capacity and improving coal evacuation.

Mine infrastructure development, land acquisition, plant and machinery, and diversification together accounted for 79% of the expenditure during the April-September period.

"These strategic investments are expected to strengthen the company's operational capabilities and support the achievement of its production and supply targets for the ongoing financial year," Coal India said. Mine infrastructure development accounted for the largest share of capex at ₹2,152 crore.



Bigger, stronger: Strategic investments are expected to strengthen the company's operational capabilities. REUTERS

Tata Motors inches closer to acquiring Italy's Iveco Group

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Inclusive of dividend, the aggregate price for the deal rises to to €14.40 per share

Tata Motors' acquisition of Italian commercial vehicle maker Iveco Group is nearing completion, with its wholly owned subsidiary, TML CV Holdings B.V., securing 89.42% of the company's common share capital, net of treasury shares, through its voluntary totalitarian tender offer.

In an exchange filing, Tata Motors Ltd said TML CV Holdings B.V., acting through its parent, TML CV Holdings Pte. Ltd., had received 238,157,212 common shares of Iveco Group N.V. tendered in acceptance of the offer.

Condition satisfied

"Based on the provisional results of the Offer (subject to confirmation) and taking into account the acceptances of the Offer recorded as of the date hereof, the Threshold Condition has been satisfied," the company stated. The final results of the offer will be announced on October 29.

The consideration for each common share tendered comprises the initial offer price of €14.10, inclusive of dividends, plus an additional €0.30, also inclusive of dividends, taking the aggregate consideration to €14.40 per share.

The transfer of ownership of the shares tendered during the acceptance period, against payment of the consideration, is scheduled for October 30. In 2025, Tata Motors announced plans to buy Iveco, excluding its defence business, in a deal valued at around €3.8 billion.



A view shows a Microsoft logo at the company's office at Issy-les-Moulineaux, near Paris.

MS offers 27% staff voluntary buyouts on hastening AI spend

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Microsoft has offered 60,000 employees, or about 27% of its global workforce, voluntary buyouts as the software giant spends heavily on artificial intelligence (AI).

Chief people officer Amy Coleman said in a blog post Monday that the company's voluntary exit offer was available to eligible employees in Canada, India, the United Kingdom and the United States.

"The Voluntary Exit Offer is new for us," Ms. Coleman wrote. "We'll learn from it. At the same time, we'll keep helping people focus on the work that matters most, build new skills and, where it makes sense, find new opportunities across Microsoft."

The company, which releases its quarterly financial performance Wednesday, had approximately 2,23,000 full-time employees at the end of June.

Maruti Suzuki Q2 net dips to ₹2,466.1 crore

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Car market leader Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. reported a 26.4% dip in consolidated net profit for the second quarter ended September to ₹2,466.1 crore on higher input costs resulting from the West-Asia conflict even as revenue rose sharply, driven by record quarterly vehicle sales volumes.

The auto major had posted a net profit of ₹3,349 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal, a regulatory filing to the exchanges showed.

During July-September, revenue from operations rose to ₹53,355.5 crore against ₹42,344.2 crore in the same period of 2025-26 fiscal, the automaker said.

'New bad loans may rise in FY27; private banks to face pressure'

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Fresh non-performing assets (NPA) in the banking sector are likely to increase in the current fiscal, with private sector banks expected to face relatively higher pressure due to their exposure to unsecured retail and micro, small and medium enterprise loans, according to a report.

Ratings agency Icra expects the trend of relatively higher loan slippages at private sector banks to continue in the second half of FY27, even as credit costs are projected to stay favourable and significantly below historical levels.

According to the rating agency's estimates, the fresh NPA generation rate for public sector banks is projected at 0.8% in FY27, while that for private sector banks is estimated at 2.5%.

In absolute terms, fresh NPA is estimated at ₹1 lakh crore in FY27 for State-owned banks and ₹1.3 lakh crore for private banks, according to the report released on Tuesday.

InvITs look at a bigger slice of India's vast household savings

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

India's infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) are attracting more investors, creating a potential avenue to channel domestic savings into roads, power transmission networks and other income-generating infrastructure assets.

The number of investors in listed InvITs rose to 6.53 lakh in the first quarter of FY27, while assets under management (AUM) increased to ₹7.3 lakh crore, according to the Bharat InvITs Association (BIA).

Distributions to unitholders during the quarter stood at ₹5,923 crore, taking cumulative payouts since the sector's inception beyond ₹97,000 crore.



Lower entry barriers are an attraction to invest in InvITs.

The growth comes as India faces mounting financing requirements for infrastructure expansion. While government spending and foreign investment remain important, household savings and investments held by mutual funds, insurers and pension funds could provide a larger pool of long-term capital, according to industry executives.

InvITs offer a route to connect these savings with operational infrastructure assets. Investors buy units in trusts that own such assets and receive distributions from the income generated, without directly financing or managing the underlying infrastructure.

"India's next infrastructure financing challenge is creating efficient pathways for enormous pool of local savings to reach infrastructure," said Gaurav Chandna, ED and Joint CEO, Vertis Infrastructure Trust.

The model also helps developers monetise completed, revenue-generating assets, freeing up capital for new projects.

'IRDAI to implement distribution reforms only after consensus'

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The regulator will work to expedite claims in the case of health policies, says Mr. Ajay Seth

Amid concerns over the impact of the proposed changes in insurance distribution, IRDAI Chairman Ajay Seth on Tuesday assured the industry that the regulator will implement the reforms only after reaching a consensus.

Speaking at an event here, Mr. Seth said the regulator will work to expedite claims in the case of health policies.

Mr. Seth said he has been meeting people extensively since the release of the discussion paper on distribution reforms to hear out the industry's concerns.

"I'm in the listening mode, hearing what the concerns are...," he said, adding release of the paper has generated a necessary dialogue around the insurance sector's role and the changes that are required.

"I'll attempt to build consensus for the reforms needed for the sector and for economy," he added.

'Adopt prudent borrowing strategies'

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra advised State governments to adopt prudent borrowing strategies and ensure quality spending, highlighting importance of long-term fiscal health.

Addressing the 36th Conference of State Finance Secretaries, the Governor also advised States to make effective use of the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) forum.

Mr. Malhotra highlighted the importance of maintaining the quality of expenditure to ensure the long-term fiscal health of the States.

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

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/CON/268722 **Date: 22/10/2026**

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

Brief Name of work	Est. Value (Rs.)
Planning, Design, Construction, Commissioning of SHAR Recreation Facility (Indoor Sports complex, Club building with Swimming pool, Play area) at SDSC SHAR Sriharikota, Tirupati District of Andhra Pradesh (Architectural, Civil, Structural, PH, Road, Site Development works, Electrical, AC, and allied works in EPC MODE- 1)	**971.33 Lakhs**

Last date for sale (Tender documents can be downloaded) upto **18/11/2026 14:30 hrs**. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro**

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI
(Established by the Act of Legislative Assembly of National Capital Territory of Delhi)

No. AUD/55-1(68)/Rect./2026/1020 Dated: 16.10.2026

CORRIGENDUM

(Regarding Advertisement No. AUD/(55)-1(68)/Rect./2026/681 for the post of Medical Officer).

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi is a State University established through an Act by the Legislature of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The University advertised various Non-Teaching posts, including two (02) posts of Medical Officer under the Unreserved (UR) category, vide Advertisement No. AUD/(55)-1(68)/Rect./2026/681 dated 30.03.2026.

A detailed corrigendum to the aforesaid advertisement has been uploaded on the University website **https://aud.delhi.gov.in/.**

The eligible candidates who have already applied or intend to apply for the post of Medical Officer are advised to visit the University website **https://aud.delhi.gov.in/** for the detailed corrigendum.

Registrar
https://aud.delhi.gov.in
Lothian Road, Kashmere Gate, Delhi -110006, Email: careersnts@aud.ac.in
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0264/26-27
Directorate of Higher Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi

Tamil Nadu Transport Development Finance Corporation Ltd.
(A Govt. of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
No. 2, Walajah Road, Tamil Nadu Tourism Office Complex,
4th Floor, Chennai – 600 002. Phone 044-25333930, 9384853026.
P. Box No.2215. E-mail corporate@tdfc.in Website: www.tdfc.in

Recruitment (On Contract basis) – Notification

Notification No: 1/2026 **Date: 16.10.2026**

TDFC invites application for the following posts (on contract basis) from eligible candidates.

Sl. No.	Post Name	No. of Posts
1	Programmer	2
2	Senior Programmer	1
3	Database Administrator	1
4	Project Manager	1

For detailed notification regarding Qualification, age, experience, remuneration and contract period, please visit our website. **(www.tdfc.in)**

The eligible candidates shall submit their application through Registered/ Speed post to the above-mentioned address on or before **08.11.2026.**

DIPR/916/Display/2026 **Managing Director**

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR

No. : NIT/2026-27/8784 - 92 Date : 26/10/2026

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 414/2026-27

निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों एवं उनके अधिकृत संगठनों में पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की कुल अनुमानित लागत(रु.)
Construction of Stadium Development work at District Dholpur. **UBN: RRC2627WSOB00720**	383.00 Lakh

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईट: http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in तथा http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।

महाप्रबंधक

Expression of Interest (EoI) for Empanelment of Secure Printers

An Autonomous Society of Government of India is in the process of empanelling secure printers for printing, packing and transportation of Question Papers, OMR Sheets etc. EoI is invited from Printing companies possessing requisite experience, resources and capabilities for secure printing, packing and delivery at designated locations in a very secure manner for participation in limited tender process.

Company registered under Indian Company Act, 2013 or Society Registered under Society Registration Act, 1860 or Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) firm registered under LLP Act and meeting the following eligibility criteria/compliance certificate(s) are eligible to participate in the EoI:

1. GST Registration
2. Valid PAN Card
3. Trade License / Registration of Establishment issued by respective state.
4. In operation for at least 5 years
5. Should be ISO Certified for 9001:2015, 27001 or IBA/RBI certified; CMMI Level 3 certification will be an added advantage.
6. Experience in providing services of printing of question papers for various National Level Examination during in last three Financial Years ending 2025-26.
7. Should have printed at least 9,00,000 Question Papers (cumulative) in last 3 years ending FY 2025-26.
8. Should have at least 15 regular employees on the payroll of company.
9. Should have successfully completed Question Paper Printing jobs for Examinations conducted by any Government organization ie. Department/University/Institute in India during last 3 years ending FY 2025-26 for minimum three lakh Question Papers every year.
10. Should have successfully executed at least one work of Question Paper Printing jobs for Examinations of value not less than 1 crores or two works (for different customers) of value not less than 70 lakhs for any Government organization i.e., Department/University/ Institute in India during last 3 years ending FY 2025-26.
11. Should have the Average annual turnover of at least Rs. 20 Crore (Rupees twenty Crores only) during the last three financial year ending FY 2025-26.
12. Should be a profit-making company with positive Net-worth.

The printers fulfilling the above criteria may submit EoI in the following performa along with copies of documents in support of their eligibility in the company's letter head. The documents must be signed by the authorised signatory.

1	Name & Designation of Authorized Signatory	
2	Registered/Head Office Address including website address	
3	Name & Telephone Number(s) and Mobile of the designated contact person	
4	Security Measures	
5	List of Machinery	
6	Number of years of experience in confidential printing	
7	Printing capacity per day in Reems	
8	Any other details and capabilities of the company	

Signature of Authorized Signatory.
Seal of the Organization:
Place:
Date:

Note: (1) This is only an Expression of Interest, no financial quote should be made by the applicants.

(2) Parties meeting the eligibility criteria will be sent a copy of tender document for submitting Technical and Financial bid. Site visit of the technically eligible printers will be done before considering the financial bid.

EoI must be sent to **Post Box No. 9626, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058.** Last date for submitting EoI is seven days from the date of publishing of the advertisement in the newspapers. EoI received after the last date will not be considered.



Talking point: SRM students engaging in a discussion at the Semiconductor Summit 2026 in Chennai on Tuesday. M. SRINATH



Exchange of ideas: An attendee posing a question to the panellists after a discussion at the summit. M. SRINATH



Rapt attention: A section of crowd that attended the four panel discussions at the summit.S.R. RAGHUNATHAN



Show and tell: A student explaining the latest advances in the semiconductor industry to an attendee. M. SRINATH



Michael Hasper, Consul-General of the Federal Republic of Germany, at the Semiconductor Summit in Chennai on Tuesday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

'India, Germany could deepen partnership in semiconductors'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Germany sees opportunities to deepen semiconductor cooperation with India, particularly in power semiconductors, manufacturing technologies, research and skill development, with Tamil Nadu's automotive and electronics industries offering scope for closer industrial partnerships, Michael Hasper, Consul-General of the Federal Republic of Germany, said on Tuesday.

Addressing the inaugural session of the Semiconductor Summit 2026, Mr. Hasper said semiconductors had become central to economic competitiveness, technological sovereignty and national security.

"The global semiconductor industry is no longer simply another high-tech industry. It has become a central element of economic competitiveness, technological sovereignty, and national security," he said.

He said no single country controlled the entire semiconductor value chain. The United States was strong in chip design, Taiwan in contract manufacturing of advanced chips, South Korea in memory technologies and Europe in specialised manufacturing equipment.

This international division of labour had enabled technological progress but had also created strategic dependencies. The challenge was to diversify and strengthen supply chains without losing the advantages of international cooperation, he said.

Areas for cooperation

Mr. Hasper said Germany and India had established a framework for closer semiconductor cooperation through a joint declaration of intent on a semiconductor ecosystem partnership during German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's visit to India in January 2026.

The agreement was intended to encourage closer links between companies, research institutions and government agencies, promote investment and support more resilient supply chains, he said.

He identified four areas in which the countries could deepen cooperation, such as chip design and research; power semiconductors and industrial applications; semiconductor manufacturing technologies and supply chains; and skills and talent development.

"Germany brings industrial technology and manufacturing expertise. India brings engineering talent, design capabilities, a fast-growing market, and new industrial ambitions," he said.

Mr. Hasper said Tamil Nadu's automotive companies, engineering industries and expanding electronics sector made it well-placed to develop closer links with German semiconductor companies.

Power semiconductors were particularly important for electric vehicles, charging infrastructure, renewable energy and modern electricity grids. He said German expertise in these areas could complement India's industrial investments and growing demand. Mr. Hasper cautioned that efforts to reduce technological dependence should not result in countries isolating themselves from international partners. "After all, technological sovereignty does not mean technological isolation," he said.

He called for cooperation based on mutual benefit, reciprocity and trust, with intellectual property and sensitive technologies appropriately protected.

India needs to strengthen capabilities across value chain: Kamaljeet Singh

Director-General of the Semiconductor Laboratory highlights foreign dependence for critical inputs, and calls for stronger R&D, manufacturing infrastructure and specialised skills; he also cites SCL's efforts to make semiconductor design education more accessible through open-source tools

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI



Michael Hasper, Consul-General of the Federal Republic of Germany; L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, The Hindu Group; Kamaljeet Singh, Director-General of the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali; and C. Muthamizhchelvan, Vice-Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science and Technology. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

India needs to strengthen capabilities across the semiconductor value chain, from manufacturing and materials to research and specialised skills, to reduce dependence on foreign technologies and build a resilient domestic ecosystem, Dr. Kamaljeet Singh, Director-General of the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali, said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the Semiconductor Summit 2026, organised by SRM Institute of Science and Technology in association with *The Hindu*, he said India had a significant presence in semiconductor design but remained dependent on foreign suppliers for critical inputs, including electronic design automation (EDA) tools.

Mr. Singh said the country needed to overcome several challenges to become a technological power. "Technology is one of the challenges, talent is one of the challenges, resources is one of the challenges, time is the challenge, acceptability is the challenge and capital is the challenge," he said.

He said India needed to build capabilities not only in chip design and fabrication but also in the supporting supply chain, including manufacturing equipment, raw materials, chemicals, gases and packaging materials. Semiconductor supply chains were concentrated in a small number of countries, making access to these inputs critical, he said.

He highlighted the need to connect research with manufacturing, arguing that developing semiconductor technologies required researchers, pilot lines, manufacturing facilities and industry participation. "You need a lot of researchers to come into place, you need a manufacturing unit, you need a lot of technology to be developed to attain the system design and architecture," he said.

Mr. Singh said the India Semiconductor Mission had supported the development of domestic capabilities. Under the first phase, ₹76,000 crore had been pumped in, with 12 projects approved, five of which had been operationalised and another expected to become operational, he said.

The second phase of the mission had six pillars, including chip design, manufacturing, materials and machinery, with research and development and skill development added as two further areas of focus, he said. He stressed that India needed to strengthen specialised engineering and manufacturing capabilities alongside its existing design talent.

Mr. Singh highlighted SCL's efforts to make semiconductor design education more accessible through open-source tools. The laboratory had integrated its process design kit (PDK) with open-source tools so that students unable to afford commercial EDA software could learn chip design.

He said SCL was also working with academic institutions and startups and had introduced training programmes, internships and faculty development initiatives.

SCL also supplied chips for space programmes, including Chandrayaan-3, and was working towards developing integrated solutions combining sensors and chips with software and firmware.

SRMIST V-C flags need for more skilled workers, calls for sustained collaboration

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI



C. Muthamizhchelvan, Vice-Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science and Technology, at the summit on Tuesday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

India will require about three lakh semiconductor professionals by 2030, with a greater pool of skilled workers needed in fabrication, packaging, testing and semiconductor equipment in addition to chip design, C. Muthamizhchelvan, Vice-Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science and Technology, said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the Semiconductor Summit 2026, organised by SRM Institute of Science and Technology in association with *The Hindu,* he said India had an opportunity to expand its semiconductor capabilities but needed to address gaps in manufacturing, talent and the conversion of research into commercial products.

"The world will need about one million semiconductor professionals by 2030. India already gives about one in five of the world's chip designers," he said, adding that the country's requirements would extend beyond design to fabrication, packaging, testing and equipment.

He said India's semiconductor market was already worth more than $50 billion, while most of the chips it used were imported. "Factories alone will not close that gap. We need ideas, we need designs, and we need people," he said.

Mr. Muthamizhchelvan said universities needed to change how they evaluated research and focus on outcomes such as patents, prototypes and products with commercial potential rather than academic publications alone.

"We have been judging our research and development in terms of the publications that are coming out from the research. And we used to forget that. We called this fund and forget," he said.

SRM's research

He said SRM was aligning its research with national missions, including those covering artificial intelligence, semiconductors and quantum technologies. The university was encouraging students to work on problems identified by industry and offering academic credits for solutions developed through such projects.

Semiconductor development required expertise across multiple disciplines, including physics, chemistry, materials science, chemical engineering, mechanical design and computing, rather than electronics alone, he said.

He cited two projects involving SRM students and semiconductor companies as examples of efforts to bring university research closer to industrial applications.

He also said India needed to build its own technological capabilities rather than remain primarily a consumer of imported products. "The real chip is the human mind. So if our mind is tuned towards making chips, then obviously things will become easier," he said.

The V-C invited companies to work with SRM on technical problems, establish joint laboratories, co-guide doctoral and post-graduate research, file patents together and take products to market. "Bring us your hardest problem. We'll be happy to work on those problems," he said.

He said the semiconductor ecosystem would require sustained collaboration rather than isolated investments or initiatives.

Speed, global teamwork, ease of business crucial to advance ecosystem: experts

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI



Kunal Shankar, Deputy Business Editor, *The Hindu;* Suraj Rengarajan, MD and Principal Technologist, Applied Materials India; Alpa Sood, India Country Manager, Teradyne; Marmik Bhatt, Founder and CEO, Monk9 Tech; and Divya Gurudutt, General Manager, Krypton (India) Solutions. M. SRINATH

A business-led discussion at the Semiconductor Summit 2026 on Tuesday revolved around what four companies need in order to connect their technological capabilities and create a complete semiconductor ecosystem in India

Speed, ease of business, and international teamwork are crucial if India wants to advance its semiconductor ecosystem, according to four technologists and senior leaders.

During the business-led session titled 'From design to fab: can India build a complete semiconductor ecosystem' moderated by Kunal Shankar, Deputy Business Editor, *The Hindu,* panel experts gave the audience a reality check and pushed back against 'Indian tech versus the world' narratives.

According to Dr. Suraj Rengarajan, Managing Director and Principal Technologist, Applied Materials India, tremendous ambitions aimed at vertical integration of the semiconductor industry may not be entirely possible and necessary either.

Dr. Rengarajan was firm in his belief that even though India was a late entrant to the sector, the country had design talent on one end of the chain and consumers on the other, with a network connection required between the two.

"We need to make this ecosystem happen because this addresses strategic areas that India needs," he said, highlighting the links between semiconductor capabilities and India's automotive, defence, strategic, and healthcare industries.

Other factors

While many expect cost to be the defining factor, the panel experts pointed at other key variables: speed, ease of doing business, friendly collaboration, and ensuring quality.

To highlight the importance of speed, Divya Gurudutt, General Manager, Krypton (India) Solutions, shared an anecdote where she revealed the difficulty in importing a critical chemical that had a shelf life of three months.

She acknowledged that Indian suppliers were indeed growing, but that many were new entrants and would require years before the semiconductor ecosystem could be exclusively run through India.

Pointing to regions such as Japan, Taiwan, and even countries in Europe, Marmik Bhatt, Founder and CEO, Monk9 Tech Private Limited, said that other international power players such as Qualcomm worked with companies across the world, including India, in order to manufacture and test their products.

Dr. Bhatt referred to the semiconductor industry as multi-disciplinary and global, underscoring that everything cannot be made on one country's soil.

"I want people to take risk. I want people to go through the process and make something happen. So, I need more semiconductor entrepreneurs," he said.

Alpa Sood, India Country Manager, Teradyne, impressed on listeners the importance of testing products, and ensuring investments earmarked specifically for R&D. "We have to be reliable, we have to make sure our yield is good. We also have to show them how fast we learn."

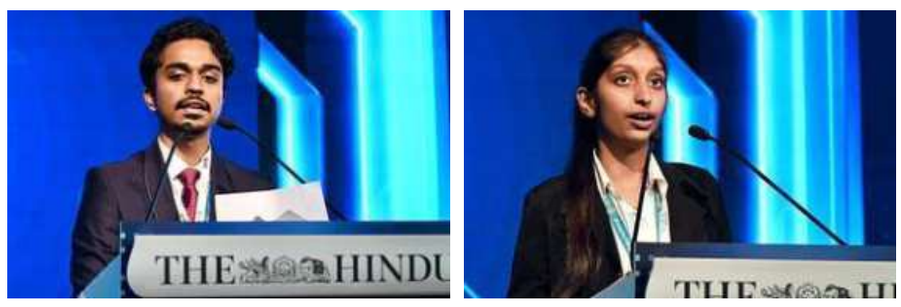
SRMIST students showcase research on semiconductor device modelling

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Students of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) showcased research on semiconductor device modelling and processor security, including the design and fabrication of a silicon carbide diode with support from Indichip Semiconductor.

Presenting their work at Semiconductor Summit 2026, final-year students Khyathi Atmakuru and Dhruv John Sebastian outlined research initiatives spanning integrated circuit design, semiconductor materials and power devices.

The institute's power semiconductor research includes silicon carbide diodes, metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistors (MOSFETs) and insulated-gate bipolar transistors (IGBTs) for railway applications.



Work for the future: Final-year SRMIST students Dhruv John Sebastian and Khyathi Atmakuru presenting their research at the summit on Tuesday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Simulation tools

The device-design work uses specialised simulation tools to optimise device geometry, doping concentrations and electric field distribution, with the aim of improving performance, breakdown voltage and reliability.

The students said they work with specifications and problem statements received from industry, with designs evaluated by industry experts for further optimisation and consideration before fabrication and packaging.

They also highlighted the importance of power semiconductors in electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, industrial drives and AI data centres, where efficient power conversion is essential.

Taiwan conference

Separately, Mr. Sebastian said he presented his research on a secure trap-handling architecture for a three-stage RISC-V processor at the Pan Asia Conference on Circuits and Systems, held at National Sun Yat-sen University in Taiwan in September.

"In simple terms, it is about how a computer processor can handle unexpected problems safely. When something goes wrong, the processor must identify that problem, save the important information it is dealing with and recover without affecting what it is doing normally," he said.

The research involved designing and simulating the processor architecture using Xilinx Vivado, followed by waveform analysis and performance evaluation. Potential applications include embedded systems, real-time control systems and security-critical computing.

SRMIST's semiconductor research ecosystem is supported by facilities including VLSI simulation, semiconductor fabrication, and process-integration laboratories, alongside a student-led Semiconductor Chip Design Club.

The institute said it was encouraging research at undergraduate level and students are exposed to industry problem statements.



Curtain call: M. Sangeetha, Professor and Head of the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering at SRMIST, giving the vote of thanks. M. SRINATH

Summit concludes with call for closer collaboration

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Semiconductor Summit 2026 concluded on Tuesday with a call for closer collaboration among the government, industry and academia to build a self-reliant and globally competitive semiconductor ecosystem in India.

Delivering the valedictory address, M Sangeetha, Professor and Head of the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), said the summit had provided a platform to nurture industry-ready talent, advance chip design and research, and translate innovative ideas into practical technologies.

The discussions during the summit covered semiconductor technology, global competitiveness, defence applications, talent development, and the journey from chip design to fabrication.

Dr. Sangeetha also underscored the importance of international cooperation in advancing semiconductor research and innovation.

She thanked the speakers, panellists, student presenters and delegates for their contributions, and called for the collaborative spirit fostered by the summit to be carried forward to translate India's semiconductor ambitions into tangible achievements.

Chip war exposes semiconductor vulnerabilities, industry leaders say

They stress the need for India to identify areas where it can develop technologies of its own while building domestic manufacturing capabilities and diversifying sources of supply, as countries increasingly seek to secure access to semiconductor technologies, materials and manufacturing capacity

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

As geopolitical tensions reshape the global semiconductor industry, India needs to develop its own technology capabilities, reduce critical supply-chain dependencies, and build resilience through international partnerships, industry leaders said at a panel discussion on 'The chip war: technology, geopolitics and India's challenges' at the Semiconductor Summit 2026 here.

The panellists said India needed to identify areas where it could develop technologies of its own while building domestic manufacturing capabilities and diversifying sources of supply, as countries increasingly seek to secure access to semiconductor technologies, materials and manufacturing capacity.

Sharat Kaul, India Representative, The International Electronics Manufacturing Initiative (iNEMI), said the country should not dismiss outsourced semiconductor assembly and testing (OSAT) projects as an inadequate starting point. Semiconductor manufacturing requires specialised equipment, materials, talent and infrastructure, making it necessary to build the ecosystem progressively. "We have to crawl before we walk. We have to walk before we run," he said.



Sharat Kaul, India Representative, The International Electronics Manufacturing Initiative; Sandeep Garg, CEO and Board Member, Indichip Semiconductors Limited; Ravi Bhatkal, vice-president strategy, MacDermid Alpha Electronics Solutions; and Yogan Senthilkumar, chief technology officer, iVP Semiconductor at the Semiconductor Summit on Tuesday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Mr. Kaul said semiconductor sovereignty did not mean producing everything domestically.

"Sovereignty doesn't necessarily mean that we do everything ourselves. It means that we build reliance and resilience. A bigger part is really resilience," he said, citing the importance of maintaining multiple supply-chain options through partnerships with friendly nations.

He also identified advanced packaging, which integrates multiple chips on a single substrate, as an opportunity for India to narrow its technological gap with established semiconductor manufacturing countries.

"The tipping point in the industry is going to be advanced packaging," he said, pointing to the potential of two-and-a-half-dimensional and three-dimensional technologies amid geopolitical tensions and efforts by countries such as the United States to bring advanced manufacturing within their borders.

Sandeep Garg, CEO and Board Member of Indichip Semiconductors, said India needed to manufacture semiconductor devices required by its own industries instead of relying on imports.

"The time has come for manufacturing and we have to manufacture our own devices," he said.

Drawing on his industry experience, Dr. Garg said major semiconductor companies had not established fabrication facilities in India despite being present in the country for decades. India needed to create greater domestic value addition rather than assume its large market alone would attract manufacturing investment, he argued.

Indichip is setting up an integrated device manufacturing facility covering fabrication, assembly and testing, and final modules, with an investment of more than ₹15,000 crore, he said. The company focuses on silicon carbide power devices used in sectors including energy, electric mobility, railways, defence and data centres.

Dr. Garg estimated that India's silicon carbide market could grow from about ₹13,000 crore in 2030 to ₹1 lakh crore by 2035.

However, domestic manufacturing faces gaps in essential inputs. A silicon carbide fabrication facility uses 37 gases, of which India produces only four, while it requires 42 chemicals, most of which are not manufactured domestically, he said.

Dr. Garg called for the semiconductor sector to be granted industry status and for the government to address the goods and services tax burden on supporting ecosystem players. With semiconductor manufacturing projects taking three to five years, he wondered how suppliers could absorb the tax burden during the long lead time.

Key concerns

Ravi Bhatkal, vice-president of strategy at MacDermid Alpha Electronics Solutions, said India needed to develop domestic capabilities in mining, refining and materials production while securing supplies from multiple countries for inputs it could not produce locally.

Yogan Senthilkumar, chief technology officer of iVP Semiconductor, said semiconductor education needed to extend beyond chip design to manufacturing, assembly, testing, materials and equipment.

The panellists also discussed whether India could compete with countries investing substantially more capital in semiconductors.

'India already has enough engineers, we are only short of chip-ready ones'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

India is not short of engineers, but of engineers who are ready to build chips, panellists said on Tuesday, arguing that the talent gap facing the semiconductor mission was one of practical competence, exposure and experience across the whole value chain, rather than of numbers.

Speaking at a panel discussion on 'Who will build India's chips? bridging the semiconductor talent gap' at the Semiconductor Summit 2026 here, Ranjith Kumar T.C., Director, PRSsemicon Technologies, said the country had 10,000 to 15,000 engineering colleges and 15 lakh to 20 lakh engineers passing out every year.

"The actual shortfall is not the number of graduates that we have. The actual shortfall would be the skilled or the industry ready engineers that we are looking at," he said, describing the shift needed as one "from knowing to doing," that is, from learning a concept to bringing out a chip, inculcated during college itself.



N. Nagaraj, Vice-President, Content Analytics and Data, *The Hindu,* with Ranjith Kumar T.C., Director, PRSsemicon Technologies; Vikas Makhija, Senior R&D Director, Synopsys Inc; Sujhatha, Senior Manager, Guidance, Government of Tamil Nadu; and Shaik Ayman Hameed Baig, a third-year student SRMIST. M. SRINATH

Sujhatha, Senior Manager, Guidance, Government of Tamil Nadu, agreed that India was not short of people. India was home to 20% of the world's semiconductor design talent, she said, but manufacturing was still nascent, leaving a shortfall across outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT), wafer fabrication, materials and machines, which is a gap the India Semiconductor Mission, in its first phase and now its second, has been expanding beyond fabrication and OSAT to address across the ecosystem.

Vikas Makhija, Senior R&D Director, Synopsys Inc., said that the deeper gap was of mindset. Indian semiconductor start-ups had innovated mainly in services, he said, while the United States and China had the real designs. Schemes such as Design Linked Incentive (DLI), which made electronic design automation tools easier to access, and Chips to Startup, under which students could learn the basics and design chips, could change that, he added.

Basics first

Asked what he wished every graduate entering the industry had already understood, Mr. Makhija said industry expectations had never changed.

"We still look for the basics," he said, pointing to core electronics. Tools and languages would keep changing, and artificial intelligence (AI) was now enhancing productivity "by, say, 10x or even 100x", but only for those who could judge its output. "An average engineer using AI is still not seeing a gain in productivity, but a good engineer using the same AI is seeing 100x," he said.

Shaik Ayman Hameed Baig, a third-year B.Tech. student in Electronics and Communication Engineering at the SRM Institute of Science and Technology and the panel's student voice, said students tend to become "the first customers for the chip, building projects on it, rather than the true designers", with many projects in robotics and embedded systems, but few in designing chips.

With artificial intelligence (AI) automation entering Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) design, students were confused on what to learn – manufacturing, fabrication or design – he said.

Scientists push for end-to-end manufacture of defence chips

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

India's increasingly network-centric weapons – from the BrahMos cruise missile to the proposed Sudarshan Chakra air defence shield – will remain vulnerable so long as the semiconductors inside them are imported, senior defence scientists said on Tuesday, calling for chips to be designed, manufactured and packaged end-to-end in the country.

Speaking at a panel discussion on 'Chips for the next battlefield: semiconductors, AI & the future of defence' at the Semiconductor Summit 2026 here, Vijaya Kumar Saraswat, former Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Director-General said warfare had moved from platform-centric fighting to network-centric operations, in which command, control and communications riding on semiconductors decide the outcome.

"What you saw in Operation Sindoor ... is that we are today more or less equipped with complete network-centric capability," Dr. Saraswat said. Sudarshan Chakra, the multi-layer, multi-domain air defence system announced by the Prime Minister, would fuse data from satellite, sea, air and land-based sensors using artificial intelligence-enabled software, he added. "But we have realised that is not enough for future warfare, for long-duration warfare, to take care of saturation attacks." Drone swarms, he noted, now arrive "in hundreds and thousands", and directed energy weapons were needed alongside ballistic missile defence.



John Xavier, Tech Editor, *The Hindu,* in conversation with Vijaya Kumar Saraswat, Former Director-General, DRDO; Sivathanu Pillai, Sir CV Raman Chair Professor, SRMIST; Deleep Nair, Professor, IIT-Madras on Tuesday. M. SRINATH

A. Sivathanu Pillai, founder, former CEO and Managing Director of BrahMos Aerospace, said precision was the point at which chips entered the picture. Mr. Pillai is currently Sir CV Raman Chair Professor, SRMIST.

A BrahMos missile given a target's coordinates changes course within milliseconds to secure a "bullseye hit", he said. "How has the intelligence come to that? It is a processor and the software. So semiconductors play a very important role there."

Most Indian defence systems are based on 28-nanometre chips, Dr. Pillai said, while the world has moved to 3 nanometres. India is compensating for weaker hardware with software – for instance, by collating data from multiple GPS sources because it does not have a military satellite giving it military-specification accuracy, but that approach would not be enough for hypersonic systems, he argued.

"The government has said that 3 nanometre we will achieve sometime around 2030 to 35. That is too late in the present situation," Dr. Pillai said, warning that controls on materials, devices and chip-making equipment were coming.

Deleep Nair, Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at IIT-Madras, traced how domestic fabrication remains far behind. India received complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) technology from the Radio Corporation of America before Taiwan did, he said, but the Semiconductor Complex Limited (SCL) in Chandigarh was shut for a long period after a fire in the late 1980s.

The leading-edge technology running in India today, at SCL, is 180 nanometres, which is the same that Intel, AMD and IBM had in the mid-1990s, he said.

NAIROBI

‘Attacks kill at least 60 Orthodox Christians in Ethiopia in a week’



AP

At least 60 people were killed in two attacks in Ethiopia’s conflict-hit Oromiya region in the past week, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church said. Church authorities said the dead were all Christians. The regional government blamed the Oromo Liberation Army group fighting government forces in Tigray region for the attacks. REUTERS

MOSCOW

Iran President tells Putin West Asia can solve problems without the U.S.



REUTERS

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian told his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Tuesday that West Asia can solve its problems without the involvement of the U.S. “I believe we are capable of resolving our problems in the region without relying on the U.S.,” Mr. Pezeshkian said on the sidelines of a gas exporters’ summit. AFP

RIYADH

Yemen’s Houthis claim attack on Saudi refinery, blasts shake Riyadh



REUTERS

Yemen’s Houthis said they targeted Saudi Arabia’s biggest oil refinery in Ras Tanura with a ballistic missile on Tuesday, as blasts shook the capital, Riyadh. The Saudi-led coalition fighting the Iran-aligned group said it had intercepted three missiles towards the Eastern Province and two ballistic missiles fired at Riyadh. AFP

CARACAS

Venezuelan leader slams Machado over dramatic return from exile



AFP

Venezuelan interim President Delcy Rodriguez on Monday derided the dramatic return from exile of Maria Corina Machado, signalling immediate tensions. The Nobel peace laureate arrived back in the country on Sunday after nearly a year, drawing jubilant crowds in a direct challenge to Ms. Rodriguez’s U.S.-backed government. AFP

Record turnout as Israelis vote in polls centred around Netanyahu

Nearly 67% of voters had cast ballots by 6 p.m. local time; Opinion polls show long-serving leader Netanyahu running neck and neck with rival Gadi Eisenkot, a former military chief; Netanyahu worries over high voting among Israel’s Arab minority

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM



At the crossroads: A Likud party poster with Benjamin Netanyahu and a Hebrew slogan ‘Right or Palestine’, in Beni Brak, Israel. AP

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, fighting for his political life, scrambled to bring out his base on Tuesday as Israelis voted in record numbers in the country’s first election since the October 7, 2023 attack.

After casting his vote in Jerusalem, Mr. Netanyahu expressed worry over high voting among Israel’s Arab minority and warned of attempts to “steal the election”.

Nationwide turnout as of 6:00 p.m. was 66.7%, the highest at that point in the day since such statistics were first recorded in 1973, the Central Elections Committee said.

The vote comes as Israel looks increasingly isolated on the world stage, driven by the war in Iran and the devastating military campaign in Gaza, and violence in the occupied West Bank.

Tight contest

The last opinion polls showed Mr. Netanyahu, Israel’s longest-serving Prime Minister, running neck and neck with his main rival Gadi Eisenkot, a former military chief.

Mr. Eisenkot’s Yashar party on Tuesday warned that Mr. Netanyahu was “laying the groundwork to challenge election results”.

Speaking at a polling station, Mr. Eisenkot called on Israelis to ignore distractions and vote to replace “the worst government since the state was established”.

Some 7.3 million people are eligible to vote, with tens of thousands of Israelis estimated to have flown in from abroad for the election.

Mr. Netanyahu has pointed to Arab-Israeli parties throughout the election to stoke fears of a Palestinian state. “We cannot leave this battle here in the hands of the left and the Arab parties that want to bring an end to the Jewish state,” Mr. Netanyahu said, urging Israelis to vote for his right-wing Likud party.

United Arab List head Mansour Abbas, who could emerge as a kingmaker in a close election, accused Mr. Netanyahu of “lying and inciting” to mobilise his voters.

Polling will close at 10 p.m. Final results could take days to trickle in and it is highly unlikely that any single party will get the 61 seats needed for a majority in the 120-member Parliament.

Two charged for assisting Iran over U.K. airbase plot

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON



Launch pad: A U.S. B-1 bomber on the tarmac at the RAF Fairford base. Washington had used the facility to launch strikes on Iran. AFP

Two British nationals have been charged under the United Kingdom’s National Security Act in connection with an incident last month at Royal Air Force (RAF) Fairford, a military airbase used by the United States.

Nouman Essghir, 24, and Mohmed Ahmad Abdulkarim, 24, from London, were charged and scheduled to appear in court this week.

Mr. Abdulkarim was arrested for allegedly assisting a foreign intelligence service.

The country was believed to be Iran, according to Laurence Taylor, the Head of the U.K.’s National Counterterrorism Policing unit.

Tehran has denied involvement with the incident.

Five men were arrested as they approached the airbase in three vans on September 27. This resulted in the evacuation of residents in the airbase area in Gloucestershire.

The suspects were subsequently released on police bail, which led to criticism from U.S. President Donald Trump.

An Iranian-British dual national was later arrested and released on police bail in early October.

Following the incident, Washington had removed its 12 B-1 bombers, used in its strikes on Iran, from the airbase.

Jordan says it killed 20 ‘jihadists’ in strikes condemned by Syria

Agence France-Presse
DAMASCUS

Syria on Tuesday condemned air strikes on the country’s south that Jordan said killed more than 20 ‘jihadists’ as retaliation for a gun attack on a church.

The Monday night strikes came after gunmen last week killed nine people at a Greek Orthodox church in Jordan’s Karak governorate.

While Jordan has insisted it coordinated its air strikes with Syria, Damascus has denied the claim and said the strike killed seven people. Jordan said it had “great respect” for Syria and expressed regret for civilian casualties.

Jordan’s government spokesman Mohammad al-Momani said the strikes “killed more than 20 fighters of Daesh (Islamic State) jihadist group”.

Syria’s Foreign Ministry issued a “condemnation and rejection” of the strikes, calling them “an unacceptable violation and breach of Syrian airspace without any prior coordination”.

Flavio Bolsonaro’s passports cancelled; whereabouts unclear after poll defeat

Agence France-Presse
BRASILIA



Flavio Bolsonaro

Brazil’s Flavio Bolsonaro, politically isolated after refusing to accept election defeat, had his passports cancelled on Tuesday as speculation swirled over his whereabouts.

Mr. Bolsonaro, 45, was defeated by incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, 81, on Sunday and is set to lose his parliamentary immunity as his legal woes pile up.

Mr. Bolsonaro last spoke publicly on Monday afternoon in a video on social media saying he had been banned from leaving the country and ordered to surrender his passports.

However, while he said he would comply with the order, he had failed to do so by Tuesday afternoon.

“Flavio Bolsonaro’s passports have been cancelled,” a police source said, adding that “there is no formal record of him leaving the country.”

Argentina’s Security Ministry denied media reports that Mr. Bolsonaro had entered the country.

“I never had any intention of leaving the country. I will surrender my passports and defend myself against this travesty,” Mr. Bolsonaro said.

‘Headed to U.S.’

Citing two sources, Reuters reported that the Brazilian Senator had left the country for the United States. A spokesperson for Mr. Bolsonaro did not respond to a request for comment.

Mr. Bolsonaro’s brother, Eduardo Bolsonaro, who lives in Texas, U.S., had publicly encouraged him to leave Brazil if he lost the election.

Flavio Bolsonaro is under legal scrutiny in several cases, including a corruption probe over the financing of the biopic “Dark Horse” about his father, former President Jair Bolsonaro, who is under house arrest for plotting a coup.

(With inputs from Reuters)

Truce brokered by Melania Trump takes effect in Ukraine city

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

A local truce between Ukraine and Russia aimed at allowing humanitarian aid into the Russian-occupied city of Oleshky appears to be holding, hours after Russia fired missiles on a university campus in Kyiv.

Both sides said the ceasefire brokered by U.S. First Lady Melania Trump had begun at 3:00 a.m. local time.

The war-ravaged city in Ukraine’s Kherson region has been caught in middle of the fighting since 2022. Former residents said that those remaining in the city were starving, lacked medicine and could not easily leave.

Russia continued to pummel the rest of Ukraine with air barrages. Missiles struck a university campus in Kyiv on Monday wounding 12 people, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. In Russia, two people were killed “as a result of explosive devices being dropped” on the city of Bryansk, local authorities said.

Sport

India likely to experiment in final ODI

ZIMBABWE IN INDIA

Lavanya L.
VADODARA



On a roll: The Women in Blue have been dominant in the white-ball series against Zimbabwe. X@BCCIWOMEN

The series may be sealed and a much-needed break is calling out for both India and Zimbabwe before their next international assignments, but there’s still a One-Day encounter left to bring the curtains down on this historic tour at the BCA Stadium here on Wednesday.

The host, with two massive wins, has every reason to experiment without fear. After a day’s break where cafes were visited, friends were met and last-minute shopping lists were ticked off, the Indian team had a full training session under the hot afternoon sun with local security and venue staff keenly watching how Baroda girl Yastika Bhatia – yet to feature in this series – was coming along in the nets.

Harmanpreet Kaur, who has been dealing with a fever for a few days including when she scored her sensational hundred in the second fixture, also had some light hits against the sight-screen before launching a few big shots straight down the ground in the nets.

But the bowling line-up, with its inability to strike as frequently as it might like, has posed a few tough questions to the think-tank. If workload calculations work in her favour, India might want to consider handing seamer Nandani Sharma her India cap.

With a testing multi-format tour of South Africa coming up in December, India will want to get any last minute trials out of the way here.

Zimbabwe players, meanwhile, snuck a trip to the Statue of Unity, around 90km away from Vadodara, while a few like the big-hitting Sharne Mayers – who missed the second game due to a groin strain - stayed back to complete recovery.

The Lady Chevrons have their task cut out. They are yet to get to the 50-over finish line, falling short valiantly by barely a few balls. The side also has the 230-250 mark as a box to tick and will hope to end its India sojourn on a high.

Match starts at 2 p.m.

Kane, Putellas win *Ballon d’Or*

Agence France-Presse
LONDON



Smacking success! Kane and Putellas were rewarded for their prolific display the past season. AFP

Harry Kane became England’s first *Ballon d’Or* winner, since Michael Owen in 2001, on Monday, beating out stiff competition from Lamine Yamal and Kylian Mbappe.

Alexia Putellas claimed the women’s prize for a third time to extend Spain’s domination of the award, thanks to her role in leading Barcelona to last season’s Champions League before moving to London City Lionesses.

The 33-year-old Bayern Munich forward struck a remarkable 73 goals in 65 games for club and country last season, propelling the German giant to a league and cup double.

He also scored six times as England finished third at the World Cup.

“Without you guys (his Bayern Munich teammates) and the rest of the team it wouldn’t be possible, the way you guys push me, the way we compete. So thank you very much,” he said. “Being a number nine for Bayern and England you are expected to score goals and to do that the number of times I did last year is something I’m really proud of,” said the England captain.

Luis de la Fuente was named men’s coach of the year for leading Spain to World Cup glory. Barcelona’s Pere Romeu scooped the prize for women’s coach of the year.

Spanish duo Unai Simon and Cata Coll were named best men’s and women’s goalkeeper.

Lanka drubs Pakistan, eliminates England

Associated Press
LAHORE

A rejuvenated Sri Lanka routed Pakistan by eight wickets on Tuesday to end England’s hopes of reaching the ODI tri-series final.

Fast bowler Dilshan Madushanka grabbed a career-best five for 34 as Pakistan was skittled for 110.

Sri Lanka, which chased down the second-highest target in ODI history of 430 against England in Rawalpindi, romped home in 18.1 overs as skipper Kamindu hit an unbeaten 62.

The scores: England 110 in 25.3 overs (Madushanka 5/34) lost to Sri Lanka 114/2 in 18.1 overs (Kamindu 62 n.o.); **Toss:** Lanka; **PoM:** Madushanka.

RACING AWAY

Abhishek overtakes Kohli for the most T20 centuries by an Indian



CREIMAS/BCCI

Abhishek Sharma overtook Virat Kohli to become the Indian batter with the most T20 centuries. His 38-ball 113 against the Kiwis on Tuesday was his 11th. Only Chris Gayle (22) and Babar Azam (13) are above him. Abhishek also tied with Suryakumar Yadav for the second-most T20I tons for India (four) behind Rohit Sharma (five).

GOING HAMMER AND TONGS

India shatters record for most runs scored in PowerPlay of a T20I



AP

India broke the record for the most runs scored in the PowerPlay of a T20I against New Zealand in Wellington on Tuesday. The opening combination of Abhishek Sharma and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi plundered 118 off the first six overs. India bettered Romania's 116 for no loss in 5.4 overs against Serbia in a 10-wicket win in 2021.

SENSATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Skipper Shreyas heaps praise on Abhishek and Sooryavanshi



AFP

Absolutely stunning. Even when I went out to bat it was seaming, Sanju (Samson) and me were like, how did they manage to score so much! The way they played was exceptional. It was amazing the way the lads rose to the occasion, mind boggling — India captain Shreyas Iyer praising Abhishek Sharma and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

DIFFICULT TASK

Pretty tough to defend against India, admits Kiwi captain Santner



AFP

New Zealand captain Matt Santner acknowledged the difficulty of containing India's aggressive batting. "We've seen it in the IPL and obviously we are seeing it here in New Zealand. To get 200 on a wicket like that was nice. They showed how to bat. Guys who have gone in have kicked on, it's tough to defend against these guys".

Abhishek annihilates Kiwis as India wraps up series

The southpaw smashes a 38-ball 113 and amasses 133 for the opening wicket off just 7.1 overs with Sooryavanshi; Mitchell's efforts go in vain; pacer Arshdeep pick of the bowlers for the Men in Blue



Carnage: Abhishek flayed the Kiwi bowlers to all parts of the ground. CREIMAS/BCCI

INDIA IN NZ

Agence France-Presse
WELLINGTON

An aggressive partnership by Abhishek Sharma and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi propelled India to a six-wicket win and a series victory over New Zealand in the third T20I here on Tuesday.

India sewed up the five-match series with two games to spare, chasing down New Zealand's total of 198 in just 13.2 overs, Abhishek blasting 113 and Sooryavanshi 45.

The opening pair combined for a 133-run partnership off just 7.1 overs, obliterating the New Zealand bowling attack with one of the most destructive partnerships in T20I history.

The first Jacob Duffy over went for 26 runs, and the openers never let up.

Abhishek hit nine fours and 11 sixes in his 38-ball knock, receiving a standing ovation when he eventually fell to Kyle Jamieson.

By that stage, India had reached 178 for two after just 10 overs.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND
Tim Seifert c Axar b Arshdeep 2 *(6b)*, Finn Allen c Dhir b Nitish 40 *(25b, 5x6)*, Daryl Mitchell (not out) 89 *(52b, 5x4, 5x6)*, Glenn Phillips c & b Axar 17 *(14b, 3x4)*, Bevon Jacobs (not out) 39 *(23b, 4x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-7, w-4): 11; Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 198.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-4 (Seifert, 1.2 overs), 2-90 (Allen, 8.3), 3-123 (Phillips, 11.6).

INDIA BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 4-0-40-0, Arshdeep 4-0-33-1, Prince 4-0-44-0, Axar 4-0-36-1, Nitish 4-0-38-1.

INDIA
Vaibhav Sooryavanshi c Mitchell b Fisher 45 *(19b, 4x4, 4x6)*, Abhishek Sharma c Phillips b Jamieson 113 *(38b, 9x4, 11x6)*, Sanju Samson b Jamieson 18 *(13b, 2x4)*, Shreyas Iyer c Phillips b Santner 5 *(10b)*, Tilak Varma (not out) 1 *(1b)*, Naman Dhir (not out) 4 *(1b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-2, w-10): 13; Total (for four wkts. in 13.2 overs): 199.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-133 (Sooryavanshi, 7.1), 2-178 (Abhishek, 9.6), 3-193 (Shreyas, 12.4), 4-195 (Samson, 13.1).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING
Duffy 2-0-44-0, Milne 2-0-33-0, Bracewell 2-0-36-0, Jamieson 3.2-0-45-2, Fisher 1-0-23-1, Santner 3-0-17-1.

Toss: India; **PoM:** Abhishek.
India won by six wickets with 40 balls to spare and took an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series.
Fourth T20I: October 30, Auckland, 12.30 p.m. IST.

Sooryavanshi was promoted to open alongside Abhishek after batting at No.3 in the second T20, hitting four fours and as many sixes in his 19-ball innings.

India won the toss for the third time in three matches and again elected to bowl. Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Arshdeep Singh extracted prodigious seam from the pitch, beating the outside edge of New Zealand openers Tim Seifert and Finn Allen. Seifert top-edged Arshdeep for two, before Daryl Mitchell joined Allen and combined for an 86-run partnership.

Mitchell was quick to assess the conditions and moved around the crease in order to counteract the seam movement. He seized on shorter bowling with powerful strikes to the short square boundaries, hitting five fours and the same number of sixes in his 89 from 52 balls.

The fourth T20I is at Auckland on Friday.

Stat Attack



1 India has recorded the fastest team 100 in T20Is (5 overs)

4 Abhishek Sharma pulls level with Suryakumar Yadav and Phil Salt for most centuries in men's T20Is. Only Glenn Maxwell and Rohit Sharma (5 each) have scored more

8 The number of times Abhishek has smashed his first ball for a six in T20Is, a record

11 Abhishek is third in the century list in T20s. Only Chris Gayle (22) and Babar Azam (13) are ahead

11 Abhishek has hit 11 sixes in a T20I innings for the second time, the previous one coming against Afghanistan (New Delhi, 2026)

18.13 Abhishek and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's run rate in a 100-plus opening stand is the best in T20Is

40 India has bettered its own record of most balls remaining in a successful chase of 190 or more (28 vs. New Zealand, Raipur, 2026)

149 Arshdeep Singh has the third-most wickets among seamers in T20Is after Tim Southee (164) and Mustafizur Rahman (163)

Compiled by **ANIRUDH VELAMURI**

Not easy to emulate Yuvraj's feat: Abhishek

Press Trust of India
WELLINGTON

Abhishek Sharma may have idolised Yuvraj Singh growing up but the India opener is not ready to take up his mentor's challenge of smashing a half-century off 12 balls, saying such feats are "not that easy" despite his sensational century against New Zealand in the third T20 here on Tuesday.

Responding to Yuvraj's playful social media message that he still could not score a fifty off 12 balls, Abhishek said batters do not chase such milestones.

"I don't know what cricket he was playing back at that time, but it's not that easy at all," Abhishek said in the presentation ceremony. Yuvraj holds the record for the fastest T20I fifty among Full Member nations which he achieved against England in 2007.

Starc leads Australian fightback

Agence France-Presse
CAPE TOWN

Mitchell Starc took four wickets in six balls to cap an Australian fightback on the first day of the third Test against South Africa at Newlands on Tuesday.

Starc finished with six for 72 as South Africa was bowled out for 329 shortly before the close.

The scores: South Africa 329 in 82.3 overs (Markram 78, Ackerman 95, Bedingham 50, Rickelton 42, Jansen 52, Starc 6/72) vs. Australia.
Toss: Australia.

Bad light denies India-A a victory

Press Trust of India
LINCOLN

Pacer Auqib Nabi bowled an incisive opening spell but bad light prevented India-A from recording a sensational come-from-behindwin over New Zealand-A in the first 'Test', which ended n a draw on Tuesday.

The scores:
India-A 113 & 516 in 123.1 overs (Padikkal 199, Sai Sudharsan 91, Rathod 66, Washington 52) drew with NZ-A 317 and 187/9 in 65 overs (Heaphy 90 n.o., Foxcroft 42).

All-rounder Sneh among biggest names in the fray





Stars: Sneh and Harris are likely to generate fair bit of interest. FILE PHOTOS: K.R. DEEPAK & EMMANUAL YOGINI

WPL AUCTION

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOCHI

By the time the first name comes up at the WPL's mini-auction on Wednesday, the third ODI between India and Zimbabwe would have reached somewhere around the halfway mark in Vadodara. India's middle-order batter Tejal Hasabnis is likely to be curious about what is happening at Grand Hyatt here.

She is one of the 146 players who will go under the hammer. In the only chance she got in the Zimbabwe series, she may have lasted only five balls, but last month she had done really well for India-A against the touring Australia-A. So Tejal should interest some of the franchises. There could be even more interest in Sneh Rana, the off-spinning all-rounder released by Delhi Capitals.

Sneh is, in fact, among the biggest names at this auction. Others include Australia's T20 World Cup-winning captain Sophie Molineux, her compatriots Grace Harris and Jess Jonassen, Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu and England opener Sophia Dunkley.

Among the capped Indian players are G. Kamalini, Kiran Navgire, Uma Chetry, Taniya Bhatiya, Saika Ishaque, Asha Sobhana, Priya Mishra, Titas Sadhu and Saima Thakor.

There are some interesting names among the uncapped Indians, too. Like the 16-year-old Ira Jadhav, who last year smashed an unbeaten 346 off 157 balls for Mumbai against Meghalaya in the Women's Under-19 One-Day tournament. There are only 27 available slots – including 20 reserved for the Indians.

Biggest purse

Going into the auction, UP Warriorz could well be a bit more excited, and anxious, than the other four franchises. Warriorz have the biggest purse of ₹3.75 crore.

That is a lot more than Gujarat Giants (1.25 crore), Royal Challengers Bengaluru (1.15 crore), Delhi Capitals (1.1 crore) or Mumbai Indians (90 lakh).

It would be fascinating to see how Warriorz try to turn the auction into a mega opportunity.

India slams 13 past hapless Bangladesh

ACT HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
JALANDHAR

For a city hosting its first-ever international hockey tournament, the result of India's opening match in the Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) against Bangladesh was the perfect initiation. But less so for coach Craig Fulton and the team's long-term plans.

With local boys among the scorers and India stamping its authority in the 13-0 win on Tuesday, the result ensured the full house had enough reasons to celebrate. Mandeep Singh – among the five players who began on this very ground of the Olympian Surjit Singh Stadium – struck three of those and created as many.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh, another local hero, started the rampage in the second minute and India was up by four in the first 15 minutes and six at half-time. Jarmanpreet Singh and Amit Rohidas, in defence, and Nilakanta Sharma, in the middle, were also impressive. Nilakanta even scored against an opponent that barely challenged the Indian might.

Nilakanta, later, announced that he will retire at the end of the tournament.

The highlight of the day was the drone show featuring the state, its culture, sporting history and legacy and sparkling under the night sky.

The results:
India 13 (Harmanpreet Singh 2-pc, 44-pc, Mandeep Singh 3, 10, 54, Shilanand Lakra 15, Abhishek 18, Nilakanta Sharma 26, Dilpreet Singh 43-pc, 44, Jugraj Singh 46-pc, Hardik Singh 60, 60) bt Bangladesh 0.
Malaysia 5 (Abu Kamal Azrai 4, 14, Akhimullah Anuar 14, Faizal Saari 34-ps, Azimuddin Kamaruddin 35-pc) bt China 4 (Yaqi Wang 11, Moda Ne 12, Benhai Chen 27-pc, 44-pc).
Japan 3 (Kentaro Fukuda 14, Ryoma Ooka 36, Kazumasa Matsumoto 52) bt Korea 2 (Han Sangjun 15, Jeong Junseong 59).



Goals galore: India sounded the boards at will. X@THEHOCKEYINDIA



Take that! Talvinder lines up to fire in IOCL's first goal. R. RAGU

Last-gasp strike keeps IOCL in semifinal race

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) snatched a dramatic 2-2 draw against Hockey Karnataka in a Pool-A match of the 97th all-India MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup hockey tournament at the SDAT Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here on Tuesday, scoring off a last-gasp penalty corner to keep its semifinal hopes alive.

Karnataka, which needed a win in its final league match to stay in contention, was left to rue the late equaliser as it bowed out.

Talvinder Singh opened the scoring for IOCL in the ninth minute, converting a rebound after Gurjinder Singh's drag-flick from a penalty corner was blocked by the goalkeeper.

Karnataka fought back through B. Abharan Sudev, who finished a superb move in the 28th minute, before C.J. Rahul put it ahead in the 32nd.

IOCL struggled to make its penalty corners count and missed a one-on-one chance through Affan Yousuf in the 55th minute.

It failed to convert a penalty corner at the very end.

After a review, another penalty corner was awarded, and Roshan Minz found the net to earn his team a crucial point.

The result:
Pool-A: IOCL 2 (Talvinder Singh 9-pc, Roshan Minz 60-pc) drew with Hockey Karnataka 2 (B. Abharan Sudev 28, C.J. Rahul 32).

Badoni, Mathur mastermind a perfect day for Delhi

The skipper extends his purple patch with an unbeaten 210; the No. 7 batter hits an unconquered 150 during their unbroken 334-run sixth-wicket alliance as the visitor posts a massive total

RANJI TROPHY

Vivek Krishnan
RANCHI

The best batters have the capacity to operate a gear or two below their optimum and still compile runs in the Ranji Trophy as inevitably as a tide returning to shore.

Ayush Badoni's double century on day two of Delhi's Elite Group C clash against Jharkhand conveyed that feeling.

Such was the measured manner in which the Delhi skipper registered an unbeaten 210 in his team's imposing first-innings total of 515 for five declared at the JSCA International Stadium here on Tuesday.

The 26-year-old may not spring to mind as one of the most prolific run-scorers going around in India's domestic system, but his numbers speak glowingly of his growing appetite.

It was Badoni's second successive double century, backing up his career-best effort of 217 in Delhi's previous round against Gujarat.

Sumit Mathur was equally deserving of the spotlight.

The southpaw stayed unconquered on 150, forging an uninterrupted 334-run stand with Badoni.

From the moment both batters resumed at 309 for five, the runs flowed like a torrent down a steep hill.

Jharkhand's bowlers looked so rudderless that Badoni and Mathur could have easily unlocked more personal milestones, but the visitors took the aggressive route by declaring midway through the second session.



All guns blazing: Badoni and Mathur tore into the Jharkhand attack during their mammoth partnership. R.V. MOORTHY

The decision was justified as Delhi's attack found greater help from the pitch and reduced the host to 131 for four at stumps.

Utkarsh Singh's unbeaten 53 off 129 balls, containing crisp punches through point, was the lone act of defiance in reply.

In just the second over, seamer Dev Lakra elicited a poke from Aryaman Sen outside off-stump for Yash Dhull to grab at first slip.

The spinners also stepped up, with Hrithik Shokeen, Badoni and debutant left-arm slow bowler Aman Chaudhary snaring a wicket apiece.

The latter's maiden First Class scalp, which came with 10 minutes left when Virat Singh's lap-sweep lobbed to short-leg, was the perfect end to a flawless day for Delhi.

The scores:

Delhi — 1st innings: Priyansh Arya b Quraishi 39, Sanat Sangwan b Utkarsh 37, Yash Dhull c & b Anukul 29, Ayush Doseja c Jatin b Quraishi 21, Ayush Badoni (not out) 210, Anuj Rawat b Utkarsh 18, Sumit Mathur (not out) 150; Extras (b-8, lb-2, nb-1): 11; Total (for five wkts. decl. in 130 overs): 515.

Fall of wickets: 1-56, 2-99, 3-123, 4-143, 5-181.

Jharkhand bowling: Jatin 17-2-61-0, Shubh 6-0-28-0, Utkarsh 30-4-88-2, Aditya 19-1-93-0, Quraishi 20-0-100-2, Anukul 38-2-135-1.

Jharkhand — 1st innings: Aryaman Sen c Dhull b Lakra 0, Sharandeep Singh c Priyansh b Shokeen 31, Utkarsh Singh (batting) 53, Shresht Sagar c Sangwan b Badoni 15, Virat Singh c Sangwan b Aman 21, Shubh Sharma (batting) 6; Extras (b-4, nb-1): 5; Total (for four wkts. in 47 overs): 131.

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-60, 3-93, 4-124.

Delhi bowling: Simarjeet 4-2-12-0, Lakra 5-1-13-1, Aman 16-3-34-1, Shokeen 15-1-45-1, Badoni 6-1-16-1, Mathur 1-0-7-0.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES – ROUND THREE, DAY TWO

Elite

Group A: At Vadodara: Baroda 616 in 169 overs (Priyanshu Moliya 321 n.o., Deepak Hooda 45, Mahesh Pithiya 102, Rasikh Dar 47, Sahil Lotra 4/160) vs. J&K 6/0 in 4 overs.

At Indore: Bihar 99 & 134 in 34 overs (Ayush Loharuka 76 n.o., Saransh Jain 6/49) lost to Madhya Pradesh 407/8 decl. in 92.2 overs (Yash Dubey 84, Saksham Purohit 132, Rajat Patidar 109). **Points:** Bihar 0 (0), MP 7 (13).

At Nagpur: Goa 220 in 93.5 overs (Yash Kasvankar 63 n.o., Darshan Misal 51, Nachiket Bhute 5/48) vs. Vidarbha 217/3 in 74 overs (R. Samarth 53, Dhruv Shorey 63 batting, Danish Malewar 51 batting).

At Puducherry: Uttar Pradesh 328/9 in 121 overs (Karan Sharma 162 batting, Shivam Mavi 50, Sagar Udeshi 4/62) vs. Pondicherry.

Group B: At Vijayawada: Andhra 231 vs. Chhattisgarh 216/8 in 95 overs (Amandeep Khare 74 batting).

At Hyderabad: Punjab 431 in 124.5 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 81, Jashanpreet Singh Sidhu 45, Salil Arora 151, Ramandeep Singh 52, C.V. Milind 4/79) vs. Hyderabad 193/2 in 54 overs (Abhirath Reddy 97, Rahul Radesh 72 batting).

At Mysuru: Tripura 194 vs. Karnataka 297/7 in 95 overs (Rohan Patil 72, K.V. Aneesh 68, Karun Nair 63).

At Rajkot: Assam 281 in 112.3 overs (Denish Das 90, Sibsankar Roy 100) vs. Saurashtra 156/4 in 68 overs (Hetvik Kotak 65 batting).

Group C: At Ranchi: Delhi 515/5 decl. in 130 overs (Ayush Badoni 210 n.o., Sumit Mathur 150 n.o.) vs. Jharkhand 131/4 in 47 overs (Utkarsh Singh 53 batting).

At Bhubaneswar: Odisha 194 vs. Services 13/0 in 5 overs. No play on second day.

At Pune: Gujarat 223 vs. Maharashtra 278/9 in 100 overs (Digvijay Patil 43, Harshal Kate 84, Saurabh Nawale 95).

At Thiruvananthapuram: Bengal 350 in 102.2 overs (Ankur Paul 66, Shahbaz Ahmed 121, Sumanta Gupta 49, Aditya Sarwate 4/95) vs. Kerala 101/6 in 35 overs (Vishnu Vinod 41).

Group D: At Dehradun: Rajasthan 272 & 39/1 in 23 overs vs. Uttarakhand 194 in 72 overs (Tejasvi Jaiswal 45, Kukna Ajay Singh 5/66).

At Chennai: Railways 184 & 107/9 in 51 overs (S. Yuvraj Singh 42, Sai Kishore 4/38) vs. Tamil Nadu 165 in 63.1 overs (B. Indrajith 59, Raj Choudhury 5/41, Toufik Mondal 4/48).

At Chandigarh: Chandigarh 685/5 decl. in 161 overs (Nehal Pajni 222, Arjun Azad 147, Manan Vohra 61, Arslan Khan 99, Akshit Rana 74, Bhagmender Lather 50 n.o.) vs. Himachal Pradesh 49/0 in 14 overs.

At Mumbai: Mumbai 430 in130.3 overs (Angkrish Raghuvanshi 114, Musheer Khan 109, Sarfaraz Khan 40, Tanush Kotian 52 n.o.) vs. Haryana 108/2 in 39 overs.

Plate

At Rangpo: Nagaland 187 & 46/4 in 34 overs vs. Sikkim 184 in 71 overs (Leeyong Lepcha 43, Imliwati Lemtur 5/40).

At Ahmedabad: Arunachal Pradesh 111 & 95/2 in 36 overs (Techi Doria 44 batting) vs. Manipur 364 in 101.2 overs (Karnajit Yumnam 56, Jotin Pheiroijam 166, Al Bashid Muhammad 69, Likha Sonia 4/56).

At Nadiad: Meghalaya 562 in 137.2 overs (Ajay Duhan 239, Kishan Lyngdoh 198, Kuldip Yadav 4/62) vs. Mizoram 99/2 in 37 overs (Lalhruaizela 51).

Dharanidharan eyes breaching 80m mark

ATHLETICS

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

An unusually large crowd – cheering, clapping and whistling – greeted the finalists in the under-20 men's javelin as the curtain came down on the 41st National junior athletics championships at the Nehru Stadium here on Tuesday.

Among them – a youngster from Thanjavur.

A purposeful sprint down the runway, followed by a clean release, saw Dharanidharan open with a throw of 75.34m.

However, second time's the charm. A huge roar just before his run-up, followed by a powerful sprint and a clean release, saw the spear sail through the air before landing at 76.18m.



Dharanidharan. SIVA SANKAR A

The crowd erupted, for Dharanidharan had just produced the throw that would fetch him gold.

He followed it with another effort of 75.37m, making it three successive throws beyond 75m.

Despite winning gold, Dharanidharan had hoped for more. He had come with a target of 80m and was disappointed at not being able to achieve it.

"My aim and goal were different. I really thought I would breach 80m," said the second-year student at Loyola College, who hails from Papanadu in Thanjavur district.

Valuable experience

Having finished sixth at the World U-20 Championships in Eugene, USA, in August, the youngster said the experience of competing against some of the best athletes had helped him improve.

"There were world-class athletes there, and I learned a lot from them," he said.

Interestingly, Dharanidharan began his journey with pole vault in Class IX before financial difficulties forced him to switch to javelin the following year.

Coach pleased

His coach Manikandan, who trains him in Thanjavur, was pleased with his progress.

"We were aiming for 78 to 80 metres. I was confident he could throw 78m at least. He has improved by around three metres in two months, and that is purely because of his hard work and changes to his technique," said Manikandan.

The coach also felt that improving his strength and power would be crucial as Dharanidharan looks to take the next step.

For Dharanidharan, though, the focus is on the upcoming season, when he hopes to breach the 80m mark and perhaps even rewrite the record books.

Salil credits coaches Rajan, Yuvraj for his purple patch

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Two men, one franchise, one mentor. Both don Sunrisers Hyderabad colours, and carry Yuvraj Singh's lessons to the crease.

Both scored centuries on Tuesday, but in different languages: one in the staccato verse of international cricket's shortest format, the other in the slow, unhurried prose of the longest on the domestic circuit.

While Abhishek Sharma's blitzkrieg set New Zealand ablaze, about 11,800 kilometres away at the Gymkhana, Salil Arora laid his knock stone by stone - his fourth and highest First-Class ton - to help Punjab rise above Hyderabad. Salil's crucial 93-run stand with Ramandeep Singh on day one and his 116-run 10th-wicket partnership with Umesh Yadav on Tuesday took the wind out of Hyderabad's sails.

The 23-year-old credited his coach, Rajan Gill, and Yuvraj for a Ranji purple patch that has seen him register three centuries on the trot to sit fourth on the runs table.

"After the IPL, I played district matches back home. I then got a few months to work with the red ball. I practised with my coach in Amritsar for almost a month and a half. After that, I got a call from Yuvraj Singh and batted with him for a week," he told *The Hindu*.

"I had problems with my technique last year. Making tweaks to that in Amritsar has given me a lot of benefit."

Salil is no stranger to the City of Pearls.

At home

"Hyderabad feels like home. I'm here for three to four months (during IPL). So it feels good to get 150 here.

"The team needed it. I thought if I play till the end, we'll be able to score 400. I was just playing according to the merit of the ball and to the situation."

Flat track

"Yes, it's a flat wicket. The batters did their job, and now it's the bowlers' turn to take responsibility," he concluded.



Making it a habit: Salil brought up his third hundred on the trot. G. RAMAKRISHNA

Neelam, Kajal assure medals for India

WRESTLING WORLDS

Sports Bureau

After the Indian Greco-Roman wrestlers' dismal performance, Neelam Sirohi (50kg) and Kajal Dhochak (76kg) brought cheer to the country by entering the women's finals and securing medals at the World wrestling championships in Astana on Tuesday.

The 26-year-old Neelam got past Belarusian Natalia Varakina 6-0, defeated the top-seeded Elizaveta Sirnova (due to an injury to the Russian) and beat Kazakhstan's Asian Games bronze medallist Zeinep Bayanova 7-3.

She set up a title clash with Japanese star Yui Susaki, a former World and Olympic champion and the reigning Asian Games champion.

After Neelam's show in the lightest weight class, two-time World junior champion Kajal stamped her authority in the heaviest weight category. She pinned Lithuanian Kamile Gaucaite before defeating Mongolian Davaanasan Enkh Amar 9-2 and Kyrgyzstan's Aiperi Medet Kyzy 10-7. She will take on Ukraine's Anastasiya Alpyeyeva in the gold-medal match. Rajnita (65kg) reached the repechage round to remain in the hunt for a bronze medal.

Bangladesh seeks Test c'ship boost



Key men: Shanto and Mushfiqur's experience will be vital as Bangladesh takes on the West Indies challenge. AP

WI IN BANGLADESH

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto said on Tuesday that the prospect of making the World Test Championship final inspired his team heading into a two-match series against the West Indies.

Currently fourth in the WTC standings, Bangladesh has six Tests remaining in the cycle, including the West Indies opener in Mirpur starting on Wednesday.

Bangladesh will need to win at least four and draw one of its six Tests to have a chance of making the final, scheduled between June 9 and 13 at the Oval in London. And Shanto stressed that there is no pressure.

"I find it inspiring rather than pressurising," Shanto told reporters.

"We do not want to do anything extra. We want to follow our process and give 100% to the things we know how to do."

The host enters the Test series after failing to take the final seven wickets against Afghanistan in its most recent Test in the United Arab Emirates.

An opportunity

Meanwhile, West Indies captain Roston Chase said his team wanted to climb up the WTC standings from the No. 8 position. "This is the last series...if we want to make any strides in terms of going up the table, it has to be in this series," he said.

"We're in some good form coming into this series, so we want to take two wins and try to take ourselves up the ladder".

BFI told to keep the no-confidence meeting in abeyance

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Tuesday directed Boxing Federation of India (BFI) secretary-general Pramod Kumar to keep the General Body meeting called on Oct. 28, to move a no-confidence motion against president Ajay Singh, in abeyance until the next hearing on Nov. 13. Following a petition filed by Ajay Singh, Justice Tribhuvan Dahiya issued the direction. On Oct. 23, World Boxing had emphasised that a General Meeting of the federation must be convened and conducted in accordance with the BFI constitution.

Navdeep seeks javelin's inclusion in LA28

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's Paralympic champion Navdeep Singh has appealed for the inclusion of men's F41 javelin throw in the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympics programme and taken up shot put as a back-up, refusing to let uncertainty over his primary event derail his preparations for the next Games.

The 25-year-old, who won bronze in men's F41 javelin at the Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya recently, said he had started training for shot put after learning that javelin would not feature in his category at LA28.

The athlete said he had approached members of the national federation and urged them to appeal to the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement, seeking javelin's inclusion in the Games. "If athletes in our category have to participate in LA, they will only be able to compete in shot put. The athletes should have the option to choose between events. That is why we have made this appeal. The positive thing is we have an event at next year's World championships. So we will try to get it included at LA28".



Navdeep... staying positive. FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Snapping ties abruptly with a match made in heaven



GETTY IMAGES

When he dismissed Kent's Zimbabwean batter Tawanda Muyeye for his third scalp of the innings and his 50th of the season on September 15, James Anderson would hardly have imagined that it would be his final wicket for Lancashire

R. Kaushik

In one fell swoop, without warning or indication, without even a hint of what was coming, a 26-year-old association was snapped in a jiffy. Inarguably the greatest son of the soil was let go without so much as a thank you, a decision that has so infuriated members and supporters that the 'offending' party is now contemplating a formal farewell to celebrate the life and times of Test cricket's most prolific wicket-taker among fast bowlers.

When he dismissed Kent's Zimbabwean batter Tawanda Muyeye for his third wicket of the innings and his 50th of the season on September 15, James Anderson would hardly have imagined that it would be his final wicket-taking contribution to Lancashire. Having taken over the captaincy of the embattled county towards the middle of the 2025 season, he was appointed full-time skipper in the season gone by.



Fabulous campaign

Personally, it was another fabulous campaign for the 44-year-old king of swing, whose 50 wickets came at the fantastic average of 17.68. But the team spiralled from one disaster to another, finishing second from last in Division Two, its worst-ever Championship finish.

Incoming director of cricket Paul Farbrace, who has ambitiously charted out a four-year time-frame to return the county to its glory days, and recently appointed chief executive Richard Kenyon have held forth on the need to rebuild the stuttering outfit and clearly, they feel that despite plenty of fight still left in Anderson, he doesn't exactly figure in their immediate long-term plans.

Anderson became superfluous to England's scheme of things under Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum in July 2024 when he was ushered into retirement after the Lord's Test against West Indies. At the time, he had expressed the desire to play on for another three years, assuming blithely – and justifiably – that he would wind down his First Class career with the team he had served outstandingly for so long. Unfortunately, that was not to be after the county decided to sever ties with the champion who took 443 First Class wickets, 83 List A scalps and 50 T20 wickets in 213 matches across formats.

Even in the short interlude since Lancashire's dramatic and largely unpopular call, several counties have started weighing up their options because they believe that even when he is 45, which he will turn midway through next season, Anderson still is far from a spent force or a liability. But while Anderson hasn't yet invoked the R (retirement) word, it's hard to see him switching allegiance at this late stage of his career. Anderson made his displeasure at the call apparent without launching into an all-out attack, saying in a statement, "If it was up to me, it wouldn't have ended like this, but I wish the players and fans all the best for the future." But sadly, it wasn't up to him, and so this is how it has ended.

One hopes that when the emotions settle down, both parties concerned will be able to look back at the long-standing relationship with fondness and nostalgia. Anderson cut his teeth with Lancashire as a 17-year-old in 2000, made his First Class debut in 2002 and was playing One-Day International cricket that same year. His Test debut came in May 2003, also at Lord's where he made his final appearance for his country, and from then on, he became one of the most valued members of the five-day squad, striking up an excellent relationship with that other great England pacer of his generation, Stuart Broad.

Easy, repeatable action

A master of swing who went on and on because of his easy, repeatable action that seemingly put very little strain on his body, Anderson was at his most prolific at home, of course, but it wasn't as if he struggled to adapt to the challenges of the subcontinent where, more than anywhere else, overseas quicks have struggled to make an impact. Towards the later stages of his career, he developed the scrambled-seam delivery that brought him great success, but for the large part, especially but not only with the new ball, he was the master of having the ball on a string and making it go this way and that with a gentle tug here, a little pull there.

An overwhelming majority of his 704 Test wickets came on home turf - 438, which accounted for 62.22% of all his successes in the five-day game - but that's also because he played 106 of his 188 Tests in England. For a fast bowler to continue on for 21 years at the highest level and average nearly nine Tests a year is little short of staggering; it speaks to not just his fitness levels and his propensity to take excellent care of his body, but also to his commitment and hunger and fire and passion, traits that aren't necessarily the most prominent in an era where shelf-lives are getting increasingly shorter and the lure of the 20-over shootout is almost impossible to resist.

Anderson was at his most comfortable with the Duke's ball in his right hand, a ball he practically grew up with, though he showed his felicity with the Kookaburra used in most other parts of the world. Across Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, he snaffled 138 wickets in 40 matches, not in the out-of-the-world category but definitely numbers that exploded the myth that he was a home bully. He also had decent success in India with the SG Test which he isn't all that familiar with - 17 Tests across 18 years fetched him 44 wickets. On his last tour of India in February-March 2024, he grabbed 10 wickets in four outings, gatecrashing into the hitherto exclusive 700-club of Muttiah Muralitharan and Shane Warne in the scenic surrounds of Dharamshala in the final Test of a five-match series that the hosts bossed 4-1.

In perfect harmony

Anderson in action wasn't unlike poetry in motion, with his unhurried and visibly inexplosive run-up and perfect harmony between the operative body parts as he slotted into his delivery stride. It wasn't as if he didn't have bad days, but they were so few and far between as to fall in the 'hen's teeth' section. When the conditions favoured him, he got the ball to whoop around corners, but even when there wasn't much help on offer, he was still a perennial threat because he was always at the batters, giving them not a moment's respite.

That he didn't lose his swing even for a short period over such an extended timeframe at the top level is tribute to his perseverance and humility. Sometimes, it is easy to get carried away with what might appear to be a God-given gift but which needs to be honed and polished and worked on assiduously, day after day, practice session after training stint. Anderson knew he was special, but he also knew that to take that for granted would come with terrible repercussions. Hence the constant quest to keep improving, to keep becoming a better version of himself, to keep plugging away at the nets and in game situations, so that he did not remain static while the world moved ahead of him.

In so many ways, England's decision to disassociate themselves from Anderson after the disastrous 2015 50-over World Cup campaign proved to be a masterstroke. After their first-round elimination – defeat to Bangladesh pulled the rug from under their feet and ensured that they didn't even make it to the quarterfinals despite eight teams advancing to the knockouts – England's bosses got together and arrived at the conclusion that they needed to be smart about how they went about their business. There was a distinct slant towards all-rounders (not just utility players like Mark Ealham and Ronnie Irani and their likes in the mid-1990s), which meant alongside Broad, Anderson was put out to pasture.

Collateral damage

Anderson's ODI numbers at the stage were anything but ordinary – 269 wickets in 194 matches, economy 4.92, a wicket every six overs – but he was collateral damage as a new-age mentality took deep root under Eoin Morgan's captaincy. Who's to say that the Morgan philosophy was flawed, given that England, finally, clinched the World Cup on home patch in 2019 even though they didn't actually beat New Zealand on the field in the final, either in regulation time or in the Super Over, both of which ended with scores level.

Anderson had bowled close to 1,600 overs in ODIs by March 2015, and though he pulled the plug on his List A career in 2019, the T20 challenge was something he was willing to take on head-on. In what has since become his final season with Lancashire, he figured in the domestic T20 blast, mostly fastidiously parsimonious even if, in his final 20-over outing for the county, he ended up conceding 50 runs in his four overs in the 22-run defeat of bitter rivals Yorkshire in the War of the Roses.

Because the next county season isn't until another six months from now, one might get the impression that Anderson has some time before deciding on his next course of action. Only he can say with certainty if he is contemplating a change of counties, if only for one final hurrah; the most dramatic script will entail him taking a bagful of wickets against his old home and bowling his new side to the most comprehensive of victories, but such fairytale scripts seldom play out in real life.

The big call ahead of him is whether he is game to give it one more shot from an unfamiliar dressing room after having spent all his professional career with Lancs since his maiden appearance as a teenager. Whether he swings in that direction remains to be seen. What is beyond question is the magnificence of his craft, the joy he brought so many with his command and control, his prime position in the pantheon of cricketing greats and the almost iron-clad certainty that he will remain the only fast bowler in the 700-wicket club in Test cricket for a long, long time to come.



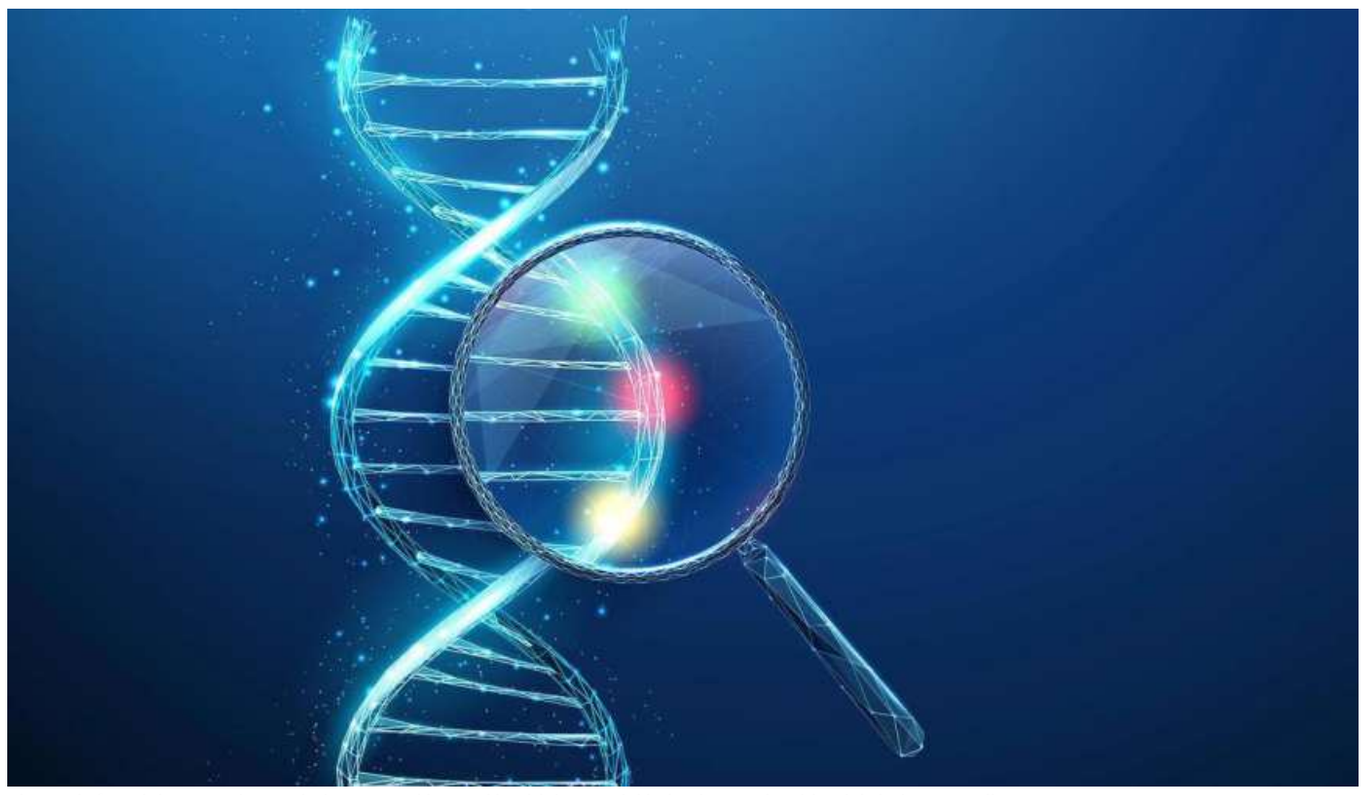
THE GIST

- Anderson cut his teeth with Lancashire as a 17-year-old in 2000, made his First Class debut in 2002 and was playing One-Day International cricket that same year. His Test debut came in May 2003, also at Lord's where he made his final appearance for his country
- He knew he was special, but he also knew that to take that for granted would come with terrible repercussions
- An overwhelming majority of his 704 Test wickets came on home turf — 438, which accounted for 62.22% of all his successes in the five-day game — but that's also because he played 106 of his 188 Tests in England

Your DNA says less about your personality than a short online quiz

The findings of new research reinforce a long-standing idea in genetics that there is no single 'personality gene'; the dataset the researchers used also directly challenged older theories that attempted to link traits to particular brain chemicals

Anirban Mukhopadhyay
NEW DELHI



The study found that genetic correlations extend beyond health into social behaviour and residential choices as well. GETTY IMAGES

Decades of psychology have categorised human personality into five broad buckets: openness to experience (curiosity and imagination), conscientiousness (organisation and responsibility), extraversion (sociability), agreeableness (compassion), and neuroticism (a tendency towards anxiety and volatility).

In new findings published in *Nature*, scientists have completed one of the largest-ever genetic analyses of these 'big five' traits, offering a more detailed picture of the genetic architecture of personality.

"The finding that genetic signals were broadly consistent across different contexts... supports the view that personality traits such as extraversion and neuroticism have a biological basis," Veena Kumari, professor of Experimental Psychology at Brunel University London, said. "However, like most psychological constructs, personality is a complex phenotype." She noted that human behaviour remains deeply tethered to its environment and "may not be similarly expressed, or even measured with the same precision" across different walks of life.

Inside the genome

The global team of researchers analysed data from up to 1.14 million participants across 46 study cohorts. Participants first completed validated personality questionnaires, which allowed the researchers to assign each person a score for the five traits.

The researchers then analysed the participants' DNA using a genome-wide association study (GWAS). That is, they looked across the genome for tiny genetic differences that tended to occur more often in people with higher or lower scores on each personality trait.

"The study identified some 1,250 DNA [variations] that are associated with personality traits," Mani Ramaswami, professor of neurogenetics at Trinity College Dublin, said. "It is important to note that these are tiny changes in the DNA and not the genes as a whole. Each one on its own has a minuscule effect" on human behaviour.

The goal of this exercise was not to find a single piece of DNA that determines whether someone is outgoing or anxious but to spot patterns spread across the genome in the form of genetic variants that, taken together, could be associated with small differences in personality across a large number of people.

Genes and life

The findings reinforced a long-standing idea in genetics that there is no single 'personality gene'. The dataset also directly challenged older theories that attempted to link traits to particular brain chemicals. The team found several gene variants scattered across the DNA, and tallied them up into a single number called a polygenic index – a score that combines the effects of the variants, each associated with specific traits.

The researchers then used these scores to test whether the genetic patterns associated with personality turned up in other parts of the people's lives. Specifically, by comparing these indices with large publicly available datasets on health, behaviour, and social outcomes, they found a range of genetic connections. For example, genetic patterns associated with higher conscientiousness were linked to a lower body mass index, fewer hospital visits, and lower substance use. Genetic patterns associated with neuroticism, on the other hand, showed strong associations with anxiety, depression, and other psychiatric disorders.

Seeing DNA linked to such serious health outcomes might make the index sound like a genetic crystal ball. Michel Nivard, professor of genetic epidemiology at the University of Bristol, is quick to burst that bubble.

"Look, if you want to know more about your personality, you can take a 3-5 minute online test. It will be highly predictive," Dr. Nivard said. For an individual, he said, the genetic effect "is weak, and adds no information over a 3-5 minute test at all."

Instead, the breakthrough's true value is at the macroscopic level. The genetic data is "strong enough to do new kinds of psych-, bio-, and social science of personality in larger groups," Dr. Nivard said, "where we work with averages across many individuals."

Beyond correlations

Hemant Tiwari, professor of Biostatistics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, warned against jumping to conclusions like having a neurotic personality could cause someone to become depressed.

He noted that human biology is messy, and "shared genetic influences can affect personality, psychopathology, cognition, self-regulation, and health simultaneously."

In other words, the same genes that shape our temperament may also trigger certain health issues, rather than one causing the other. Because the data cannot reliably separate the two, Dr. Tiwari said, "whether personality itself causally drives downstream outcomes remains unresolved."

The genetic correlations extend beyond health into social behaviour and residential choices as well. The study found that by middle age, people with genetic profiles associated with higher openness to experience were more likely to have moved into cosmopolitan professional areas. Meanwhile, those with genetic profiles associated with higher conscientiousness were more likely to have moved away from cosmopolitan areas and toward affluent suburban communities.

The researchers also tried untangling nature from nurture by looking at siblings in their data. Siblings share the same upbringing but inherit slightly different combinations of DNA. By comparing them, the researchers could strip away the effects of the childhood environment and isolate the direct impact of genetics.

While parents still shape their children in complex ways, the data show the environmental transfer of personality is neither strong nor straightforward. As Dr. Nivard noted, the findings largely exclude "the possibility that extraverted parents environmentally cause their kids to be more extraverted".

Sequencing within families

Translating these insights into global clinical practice, however, faces a severe bottleneck. The genomic databases powering this research are dominated by individuals with European-like genomes. When a polygenic index built on such data is applied to populations with different genetic ancestries, prediction generally becomes less reliable.

Moving forward, Dr. Ramaswami said DNA sequencing within families exhibiting extreme behavioural variants will be far more useful than broad population studies.

An approach along these lines, he noted, is already being pioneered in India for psychiatric conditions through a joint effort by the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) and the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), both in Bengaluru.

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THE GIST

A recent study has offered a more detailed picture of the genetic architecture of personality

The global team of researchers analysed data from up to 1.14 million participants across 46 study cohorts

Participants first completed validated personality questionnaires, which allowed the researchers to assign scores to each person

The researchers then looked across the genome for tiny genetic differences that tended to occur more often in people with higher or lower scores on each personality trait

The study identified some 1,250 DNA variations associated with personality traits, with each one on its own having a minuscule effect on human behaviour

BIG SHOT



Vincenzo Valentini, director of the Center of Excellence for Oncology and Diagnostic Imaging at the Tiberina Island Hospital in Rome, poses in the radiotherapy department, Rome, October 6, 2026. Through large windows, the clinical space looks directly onto the archaeological remains of an ancient Roman temple, offering patients a contemplative view before their oncology treatments. AFP

WHAT IS IT?

Glaciers ending in lakes

Press Trust of India

Glaciers ending in lakes, oceans or ice shelves account for over 3% of the world's glaciers but lost 134 billion tonnes of ice annually between 2000 and 2019, contributing to more than half of all glacier ice loss, a new study has found.

Environmental scientists led by the UK's University of Birmingham and the University of Leeds found that glaciers ending in lakes are generally much larger than those ending on land, together covering more than half of the world's glacier area.

The findings, published in *Nature Communications*, also showed that lake- and ocean-ending glaciers flow on average 10% and 44% faster than those ending on land, respectively, and lake-ending glaciers lose around 57% more ice than land-ending glaciers, relative to their size.

"Glaciers ending in lakes really stand out -- they're losing ice particularly quickly. We don't yet know exactly why. It could be the lakes themselves, the size and shape of the glaciers, or a bit of both. Untangling that is the next big question, especially as glacier lakes are becoming more common in a warming climate," said author Joseph Mallalieu.

The researchers explained that lakes can affect glaciers in ways that may contribute to a higher ice loss. Lake-ending glaciers can lose large chunks of ice from the glacier front as icebergs, a process known as calving, and lake water can melt the ice below the waterline, both helping to speed up ice loss, they said.



Ice melts at the Skuta glacier near Kamnik, Slovenia. AP

Models used for projecting glacier change do not yet fully account for glaciers ending in lakes, the researchers added.

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