THURSDAY
November 5, 2026

DELHI
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 12.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 16 • No. 262
Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08
RNI No. UPENG/2012/49940

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Hockey star's Olympic gold stolen in Bengaluru

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DELHI SIR

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IN BRIEF



City braces for 'severe' pollution on Deepavali

NEW DELHI
Delhi's air quality remained in the 'very poor' category for the third consecutive day on Wednesday. It is likely to deteriorate to 'severe' category pollution over the coming days, with respite unlikely before Deepavali. » Page 2

Rahul kicks off Cong.'s Punjab poll campaign

CHANDIGARH
Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi kicked off his party's campaign for the Punjab Assembly election in Sangrur, the home district of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, on Wednesday, taking on AAP and BJP. » Page 4

Democrats seize Congress in major setback to Trump

Opposition party flips seats long held by Republicans as it secures majority in both the House and Senate; the U.S. President says results 'not a hit on him', warns against any attempt to impeach him

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Democrats seized control of the U.S. Congress after the midterm election on Tuesday, capturing the Senate and House of Representatives with a stunning, nationwide rejection of President Donald Trump set to put the brakes on the final two years of his term.

With most of the electoral races called by Wednesday, the Opposition party won at least 237 seats in the 435-member House and increased its strength in the 100-member Senate to at least 54.

Democrats flipped seats that had long been held by Republicans, scoring breakthroughs in South Carolina, North Carolina, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Texas, and Maine as public anger at rising living costs compounded dissatisfaction with an already deeply unpopular President.



Jubilant crowd: Democratic supporters in Texas react on Tuesday as the party secured major victories in the midterm polls. REUTERS

In Texas, Democrat James Talarico, a former schoolteacher who campaigned on a "politics of love", won the Senate defeating the State's attorney-general Ken Paxton, a close ally of Mr. Trump.

Mr. Talarico becomes the first Democrat to win Statewide office in Texas since 1994 while Gina Hinojosa unseated the State's Republican Governor, Greg Abbott, ending decades of Republican rule. The scale of the victory grew further when Abdul El-Sayed defeated former Republican lawmaker Mike Rogers in Michigan to become the first Muslim elected to the upper chamber of Congress.

Mr. Trump struck a conciliatory tone despite his history of questioning elections, telling *The New York Times* he was "absolutely willing" to accept the results. He also sought to distance himself from his party's poor showing, telling a news channel that: "I do not view it as a hit on me."

He also warned the Democrats against launching any effort to impeach him, saying that it would "destroy" their party.

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Union Cabinet clears two-year service extension for Agniveers, opens path to regular service

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved an additional two-year engagement period for a section of Agniveers, creating a pathway for all cadets under the Agnipath scheme to join the armed forces as regular soldiers, subject to their willingness and fulfilment of selection criteria.

Significant revision

The move marks a significant revision of the original Agnipath framework, under which only up to 25% of each batch of Agniveers were eligible for retention in the regular cadre after four years, while the remaining personnel were to be released from service. Under the revised arrangement, 25% of Agniveers will continue to be offered regular employment while the remaining 75% would be given an opportunity to serve for another two years, following which they would be eligible for consideration for enrolment as regular soldiers, Chief of Defence Staff, General N.S. Raja Subramani, told mediapersons on Wednesday.

The second engagement period will come with higher remuneration, an enhanced Seva Nidhi package, and seniority benefits.

Career trajectory

The revised arrangement creates a pathway for all Agniveers to eventually become regular soldiers

- 25% of Agniveers to be offered regular employment on the basis of merit, as envisaged under the Agnipath scheme
- Remaining 75% to get opportunity for a 2-year extension and subsequent enrolment

Performance review

The decision follows an assessment of the performance of Agniveers in terms of organisational requirements and operational efficiency.

The evaluation found that they had demonstrated outstanding performance in skills, motivation, physical fitness and technological prowess, according to the government, he added.

The additional engagement period was approved on the recommendations of the three services following an elaborate evaluation and feedback process, the Chief of Defence Staff added.

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ADDRESSING DISCONTENT
» PAGE 10

Falling fertility has made laws penalising violation of two-child norm outdated: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday held that laws penalising having more than two children have lost their relevance due to the falling fertility rate in India.

"We are of the strong opinion that laws that penalise having more than two children have lost their relevance. The foundation of such laws, that is, the fear of overpopulation, has crumbled due to demographic changes in the past few decades," a Bench headed by Justice P.S. Narasimha observed.

The court said its 2003 judgment (in *Javed v. State of Haryana*) which upheld such penal laws, needed a revisit by a larger Bench.

India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) had fallen from 3.02 to 1.9. A TFR of 2.1, known as the replacement rate, would allow one generation to completely replace itself.

"Even though India's population is not yet declining, the TFR falling below the replacement rate will soon result in a demographic transition towards an older population with a declining share of the working-age population. Therefore, laws aimed at limiting population growth have now lost their significance," Justice Narasimha observed.

The 2003 judgment had referred to the situation that existed in China as of 2000 and drew inspiration from the measures that it had undertaken to control the population.

Healthy growth

"The earlier perception that population has a negative impact on development does not hold water any more. Rather than society and the courts being concerned about the negative consequences of high population, it should instead focus on the need to encourage a healthy growth of population," the judgment, by a Bench including Justice Alok Aradhe, said.

The judgment pointed out that the share of persons aged 60 and above had risen from about 8.3% in 2014 to 9.7% in 2024, and government projections place that share at nearly 15% by 2036.

India's falling fertility rate, the court said, would necessarily mean a smaller proportion of younger persons in the future. The court said the failure to take notice of demographic changes would lead to only serious consequences. Failure to adapt not only produced injustice, but was also an abuse of power.

The judgment was based on a petition filed by Mangala Bhimrao Ingle, whose election as sarpanch of the Kakoda gram panchayat in Maharashtra was set aside on the ground that she had more than two children.

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Back to work



Dusting off: After making repairs to boats damaged by waves during Cyclone Murasu, fishermen get ready to venture back into the sea near Kothapatnam in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

Suspect in Guwahati hotel shooting case killed in 'encounter'

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The prime accused in the October 26 Guwahati hotel shooting, which killed five, was shot dead in an alleged police encounter in Sivasagar on Wednesday.

The encounter took place around 3.10 a.m. at Phulpanichiga under the Gaurisagar police station limits, when police were taking the accused, 34-year-old Ghanakanta Gogoi, from Guwahati to Sivasagar in connection with a 2024 bank fraud case registered in the district.

Gogoi asked the police personnel to stop the vehicle to relieve himself, and then attacked the accompanying team and tried to escape from custody, according to Sivasagar's Senior Superintendent of Police Papori Chetia.



Ghanakanta Gogoi.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Ghanakanta then tried to snatch an officer's service revolver. Three shots were fired from the revolver amid the scuffle, and one of our officers was seriously injured," she said.

Ms. Chetia said one of the police personnel, accompanying the team, had to use his service weapon to stop Gogoi from escaping. "Knowing about his criminal intentions and use of weapons, we had to take precautions," she added. The Sivasagar police had obtained a production warrant from a Guwahati court in connection with the bank fraud case.

On Tuesday, a Guwahati court sent Gogoi to judicial custody after his seven-day police remand in the hotel shootout case was completed. The Sivasagar police subsequently took him into custody in connection with the pending bank fraud case.

His lawyer had earlier raised concerns over his safety during police custody, following which a Guwahati court directed the police to ensure safeguards, including regular medical exams and protection against custodial torture. Gogoi had been arrested within an hour of the October 26 shooting, which left five dead – Bhudev Bharali, 65, Helena Bharali, 58, Debarshi Kashyap, 39, Rinika Kashyap, 30, and Narayan Das, 48. Another person was injured.

Property dispute

Assam Police formed a special investigation team (SIT) which found that the hotel shootout could have stemmed from a dispute over the property's lease, renovation expenses and financial arrangements. Gogoi took the hotel from the Bharalis on a five-year lease on September 10, 2025, with the monthly rent reportedly fixed at ₹1.8 lakh.

The SIT is also probing how Gogoi obtained the .32-bore pistol allegedly used in the shooting. He reportedly purchased the firearm, along with 40 rounds of ammunition, from a shop in Nagaland's Dimapur in October 2024 for about ₹3 lakh.

String of 'encounters'

Gogoi's death is the latest in a series of alleged police encounters in Assam since May 2021, when Himanta Biswa Sarma was sworn in as the Chief Minister. The State recorded 210 police encounters till January 24, leading to more than 80 deaths and over 180 injuries. Human rights organisations noted a 20-fold surge in shooting incidents involving the police between May 2021 and January 2024 compared to the period immediately preceding it.

Apex court seeks response from Union govt. on pleas challenging lifelong legal immunity to CEC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought a response from the Union government on petitions challenging the constitutionality of a specific provision in the Chief Election Commissioner-Election Commissioners' appointment law which grants them blanket, lifelong immunity from any legal action or criminal prosecution, not only during the official tenure but even after retirement.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant issued notice to the Centre and the Election Commission of India (ECI) on petitions filed by RJD MP Manoj Jha, represented by Tanya Srivastava; and advocate Arun Kumar Agrawal, represented by advocate Neha Rathi, challenging Section 16 of The Chief Election Commissioner And Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions Of Service And Term Of Office) Act, 2023.

The court listed the petitions on December 18.

The petitions said the Section was unconstitutional, went beyond the ambit of powers given to the ECI and, significantly, violated the Basic Structure of the Constitution. "Section 16 of the Act bars jurisdiction of Constitutional courts and interferes with the power of judicial review, held to be a part of the Basic Structure of Constitution," they submitted.

Ms. Rathi submitted that a plain reading of the provision showed a bar on any court to entertain or continue any civil or criminal proceedings against "any person who is or was a Chief Election Commissioner or an Election Commissioner for any act, thing or word, committed, done or spoken by him when, or in the course of acting or purporting to act in the discharge of his official duty or function".

Capital braces for 'severe' air pollution on Deepavali

Share of stubble burning in city's foul air doubles from 8.2% on Tuesday to 16.28%; notices issued to Punjab Police officers for non-compliance; govt. artificially reducing pollution reading, says AAP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality remained in the 'very poor' category for the third consecutive day on Wednesday. It is likely to deteriorate to 'severe' category pollution over the coming days, with respite unlikely before Deepavali, according to official data.

Several areas in the city, including ITO, Dwarka, Rohini, Punjabi Bagh, Alipur, Bawana, Jahangirpuri and Narela, recorded 'severe' levels of air pollution on Wednesday. The Central government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi forecast that air quality would remain in the 'very poor' category on Thursday before deteriorating to 'severe' on Friday.

According to the CPCB's daily bulletin, Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) rose to 377 (very poor) at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, up from 350 the day earlier.

The AQI measures air pollution on a scale of 0 to 500. A higher value indicates poorer air quality.


City residents wearing masks amid dense haze near India Gate. ANI

An AQI reading between 201 and 300 is considered 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe', and 451 and 500 'severe plus'.

Stubble burning spike

Meanwhile, the contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to Delhi's PM2.5 levels, a key pollutant, doubled to 16.28% on Wednesday from 8.2% on Tuesday, according to data from the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.

It is expected to increase to 19.2% on Friday.

Against this backdrop, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) issued show-cause notices to the Senior Superintendents of Police and Deputy Commissioners of five districts in Punjab.

"The Commission hereby directs you to explain why action should not be initiated... for non-compliance/contravention of the order(s)/direction(s) issued by the Commission," the notice dated Wednesday stated. It added that adequate supervision and effective implementation and enforcement of the action plan to eliminate stubble burning had evidently been lacking, even as high levels of paddy stubble burning continued to be recorded.

Blame game continues

The political slugfest over air pollution continued, with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) writing to the CAQM accusing the Delhi government of manipulating air quality data. "Just like last year, water is being sprayed over monitoring stations to reduce AQI readings," AAP Delhi president Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged.

Meanwhile, Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa continued to target the AAP government in Punjab.

"The facts are out, and the numbers speak for themselves. Punjab's stubble-burning crisis cannot be hidden behind political excuses and propaganda," he wrote in a post on X.

Delhi Police East district to hold weekly grievance meetings for personnel

Lavpreet Kaur
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police's East unit has announced weekly meetings every Friday to address the grievances and welfare concerns of its personnel. The move comes against the backdrop of Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Manasvi Vashishta's suspension following a protest outside the police headquarters.

According to an order signed by Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Vipul Anekant on Tuesday, all branch incharges must attend a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) office at 4 p.m. every Friday. Personnel with unresolved administrative grievances can attend to submit written applications for redressal. Station House Officers (SHOs) and supervisory officers have been directed to inform personnel about this arrangement during daily briefings and roll calls.

The chain of events began with a minor parking dispute outside a salon in north-east Delhi's Rohtash Nagar on October 23,


ACP Manasvi Vashishta was suspended following Monday's protest outside the police headquarters. FILE PHOTO

which escalated into a confrontation between lawyers and police personnel.

Row over parking

On October 23, salon owner Rahul Thakur and his wife Sheetal had an argument with a man over a motorcycle blocking their shop entrance. A group of lawyers joined the altercation, vandalised the salon and assaulted the owner and his wife, who is eight months pregnant.

When the family reached the Shahdara police station to lodge a complaint, another confrontation broke out between the lawyers and the family. During the scuffle, a man allegedly hit advocate Lalit Bansal on the head with a police nameplate. An FIR was registered against Mr. Rahul and his brother-in-law, Vipul Bhati, who then went absconding.

Counter complaint

The failure to arrest the accused led to another confrontation between the lawyers and police officials. During a meeting on October 24, the lawyers alleged ACP Vashishta threatened them with a revolver. Meanwhile, a counter case was registered against Mr. Bansal and advocate Amulya Ratan for misbehaving with police officers inside the station. On October 28, the police transferred the ACP and SHO Arun Kumar, triggering deep resentment within the force. On November 2, over 100 police personnel protested outside the headquarters, following which the Ministry of Home Affairs suspended the ACP pending proceedings.

Mr. Kumar has now been posted to the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations unit, according to an order on Wednesday.

HC lists pleas on Gymkhana Club eviction for Nov. 25

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday said it will hear on November 25 lawsuits over Centre's proceedings against the Delhi Gymkhana Club for its eviction from the 27.3-acre premises on Safdarjung Road.

Justice Manoj Jain noted that a Bench has already passed an order that the Estate Officer may continue with the proceedings. but will not pass final order till November 17, the next hearing date.

FIR against Bhushan over Lavrov video

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police's Special Cell has registered a case against senior advocate Prashant Bhushan for allegedly circulating a doctored video of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov criticising India over internal affairs and oil purchases. Further probe is on, the police said.

More than 1 lakh registrations for govt.'s rooftop solar scheme: CM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Over 1 lakh people have registered under the 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana' to instal rooftop solar systems in Delhi, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Wednesday.

Speaking during a 'Solar Plenary' session at the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit and Expo at Bharat Mandapam, Ms. Gupta said the registrations reflect "growing public confidence in solar energy".


Chief Minister Rekha Gupta addressing an event at Bharat Mandapam on Wednesday. ANI

"The Delhi government is encouraging people to install rooftop solar systems. Systems of up to 3 kW are being installed free of cost, while subsidies of up to ₹1.56 lakh are being provided for higher-capacity systems," the Chief Minister said.

'Source of clean energy'

"The government's aim is to make every rooftop in the Capital a source of clean energy, provide relief to every household in its electricity bills and make Delhi an example for the rest of the country in the field of solar energy," said Ms. Gupta.

'Hold sessions to sensitise students on firecrackers'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Education (DoE) has directed all government and private schools in Delhi to organise special assemblies on Thursday and Friday to sensitise students about the harmful effects of bursting firecrackers.

The directive follows the Supreme Court's October 29 judgment on firecracker use and air quality management during the festive season.

The Directorate has asked schools to educate students about the harmful effects of firecrackers.

Bursting fireworks is prohibited within 300 metres of hospitals, nursing homes, health centres, old-age homes and notified silence zones.

Meanwhile, many private schools are taking steps to protect students from rising pollution levels, including restricting outdoor activities, installing air purifiers and advising children to wear masks.

Class 3 student dies after collapsing in classroom, police register case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A nine-year-old Class 3 student died after collapsing inside her classroom at a private school in east Delhi's Mayur Vihar on Wednesday, the police said.

Case registered

The police have registered a case under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita in connection with the death and examined the CCTV footage to ascertain the circumstances leading to the incident.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Rajeev Kumar said the incident occurred around 9.20 a.m., when the girl returned to her classroom after a sports period.

"Police Control Room received a call around 9.52 a.m. She was rushed to Vimla Devi Hospital and later shifted to Malik Radix Health Care in Nirman Vihar, where she was declared brought dead.

The CCTV footage showed the girl collapsing as she approached her teacher, who rushed to her aid," the officer said.

The victim's family alleged that she was not given timely medical attention or CPR. The police, however, clarified that CCTV footage showed the teacher attending to her immediately.

School Principal Bhavna said the hospital informed the school that the girl had suffered a cardiac arrest and that her family had been informed.

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

Hue and Cry Notice Rule No. 712/191

SHO P/S Bakshi Nagar, Jammu has intimated that accused person namely **Amin S/O Abdullah R/O Chambalvas Rambanis** evading his arrest/wanted in case FIR No. 17/1981 U/S 457/380 RPC of P/S Bakshi Nagar, Jammu, since the commission of crime. Despite repeated raids/efforts the accused could not be traced/still absconded.
It is therefore requested that Hue and Cry Notice of above mentioned accused is being published for the information of Police establishments / Public in general having any clue related to the whereabouts / present location of above named accused, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact / Telephone numbers.

Description Roll :-

Name : Amin
S/O : Abdullah
Address : Chambalvas Ramban

Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-

1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2605949
4. SP City North : 0191-2547038
5. SDPO City West : 0191-2580251
6. P/S Bakshi Nagar : 0191-2580102

Sr. Superintendent of Police
Jammu

DIP/J-13700/26

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

Hue and Cry Notice Rule No. 712/191

SHO P/S Channi Himmat, Jammu has intimated that accused person namely **Munish Salathia S/O Jaswant Singh Slathia R/O H.No. 797, Subash Nagar, Rehari Mohalla,** Jammu is evading his arrest/wanted in case FIR No. 262/2026 U/S 420/467/468/471 IPC of P/S Channi Himmat, Jammu. Despite repeated raids/efforts the accused could not be traced/still absconded.
It is therefore requested that Hue and Cry Notice of above mentioned accused is being published for the information of Police establishments / Public in general having any clue related to the whereabouts / present location of above named accused, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact / Telephone numbers.

Description Roll :-

Name : Munish Salathia
S/O : Jaswant Singh Slathia
Address : H.No. 797, Subash Nagar, Rehari Mohalla, Jammu

Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-

1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2605949
4. SP City South : 0191-2430002
5. SDPO City East : 01912433778
6. P/S Channi Himmat : 0191-2465164,
7. Mb. No. of I/O : 7889666127

Sr. Superintendent of Police
Jammu

DIP/J-13698/26

SKUAST Kashmir
RBIC Foundation
Rural Business Incubation Centre (RBIC)
SKUAST-K | NABARD

Ref No.: RBIC/ADM/CORR/2026/80 Dated:04.11.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

WITHDRAWAL & RE-ISSUANCE OF Tender/RFP

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the tender published through the newspapers under Ref No. RBIC/ADM/CORR/2026/68 dated 28.10.2026 for the "Empanelment of Chartered Accountant Firms and Practising Company Secretaries (FY2026–27)" stands WITHDRAWN / CANCELLED with immediate effect. The withdrawal is made following representations from CA firms regarding minimum fee norms, evaluation criteria, and relevant guidelines.

- A Fresh Tender (RFP) incorporating revised terms and schedule has been uploaded on SKUAST-K website.
- Bids submitted against the earlier notice stand null and void; firms must submit fresh bids.

The detailed notification and fresh tender document (RFP) are available on the University website: www.skuastkashmir.ac.in

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
SKUAST Kashmir RBIC Foundation

DIPK-NB-2034/26

Section 8 Company | CIN: U85500JK2025NPL018385
Shalimar Campus, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir-190025 | Email: rbic@skuastkashmir.ac.in

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
Invitation of bids– Two cover – Item war Tender system (E-Submission)

IFB No.	**12 to 14/ F. O&M of CWSS /SDO I/ CW /2026/Dt.04.11.2026**
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors (Civil)
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai – 625 007
Downloading Period	**05.11.2026** to **07.12.2026** up to **15.00 hours**
EMD Payable	Online Mode or eBG through E-Tendering website **"https://tntenders.gov.in"**
Pre Bid meeting	**13.11.2026** at **11.00** hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**07.12.2026** before **15.00** hours
Bid opening	**08.12.2026** at **15.30** hours through E-Tendering website **"https://tntenders.gov.in**

IFB No	Name of work	Appx. value (including 18% GST)	Bid security
	Operation and Maintenance of the following CWSS including repair, rectification works and supply of chemicals for the period from 01.01.2027 to to 31.03.2029		
12	8 Nos. of CWSS in Tenkasi District (Pkg 12 C)	Rs.22.56 Crore	Rs.16.92 Lakh
13	2 Nos. of CWSS in Virudhunagar District (Pkg 19 B)	Rs.21.47 Crore	Rs.16.11 Lakh
14	CWSS to 637 RH in Virudhunagar District (Pkg 20 B)	Rs.22.71 Crore	Rs.17.04 Lakh

DIPR/ 3422 /TENDER/2026
Chief Engineer (i/c),
TWAD Board, Madurai

SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Cross Selling Department,
Corporate Headquarters, M. A. Road
Srinagar, 190 001 J&K

Online Request for Proposal (RFP) for Empanelment of Insurance Brokers

RFP Notice along with Complete RFP document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal https://jkbank.abcprocure.com w.e.f. November 03, 2026 16.00 Hrs. Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website https://jkb.bank.in/tenderNotice Last date for submission of Bids is November 17, 2026, 17.00 Hrs.
e-RFP Ref. No JKB/E&ED/Empanelment-Insurance-Broker/2026-1933
Dated: 31-10-2026

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048 ; **T :** +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; **F :** +91 (0)194 248 1928;
E : info@jkbmail.com ; **W :** https://Jkb.bank.in

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

"EMPANELMENT OF ADVERTISING AGENCIES"

No.: PR/69/A.A./Part-XIV/26 **Date: 04.11.2026**

Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi, invites applications for the empanelment of advertising agencies, accredited by the Indian Newspaper Society (INS), for the purpose of publishing advertisements, tender notices, auction notices, etc., in newspapers. Application form can be downloaded from BLW's website: **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** from **05.11.2026 to 26.11.2026.** Application must reach the Public Relations office (PRO), Administrative Building, Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), Varanasi-221004 by **13:00 hrs. on 26.11.2026** and the tenders will be opened on the same day, i.e., **26.11.2026 at 15:30 hrs.** This information is also available on BLW's website: **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in.**

PRO/BLW/PR-01 **Chief Public Relations Officer, BLW**

blwvaranasi "Website : http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

Timings
DELHI

THURSDAY, NOV. 05			
RISE	06:36	SET	17:34
RISE	02:43	SET	15:05
FRIDAY, NOV. 06			
RISE	06:36	SET	17:33
RISE	03:41	SET	15:35
SATURDAY, NOV. 07			
RISE	06:37	SET	17:32
RISE	04:39	SET	16:06

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	29	16
Safdarjang	29	16
Palam	27	16

Delhi Palam Today
29ºC Morning will be cool with shallow fog and mist. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool. Weather will be dry. Pollution level will be severe.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
30ºC The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool. Pollution level to increase.

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Government of Odisha
Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha
ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର ବନ୍ୟଜୀବ ବନଖଣ୍ଡ, ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
BALESHWAR WILDLIFE DIVISION
At / PO: KURUDA, Dist: BALESHWAR, PIN - 756056, ODISHA
Control Room No: 94376-91870. e-mail - dfo.balasorewl@odisha.gov.in

RFP No. DFO, BWD 04/2026-27, Dated. 29th October, 2026

RFP Inviting Notice

The Divisional Forest Officer, Baleshwar Wildlife Division invites RFP for Engagement of Consultant / Architect for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the work as mentioned below:

Nature of the Work		Engagement of Consultant/ Architect for preparation of DPR for Eco-Tourism Development at Kashafal Beach.
Indicative Project Cost		Approx ₹ 5.00 Cr.
Bid Processing Fee/ Bid Document (Non-Refundable)		₹ 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) plus 18% GST through DD/ Cheque mode
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)		₹ 30,000/-
Date & Time of availability of the Bid Document		29.10.2026 to 26.11.2026 up to 05:30 PM
Documents & other details can be obtained / downloaded from	Website	https://balasore.odisha.gov.in https://odishaforest.in/
	Offline	Section Officer, O/o the Divisional Forest Officer,Baleshwar Wildlife Division, Baleshwar, Mob: 9439097138 / 7538975795
Last date & time for receipt of Bids		Up to 05:30 PM of 26.11.2026
Pre- Bid Meeting		16.11.2026
Date & Time of Bid opening		30.11.2026 at 11:30 AM

Note-The undersigned reserves all the rights to accept or reject any or all Tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

8001/448/2627
Divisional Forest Officer, Balasore Wildlife Division, Balasore
OIPR-8001/8036/1/26-27/0006

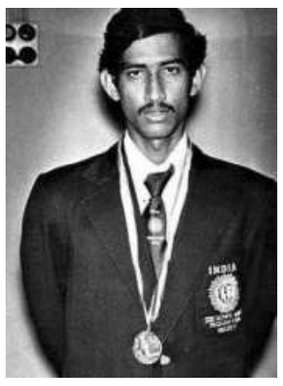
Hockey star's Olympic gold medal stolen in Bengaluru

Several international medals, jewellery and cash stolen from M.M. Somaya's house; he seeks CM's intervention for a thorough investigation into theft; police form two special teams to trace accused

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Burglars broke into the house of former Indian hockey star M.M. Somaya at New Thippasandra in Bengaluru and took his prized 1980 Moscow Olympics gold medal, other international sporting medals, jewellery, and some cash.

The incident, which took place in the early hours of October 28, came to light after the family returned from Kodagu district. "CCTV camera footage from a neighbouring house showed two men breaking open the house door," Mr. Somaya said.



M.M. Somaya with the gold medal that the Indian hockey team won in the 1980 Olympics. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

A three-time Olympian who represented India in 1980, 1984 and 1988, Mr. Somaya captained the Indian Olympic hockey team at the 1988 Seoul Olympics. He was conferred the Arjuna Award in 1985.

"The stolen medal was India's last Olympic gold medal in men's hockey and, therefore, has immense significance not only for me personally, but also for the nation and the history of Indian sport. For me, it is an irreplaceable symbol of years of dedication, sacrifice and service to the country," Mr. Somaya said.

A silver medal from the 1982 Asian Games held in New Delhi, a bronze medal from the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul, and another bronze medal won at the 1982 Champions Trophy in Amsterdam, too were stolen. The burglars also took silver cups, gold jewellery, including bangles, silver spoons, gold coins, and ₹30,000 in cash.

The total value of the stolen property has been estimated at ₹3.53 lakh.

The Indiranagar police have registered a case under Sections 331(4) and 305 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. Two special teams have been formed to track down the accused

Mr. Somaya has written to Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar seeking his intervention for a thorough and time-bound investigation into the theft.

11 held for protesting against land port project at India-Bhutan border

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Eleven people, all residents of Torsa Tea garden in West Bengal's Alipurduar district, have been arrested for protesting against the construction of a land port at the India-Bhutan border. Locals have been protesting at the site demanding rehabilitation and compensation for the past 100 days.

Those arrested include four women and seven men, all hailing from Adivasi and tribal communities. The family members of those arrested said they were not aware of their whereabouts for 18 hours and they were moved to four to five police stations before being arrested.

The FIR registered on November 3 was based on a written complaint, dated November 2, filed by Rakesh Kumar Meena, a junior engineer at the Land Ports Authority of India.

Construction at the site in Gotabari, Torsa Tea garden, had been going on for nearly five months.

During the period, the locals staged a peaceful, indefinite dharna beside the project site. A press statement issued by the Paschim Banga Cha Majoor Samity (PBCMS), a registered non-political union of tea garden workers, pointed out that there was no police complaint of obstruction or violence during the preceding 100 days, where the locals were protesting against land acquisition for the project.

According to the PBCMS, a confrontation occurred when bulldozers arrived on November 2 to proceed with work on the "disputed land", ignoring the families' repeated demands for compensation. Locals then protested and argued with officials.

"There was no violence, assault or damage to government property. Protest and disagreement cannot be criminalised as violence," it stated.

The FIR names prominent social activists Anuradha Talwar, Binoy Kerkatta, and Mahesh Xalxo as having allegedly "provocated and instigated" the crowd. However, none of the three was present at the protest site, according to the union.

Earlier this year, an independent fact-finding team comprising Professor Virginius Xaxa, Siraj Dutt, and Anuprada Singh visited Torsa from August 1 to 3. The team's findings confirm that generations of affected families cultivated this land without ownership documents.

Key demands

Following the arrests, locals have launched protests against the administration at the proposed land port site. Observing that the government has "chosen bulldozers and police action instead of dialogue", the PBCMS has called for the immediate release of all 11 people and withdrawal of the "false charges" against them.

HC restrains W.B. govt. from notifying KMC polls till Nov. 6

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday restrained the West Bengal government from issuing any notification for the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) elections till November 6 while reserving its order on a petition challenging the delimitation of wards that increased their number from 144 to 209.

The High Court stated that the matter could not be finally decided on Wednesday and directed the State government not to issue any poll notification based on the impugned delimitation notification in the meantime.

Meanwhile, State Congress general secretary Ashutosh Chatterjee wrote to the authorities concerned and sought the correction of "discrepancies" in the KMC delimitation and booth maps.

(With inputs from PTI)





INBRIEF



'Drought relief paid to 73 lakh farmers; rest to get in 2 days'

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said 73 lakh farmers have so far received ₹5,000 each in initial drought relief ahead of Deepavali and that payments to some farmers were delayed because of problems with bank accounts. Nearly 95% of eligible farmers are expected to receive the amount in the next two days, Mr. Fadnavis told reporters. He added that Ministers would visit farmers' homes and celebrate Deepavali with them. The Maharashtra government has declared 85% of the State drought-hit following deficient rains this year. PTI

ED raids AAP MLA's house in Punjab money laundering case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday raided the premises of AAP's Moga legislator Amandeep Kaur Arora and her family in Punjab in connection with a money laundering investigation linked to the alleged fraudulent acquisition of government properties and other charges, officials said. A total of seven premises were raided, including the residence of Ms. Kaur Arora, who is a doctor and also president of the AAP Women's Wing in Punjab. The premises linked to some of her family members, associates and others, including a de-addiction hospital associated with her husband, Dr. Rakesh Arora, were also searched by ED teams, which were accompanied by armed CRPF personnel. PTI

Rahul kicks off Cong.'s Punjab poll campaign from Mann's home turf

Cong. doesn't run govts. from Delhi, says Lok Sabha LoP at an event in Sangrur; he hits out at AAP, BJP on drug menace; invokes Sidhu Moosewala's murder to attack State govt. over law and order

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi kicked off his party's campaign for the Punjab Assembly election in Sangrur, the home district of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, on Wednesday.

He hit out at the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for "running governments from Delhi".

"Our Chief Minister will be the Chief Minister of Punjab. Neither does the Home Minister of India [Amit Shah] nor the Chief Minister of Delhi run Punjab [when Punjab has a Congress government]," he said while addressing supporters at the 'Insaf Rally'.

Mr. Gandhi took on the ruling dispensation over the issues of law and order and the drug menace and accused AAP of failing to fulfil its pre-poll promises, including those pertaining to minimum support prices, eradicating drugs and cash transfers to women, for the past four years.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with Balkaur Singh, father of the late singer Sidhu Moosewala, at a rally in Sangrur on Wednesday. PTI

Only the Congress, he added, was capable of fighting gangsters and curbing drug abuse.

'We stood with farmers'

"To eradicate drugs from Punjab, to generate employment, strengthen small and medium industries, and stand with the farmers and protect them, elect a Congress government. When the Congress government was here, Punjab had an abundance of small and medium industries, whether it was of sports goods, textiles or the automobile industry. Congress always protected the interests of farmers. Without these two things, you can neither fight gangsters nor can you fight against drugs. And only the Congress party can do this work," he said.

Mr. Gandhi also highlighted the high-profile daylight murder of singer Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala, soon after AAP came to power in the State in 2022.

"What happened to Moosewala has today become a fashion in Punjab. The mindset that shot Sidhu Moosewala in front of everyone, fearlessly, that same mindset is roaming around in every nook and corner of Punjab today," the Congress leader said.

Dig at Amit Shah

Taking a dig at the BJP, the Lok Sabha LoP said, "Amit Shah*ji* says he will eradicate drugs in three years. Let me tell you, he won't even remain the Home Minister by then. My assessment is that the government will be wrapped up within a year."

"Also, on the law and order situation – Mr. Shah should tell the country what is happening in Manipur. Tell the country that your Prime Minister [Narendra Modi] can't go to Manipur because of the law and order situation there," Mr. Gandhi said.

Anti-Sikh riots, drugs have stained Punjab's soul, says Prasad

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH


Ravi Shankar Prasad

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Lok Sabha member Ravi Shankar Prasad on Wednesday said two blots stain Punjab's soul – the 1984 anti-Sikh riots and drug addiction, which cannot heal without "uncompromised justice".

He was speaking at a day-long event, organised in Chandigarh by the BJP's Punjab unit on the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, titled '*Zakhm 84 De* (Wounds of 1984)'.

The former Union Minister took a swipe at the Congress, accusing it of "rubbing salt into the wounds" of the '84 riot victims by staging a rally in Delhi on November 1.

Question for Rahul

Taking on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he said, "I have to ask some questions to Rahul Gandhi, who is visiting Punjab today. On October 31, 1984, the Sikh genocide took place. Your late father, Rajiv Gandhi, said, 'When a big tree falls, the earth shakes.'"

"Rahul Gandhi, you must answer whether you consider this comment given by your late father right or wrong," remarked the Patna Sahib MP.

Mr. Prasad said the Congress had "never cared" about those killed in the anti-Sikh riots but only moved heaven and earth to shield three or four of the party's key leaders. "It was only when the Narendra Modi government stepped in, formed the Special Investigation Team and Justice Dhingra's recommendations were enforced that convictions such as that of [former Congress MP] Sajjan Kumar's were secured," he added.

The BJP said it held the conclave to bring together survivors, eyewitnesses, legal experts and political leaders to discuss the circumstances surrounding the "massacre", alleged conspiracy, legal battles and rehabilitation of victims. "We have neither forgotten 1984 nor will we allow it to be forgotten," State BJP president Kewal Singh Dhillon said.

Day after SC warns of freezing officials' salaries, Mumbai civic body removes encroachments

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI


BMC officials deploying heavy machinery to demolish unauthorised structures in the Borivali East area of Mumbai on Wednesday. PTI

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Wednesday informed the Supreme Court in an urgent oral mentioning that it "erased" structures that encroached on land earmarked for a BEST Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST) bus stand in Mumbai.

The mentioning was made before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant within 24 hours of the court saying it would freeze payment of salaries to the BMC Commissioner and other officials concerned. The order has not been published yet.

The court had accused the BMC of failing to comply with its earlier orders to clear encroachments and make space for the public interest project.

On Wednesday morning, BMC bulldozers rolled in for the demolition drive.

'Orders implemented'

"The orders have been complied with. They have been implemented. All structures in question have been erased," the BMC counsel informed the Bench as soon as the judges convened in court after the lunch break.

The hearing on November 3, in a contempt petition, had witnessed the apex court criticise the municipal corporation for seeking additional time to carry out the eviction.

The Bench, also comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, even voiced suspicion over collusion between the officials and the encroachers.

BJP gives Rajputs no importance, says Rudy amid Council poll row

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Senior BJP leader and Saran MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy has said that the party is not giving much importance to Rajputs and that no person from the Rajput community in Bihar has trust in any Rajput leader.

Mr. Rudy made the remarks while speaking to reporters at Chapra in Saran on Tuesday while replying to a question related to the recently concluded Bihar Legislative Council polls, in which Janata Dal (United) candidate Anand Pushkar lost to Independent candidate Rahul Raj, who belongs to the Rajput community, in the Saran Teachers' constituency.

"Some people are saying that if Rudy*ji* wanted, he [Rahul Raj] would have stepped aside. Do you really think that the BJP gives enough importance to any Rajput that they would actually heed what that person says?" he said.

After facing defeat, Mr. Pushkar, who belongs to the Brahmin community, alleged that the BJP had betrayed him and that all Rajput MPs and MLAs of Saran, including Mr. Rudy, helped the Independent candidate win. "All BJP MPs have openly betrayed me," he alleged.

RJD memorandum

Meanwhile, amid the controversy over two Independent MLCs, Bansidhar Brajwasi and Mr. Raj, allegedly "joining" the BJP following their win, a delegation of the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal on Wednesday submitted a memorandum to Acting Chairman of the Bihar Legislative Council Ram Bachan Rai. The party sought the disqualification of both MLCs under the anti-defection law.

Set up apex court Bench in Chennai, T.N. CM urges Modi

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI


C. Joseph Vijay

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Wednesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to take steps to establish a Bench of the Supreme Court in Chennai. He expressed confidence that Mr. M would take up the issue afresh with the Supreme Court and obtain a favourable decision.

Mr. Vijay said it was one of the long-pending demands of Tamil Nadu. It was first mooted by the State in 1980, citing several factors, including difficulties faced by litigants from southern States in travelling to New Delhi to seek legal remedy. Referring to Article 130 of the Constitution, he pointed out that the Supreme Court could sit in Delhi or any other place or places as decided by the Chief Justice of India, with the approval of the President, from time to time. He also recalled that the issue was discussed at the conference of Chief Justices in 1979.

'Will help many States'

The Chief Minister said locating the Bench in Chennai would benefit all southern States. He highlighted the professional competence and talent of the Madras High Court Bar and that the Madras High Court, established in 1862, was one of the oldest chartered High Courts in India.

T.N. opposed to NEET, Vijay tells task force

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Wednesday reiterated before the Nandan Nilekani-led high-powered task force on examination reforms that the State government was opposed to NEET or similar examinations for admission to higher education courses, and favoured using Class 12 public examination marks as the basis for admission.

The task force, constituted by the Union government to recommend measures to make the country's examination system leak-proof and technology-driven, met Mr. Vijay at the Secretariat.

Members of the task force V. Kamakoti, Anita Karwal, and Shankar Maruwada; State Minister for School Education Rajmohan; Chief Secretary M. Sai Kumar; and other officials were present.

Delhi SIR: several BJP BLAs named as 'objectors' deny filing Form 7s in Mustafabad area

Suruchi Kumari
NEW DELHI

At least 16 of the 20 individuals named as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-appointed booth-level agents (BLAs) and listed as 'objectors' in 787, or 77%, of the total 1,021 deletion applications filed so far in the Mustafabad constituency of Delhi have denied any association with the filing of Form 7s as part of the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of voter rolls.

The Hindu contacted all 20 BLAs registered with the BJP, according to the Election Commission of India (ECI)'s records, who have filed the 787 Form 7s, citing reasons such as "absent/permanently shifted", "already enrolled" and "death" to seek deletion of electors' names. All the applications are against Muslim electors. In all, 16 of the 20 denied having filed or signed any forms since the claims and objections phase began on August 31, while three could not be reached. The remaining BLA, Robin Singh Dhama, confirmed filing Form 7 applications. Almost all of them claimed they had no knowledge of forms being filled using their names.

Filed by third parties

The 787 applications account for 94% of the 837 deletion applications filed by third parties, as per the publicly available list of Form 7s on Delhi's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) website. Form 7 is used to seek deletion of existing names from the electoral roll or to object to the inclusion of names.

One such BLA, Ankit Yadav, who has been named as an objector in 32 Form 7 applications, not only denied filing any of these but also said he had submitted a complaint and his formal resignation as BLA to party representatives.

"I got to know on Sunday that my details have been used to seek deletions of my neighbours belonging to the Muslim community. I know all of them, and we live like family and friends here in this neighbourhood, which has only a couple of Hindu households," he said.

With the help of the area BLO, *The Hindu* verified that all electors concerned live at their registered addresses. The BLO also said he had not received any physical copies of Form 7s.

"When I had taken the role of BLA six months ago, I was told that my work would be to help the BLOs and voters in the area. How can they use my details and pose me as 'fraud'?" Mr. Yadav said.


BJP-appointed BLAs were listed as 'objectors' in at least 77% of the total 1,021 deletion applications filed so far in Mustafabad. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu had reported on October 30 that BJP BLAs had been named as objectors in applications seeking the deletion of Muslim electors who were found living at their addresses in Mustafabad during *The Hindu*'s visit.

One of the objectors, Chandra Shekhar Nainwal, named in applications concerning 28 Muslim electors, had denied filing them and said he was not associated with the BJP.

Apart from him, four others said they were no longer associated with BJP in that capacity.

The 16 BJP BLAs who denied filing the applications include Neeraj Sharma, named as objector in 56 applications so far, Satya Bhama (54), Himanshu (52), Abhishek Mishra (47), Nitin Kumar (40), Ajay Singh Bhati (39), Deshraj (35), Raman (35), Manish Negi (34), Mohan Madan (33), Raj Kumar (33), Ankit Yadav (32), Sawar Singh (32), Kapil (31), and Gangan Papnai (14).

Mr. Sharma said he received a call from the Electoral Registration Officer's office on Tuesday seeking clarification about the objections. However, he denied filing them.

The Hindu had accessed a few Form 7s duly filled and signed in the names of BJP BLAs, including that of Nitin Kumar. Mr. Kumar, while denying filing any of the forms, said he received SMSs relating to verification. BJP BLA Robin Singh Dhama, who has been named as an objector in 57 cases, is an exception. He acknowledged filing Form 7 applications and claimed to have submitted "500 of those". He said, "These people don't live in the area, so why are they on the voter list? I have so far filed 500 such forms."

Violation of ECI's cap

All these objections were received after the ECI introduced a cap of 10 Form 7 applications per individual elector for the entire claims and objections period on October 9.

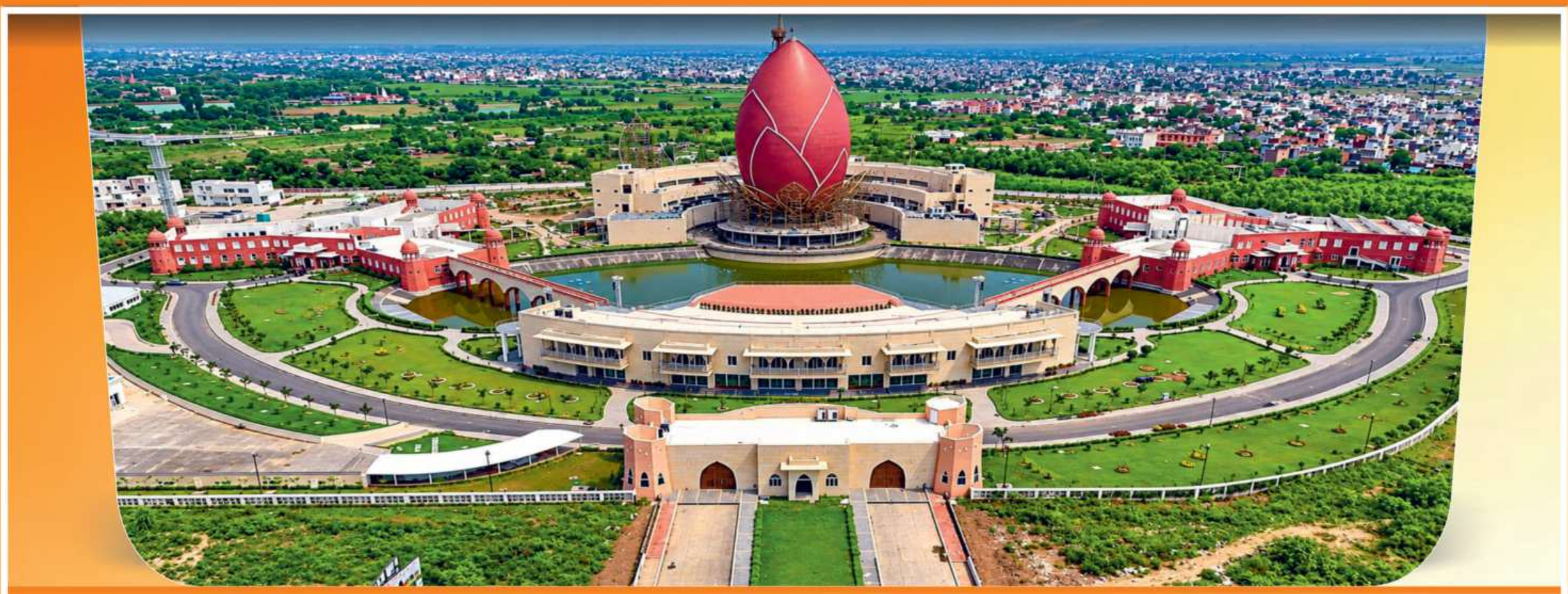
While BLAs are permitted to submit bulk applications of up to 10 forms a day, this provision applies to forms filled by other electors and submitted along with an undertaking from the BLA.

Senior ECI officials had earlier told *The Hindu* that BLAs who filed Form 7 applications in their own names as objectors, without the prescribed undertaking for bulk submissions, were also subject to the top poll panel's October 9 directive.

The ECI's directive also stated that "in case the ERO finds that the complaint is false/fabricated, he shall proceed to take action against the applicant who has knowingly made a false statement or declaration in writing in the Form 7 as per the provisions of the RP Act".

The district election officer, the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer, and the ECI did not respond to questions by *The Hindu*.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X



Government of Haryana

हरियाणा हीरक जयंती
HARYANA HIRAK JAYANTI
1966 - 2026

आजादी की पहली लड़ाई (1857) का शहीद स्मारक



"आज जो हम स्वतंत्र भारत में सांस ले रहे हैं, उसके पीछे मां भारती के लाखों बेटे-बेटियों का त्याग, बलिदान और मां भारती को आजाद कराने के संकल्प के प्रति उनका समर्पण है।"

- नरेन्द्र मोदी

Inauguration of
Shaheed Smarak
Dedicated to the First Struggle for Independence (1857)

November 5, 2026 | 3:00 PM

Shaheed Smarak, National Highway No. 44, Ambala Cantt.

Chief Guest

Sh. Amit Shah

Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation

Presided Over By

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

Chief Minister, Haryana

Other Programmes

Public Meeting

Time - 4:00 PM
Venue - Rally Sthal, Gandhi Ground, Ambala Cantt.

Scan the QR code to join the public meeting

Jalbehra - Shahabad (NH-152G)
Inauguration of the National Highway Project

You are cordially invited

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1089/13/2926/2027/50743/199/7

A ND-NDE

Helping hand

States need help to rebuild public infrastructure after damage in cyclones

Long-term preparedness and a swift response by authorities minimised casualties when the back-to-back cyclones Arnab and Murasu hit two places of the Andhra Pradesh coast. In Andhra Pradesh, damage from Cyclone Arnab, which made landfall on October 28 was estimated at roughly ₹4,526 crore. Initial estimates of the damage by Cyclone Murasu, which crossed the coast on November 3, indicate that about 52,500 hectares of standing crops were affected. The State reported seven deaths from the two cyclones. The first cyclone damaged nearly 90,000 hectares of standing crops in southern parts of Odisha. After preliminary on-the-spot assessment of flood-hit areas, the Union government is expected to soon release the first instalment of funds to the affected States. Personnel from Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu have also gone to the rescue of Andhra Pradesh.

The deployment of the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) and other technologies has significantly reduced human casualties and property damage. During Cyclone Hudhud in October 2014, Andhra Pradesh reported 63 deaths and damage estimated at nearly ₹22,000 crore. As natural disasters become more frequent in India, greater collaboration is needed between higher learning institutions, especially in science and technology, and central and State government agencies. Authorities must develop an effective compensation framework for saving crops/crop losses. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, a crop insurance scheme that was launched by the Union government a decade ago, has not provided farmers with comprehensive safety cover, as they suffer due to the vagaries of nature. The Union government should improve the scheme so that all farmers are encouraged to bring their crops under the scheme, while State governments should raise awareness about the insurance scheme and support agriculturists by topping up benefits that are under the insurance cover. The Centre should also focus on financial assistance for permanent restoration projects. The initial stand of the Union government was that the National and State Disaster Response Funds were meant for response and relief, not recovery and reconstruction, but following the 15th Finance Commission's nudge, it added recovery and reconstruction as a component of the two funds two years ago. However, when public infrastructure suffers extensive damage, the Centre should provide additional assistance to ease the burden on affected States. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his team at the Centre must act in the spirit of "cooperative federalism".

Damning report

The world must act on Justice Muralidhar's report on Israeli atrocities

Briefing the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) last week on the International Commission of Inquiry's latest report on the situation in Israel and the Palestinian territories, its chairperson, retired Indian judge Justice Srinivasan Muralidhar, did not couch his words in ambiguity. He said that the unequivocal conclusion was that Israeli security forces continued to commit "war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of genocide" a year after the October 2025 ceasefire agreement brokered by the U.S. The Commission's third such submission since October 7, 2023, the report focuses on the "killings and bodily and mental harm by state actors", predominantly Israeli security forces. It draws on medical records, satellite imagery, forensic analysis, witness testimony and videos posted by Israeli soldiers. Despite Israeli denials, the report finds that soldiers targeted Palestinian civilians, including infants, by using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify and execute their targets with impunity; the report quotes top Israel officials claiming the killings. Justice Muralidhar said that more than 75,000 Palestinians including 21,500 children and 11,000 women have been killed across Palestinian territories since 2023, and yet "little or no action" is being taken by member-states, including Israel itself. The report calls on UN members to "employ all means" to prevent the genocide, investigate and prosecute suspects for it, and establish clear rules for AI use in conflicts. The Committee had previously called on UN members to halt military transfers to Israel, and pass sanctions against those linked to child abuses, as well as to cooperate with the International Criminal Court to enforce arrest warrants against Israeli officials and soldiers.

The committee's findings have shocked many around the world but have not thus far effected much action. The UNGA lacks the power to implement any resolution aimed at preventing Israel's actions, and the UN Security Council lacks the consensus to do so, given the U.S.'s support of Israel. So, it should come as no surprise that Justice Muralidhar could not even present the report to the UNGA in person, as the U.S. withheld grant of a visa. New Delhi, while upholding Palestinian rights and providing humanitarian aid, has avoided any recommendation that could harm relations with Israel. India has abstained from UN resolutions calling for a ceasefire or action against Israel, while continuing to supply it with arms, ammunition, ordnance and drone parts. The Ministry of External Affairs has neither directly criticised Israel's actions nor commented on the disturbing findings of reports by the UN commission chaired by Justice Muralidhar and his predecessor, 2026 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Navanethem Pillay. The government's silence is in conflict with its stated principles and could place it on the wrong side of history.

Anaemia burden — iron alone is no solution



Chandrakant Lahariya

A practising physician and author of the recent book, 'Pill-Free: You Don't Need Everything You Have Been Prescribed'

India must tackle its anaemia burden through targeted nutrition, better diagnostics and comprehensive public health measures, not salt fortification alone

India's anaemia burden is not in doubt. The fifth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) found that more than half of women and about two-thirds of young children are anaemic. In this context, double-fortified salt (DFS) – fortified with iodine and iron – is often proposed as a potentially transformative solution. However, the case for DFS rests on convenience: everyone consumes salt, so why not add iron to it? But convenience is not efficacy, and a policy that asks the country to continue consuming salt to deliver iron deserves closer scrutiny.

Iron fortification of salt is a vehicle that cuts against public health. Indians consume, by most estimates, roughly twice the five grams of salt a day recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). About one in three adults has hypertension, and India's own non-communicable disease (NCD) action plan commits to a 30% relative reduction in salt intake.

DFS pulls in the opposite direction: its logic depends on steady, generous salt consumption. Households that reduce salt also reduce their iron intake, while the label 'double fortified' invites the belief that more is fine. Calling DFS compatible with sodium reduction is a gesture, not a design.

The claim that salt is consumed in predictable quantities regardless of income also needs qualification. Intake varies by age, sex and region. Adult men typically consume the most, while young children and women consume the least. The groups with the greatest need for iron may therefore receive the smallest doses, while those least likely to be anaemic get the most.

Iron is not a harmless nutrient

The body has no regulated way to excrete iron. Iron can accumulate, promote oxidative stress and has been linked to metabolic disease. In the landmark 2006 Pemba trial in Tanzania, Africa, iron and folic acid supplementation in children in a malaria-endemic setting was associated with increased hospitalisations and deaths. A Kenyan trial published in 2015 found that iron-fortified foods shifted infants' gut flora toward pathogenic bacteria and increased diarrhoea. India has large malaria-endemic and poorly sanitised areas.

Haemoglobinopathies are a further concern. Millions of Indians carry beta-thalassaemia, while sickle cell disease is concentrated in tribal belts. People with thalassaemia, especially those who receive blood transfusions, are prone to iron overload. In this population and settings such as India, screening is not a very good safeguard, nor is it practical. The Public Distribution System (PDS), for example, reaches about 800 million people; screening that many people before they consume salt is simply unrealistic.

There is also the problem of stacking. Fortified rice is already distributed through multiple platforms, including the Public Distribution System (PDS), the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) scheme and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme. Iron-folic acid tablets are also distributed to several groups. Adding DFS could mean that a child or adolescent receives iron through three or four government programmes at once. There does not seem to be any published analysis of cumulative iron intake across these programmes. Without one, a 'central flagship' rollout would be premature.

There is another dimension to consider: what happens when iron interacts with food. The iron in DFS is non-haem iron, whose absorption depends heavily on the rest of the meal. The typical Indian meal of cereals, millets and pulses is rich in phytates, which bind iron. Polyphenols in tea and coffee, as well as calcium in milk, further reduce absorption. Non-haem iron absorption from such meals is often low, compared with the much higher absorption of haem iron or iron consumed with vitamin C on an empty stomach.

Salt is added during cooking and at the table, so DFS is by definition taken with food. Much of the iron fortificant remains unabsorbed and reaches the colon, where it can feed the wrong microbes. Efficacy trials with supervised delivery and validated specifications do not show what happens with household cooking losses, uneven dosing and variable diets. Absorption is also blunted in people with infection or inflammation, because the hormone hepcidin blocks iron uptake. Fortification therefore works least well where infection burdens are highest.

Iron deficiency only in half of anaemia cases

Anaemia is not the same thing as iron deficiency. Globally, roughly half of anaemia cases are attributed to iron deficiency. India's Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (2016-18) measured biomarkers and found that iron deficiency explained only part of the anaemia in children and adolescents.

The rest comes from many causes: folate and vitamin B12 deficiency, which are common in vegetarian populations; chronic inflammation and recurrent infections; hookworm; malaria; poor sanitation; haemoglobinopathies; and overall undernutrition, including low protein and vitamin A. Early marriage and pregnancy, adolescent undernutrition and menstrual losses add to the picture. Measurement matters too, since capillary haemoglobin readings and the cut-offs used affect the prevalence figures, and these are debated.

The Indian diet is certainly monotonous and low in haem iron, but diet is only one pathway. A single-nutrient fix applied to a multi-causal condition will under-deliver, and may distract from the diagnostics and sanitation investments that matter. While a single nutrient solution is unlikely to work, India's revised strategy for tackling anaemia – 7x7x7 approach – deserves credit for inclusion of additional measures, to the ongoing strategies.

But gaps remain. The programme still leans on iron-folic acid tablets, despite well-documented compliance challenges and gastrointestinal side effects. Haemoglobin testing alone cannot establish the cause of anaemia, while routine testing for ferritin, vitamin B12 and inflammation markers remains largely absent. "Eating Right" risks becoming an awareness slogan unless it addresses the affordability of foods for households such as eggs, dairy, greens and millets. Digital tracking tends to count tests and tablets rather than health outcomes. Deworming, malaria control, and water, sanitation and hygiene remain at the margins. Making DFS a flagship scheme would reintroduce the one-solution thinking that the 7x7x7 framework is meant to move beyond.

A better pathway

Peru reduced child anaemia by double digits in the early 2010s. It made anaemia a political priority, tracked children by name through health contacts, combined iron supplements and micronutrient powders with cash transfers, and held regions accountable. Progress reversed when the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted service delivery, a reminder that outcomes depend on sustained service delivery rather than a product.

Vietnam is often cited for sharp declines in anaemia among women through weekly iron-folic acid supplementation, deworming and fish sauce fortified with sodium iron ethylenediaminetetraacetate (NaFeEDTA), a form of iron that is better absorbed in phytate-rich diets. These measures were accompanied by rising incomes and greater dietary diversity. Even Vietnam's fortification strategy was carefully matched to local diets and paired with other measures. Neither case shows that a one fortified food can tackle anaemia on its own.

India should not scale up DFS nationally without more groundwork. It should first conduct monitored district-level pilots that measure ferritin, haemoglobin and inflammation, assess cumulative iron exposure across programmes, and monitor potential harm in malaria-endemic and haemoglobinopathy-prone areas.

Fortification should be targeted rather than universal and use better-absorbed iron forms. Meanwhile, greater investment should go towards diagnostics to identify the causes of anaemia, deworming, sanitation and affordable access to diverse foods. Anaemia has multiple causes and cannot be solved by an additive in the salt bottle.

What the BRICS carbon market partnership needs



Shashank Pandey

A 1991 Fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Washington DC. He is working on carbon market operations in Uttar Pradesh

BRICS can turn fragmented carbon markets into a coordinated trading framework

On September 12, at the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, the New Delhi Declaration confirmed that BRICS members look forward to implementing the Memorandum of Understanding on the BRICS Carbon Markets Partnership. The commitment remains modest: on capacity-building and experience-sharing, with no trading framework, targets or timeline. The Rio summit acknowledged the memorandum in 2025, and New Delhi has reiterated it. With India's BRICS presidency entering its final quarter, operationalising the partnership requires not so much a common trading platform as a common rulebook.

Eight BRICS members reportedly operate voluntary markets, and Brazil, China, India and Indonesia host over a third of the carbon credit projects registered worldwide. Compliance systems are maturing, too. China's emissions trading system (ETS) – added steel, cement and aluminium through its 2024-25 allocation plan. India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) has notified emission-intensity targets for 490 entities across nine sectors and opened an offset mechanism. Brazil's Law of 2024 establishes the Brazilian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading System (SBCE), a cap-and-trade system. However, none of these markets is linked to another.

Divergence and a common framework

China and India allocate to output-based emissions-intensity benchmarks, while Brazil is establishing an absolute emissions cap. The offset-credit rules of these carbon markets look inward; China's compliance market admits only China Certified Emission Reduction credits; India admits only projects begun after January 1, 2025, and requires them to be exclusive; and Brazil will accept credits only under methodologies accredited by a yet-to-be-constituted body. The legal status of carbon units varies too. In Brazil, the securities regulator oversees the market, while in India, carbon credit certificates are traded on power exchanges under regulations issued by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). Thus, the same tonne of abatement is a different legal instrument in each jurisdiction.

A common framework for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) should therefore be the partnership's first deliverable. BRICS's own 2025 Principles for Fair, Inclusive and Transparent Carbon Accounting already call for comparing producers with peers under similar conditions, using granular default values, and interoperable systems that yield comparable outcomes. The Delhi Declaration does not carry these forward, though it commits members to interoperable standards for low-emission hydrogen and welcomes progress on cooperation among national standards bodies.

The urgency comes from outside. The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) entered its definitive phase in January 2026; the United Kingdom follows in January 2027. Both charge for carbon embedded in imports of steel, aluminium, cement, fertilizer and hydrogen, crediting a carbon price paid at origin only when supported by verified evidence.

The U.K.'s recognition of India's CCTS in August 2026 shows how this works: London decided unilaterally, and relief depends on a form completed by an ISO 14065-accredited verifier. Each exporting country negotiates alone, and exporters without verified data face punitive default values.

Linking domestic carbon projects

A BRICS rulebook would do three things: set common monitoring rules, consistent with ISO 14064, for sectors exposed to border adjustment; mutually recognise verifiers accredited by members' national accreditation bodies, as BRICS customs authorities are pursuing for authorised economic operators; and harmonise registry data fields. Members would gain a collective reference point in dealings with foreign regulators, while exporters would benefit from a single compliance pathway.

The Declaration calls the CBAM unilateral, punitive and discriminatory, but opposition carries greater weight when backed by a credible, verifiable accounting standard.

The second test is a small pilot exchange project that credits domestic markets. Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement provides the legal basis for bilateral transfers of mitigation outcomes with corresponding adjustments. India has a Joint Crediting Mechanism with Japan Two or three members could mutually recognise methodologies where each already has approved methods, and count a capped volume of authorised units from a partner registry within the domestic offset limit.

Such a pilot would expose friction. Corresponding adjustments mean that the host country cannot count the mitigation towards its own nationally determined contribution. Cross-border settlement would involve capital account regulations and the legal classification of the carbon unit, issues for the BRICS Payment Task Force to address. Registries would need to exchange serial numbers and retirement data to prevent double issuance. The pilot's value would lie less in the volume of credits traded than in turning each friction into a defined drafting question with an institutional owner.

Using existing institutions

The New Development Bank could host a shared registry data facility or a purchasing facility for pilot units. The new dialogue on aligning carbon markets with adaptation could direct a share of intra-BRICS transfer proceeds to adaptation, as the Article 6.4 mechanism does, giving members with limited mitigation potential a stake.

Members' interests diverge where China's scale would make it the price-setter, sanctions complicate settlement, and several members compete in steel and aluminium exports. Full linkage of compliance markets is neither likely nor desirable for now. Common MRV rules and a methodology-level pilot differ: both are low-cost, preserve regulatory autonomy, and strengthen domestic compliance markets. A memorandum confined to capacity building is a reasonable beginning, but a common rulebook would turn the partnership into a functioning market.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A rebuke to Trump

American voters have delivered a stinging rebuke to President Donald Trump in the midterm elections, rejecting candidates he personally endorsed. His campaign manoeuvres, including a 'promise' to pay every adult citizen $5,000 if Republicans retained control of Congress, failed to secure victory. The pledge was conditional on a Republican win, rather than an unconditional payment to voters. Given Mr. Trump's conduct after the 2020 election, it is reassuring that he has reportedly said he would abide by the midterm results. Hopefully, Americans and people around the world will also be spared his repeated and obtuse rhetoric. The tariffs that Mr. Trump imposed on numerous countries, including India, through executive action should be reviewed. Congress could seek to revise or revoke them through legislation, subject to the constitutional process.

S. Vasudevan,
Secunderabad

Governance concerns

Darius Khambata, an outgoing Tata Trusts board member, has expressed concern that Tata Sons' decision on September 17 to grant N. Chandrasekaran a third term as chairman has damaged the company's reputation and the image of corporate India (November 3). His criticism was directed at certain board members who supported Mr. Chandrasekaran's reappointment despite opposition from Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata. Ratan Tata would surely have been saddened by the current disagreement among the group's leaders.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

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

Science should move past 'top 2%' label



Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar

Chairman, Review Committee for NEP 2020, Ministry of Education, Chairman, BoG, IIM Calcutta, and formerly, Vice-chancellor, JNU and Chairman, UGC

Indian scientists, like scientists everywhere, deserve recognition for the work they do in advancing knowledge. International visibility is one such form of recognition. Recent media reports stated that India's presence in the "top 2% scientists' database" is on the rise. Irrespective of whether Indian scientists are included in these lists or not, many of them make important research contributions. Their work must be recognised on its own merits. However, it becomes a concern when inclusion in a database becomes a target or when exclusion is mistaken for lack of worth.

John Loannidis and his collaborators, the creators of the "top 2% scientists' database", have cautioned against treating inclusion in the database as conclusive evidence of research excellence. First, the database relies on publication and citation records from Scopus without checking for their originality. Second, the accuracy of author profiles and classification of disciplines affect the results. Third, it does not consider contributions published in regional languages.

There are problems with how the database's main impact scores (which have become the measure of research quality) are calculated. For multi-author papers, one of the factors that contributes to the score is an author's position in the list of authors. The order of authors can have different meanings across disciplines. Moreover, the database provides scores both including and excluding self-citations. But the citation counts alone do not tell us whether a paper is being appreciated, challenged or merely mentioned. In an analysis shared online in 2023, John Philip examined the list based on scientists' work up to 2022 and reported that 12 of 71 physics Nobel laureates and two of 66 chemistry laureates from 1998-2022 were missing. These examples show how scientists whose work may be of significant scientific merit can also be excluded from the database.

India needs both fundamental research and practical solutions without making inclusion in the 'top 2% scientists' database' the primary goal

Implications for research

Science journalists play an important role in explaining scientific advances to the general public. A 2026 study in *Scientometrics* found science journalists, such as Clare Dyer and Jacqui Wise, included in the 2025 'top 2% scientists' database'. While the work of both scientists and science journalists deserves respect for different reasons, inclusion in the database does not, by itself, distinguish original research from science reporting. The same study also identified an author in the list with 217 retracted papers. This shows that the database has limitations that cannot be ignored.

What implications could this have for Indian science if inclusion in the database begins to influence research choices? In some areas, the researcher may be required to work for several years before research outcomes reach a conclusive shape. Also, years of sustained effort is required in both basic research and research aimed at solving practical problems. A young scientist may feel pressure to choose a popular research topic because of its likely potential to attract more citations rather than focusing on their own interests. India needs both fundamental research and practical solutions without making inclusion in the "top 2% scientists' database" the primary goal.

International research assessment initiatives are evolving in how they assess scientific contributions. For example, applicants to the Swiss National Science Foundation are asked not to include citation counts, journal and institutional rankings in their CVs. The objective is to assess their research contributions for its quality rather than these parameters. Indian scientific contributions also need to be recognised in a similar comprehensive manner.

Consider Chandrayaan-3's landing in the Moon's south polar region. It was a team effort combining advanced instruments, engineering and scientific insight. Similar contributions include IIT Madras's SHAKTI microprocessors, NexCAR19 cancer therapy developed by IIT Bombay, Tata Memorial Centre and ImmunoACT, India's indigenous 4G technology stack and Serum Institute's CERVAVAC vaccine. The scientists involved in these contributions may or may not be part of the "top 2% scientists' database", but their work has clearly advanced knowledge, led to practical applications and improved the lives of people. It is this evidence that matters. To strengthen science, it is necessary to recognise those who discover, build, explain or enable others to do so. Recognising scientific contributions in all their forms can support Indian scientists to pursue meaningful research.

Public spaces and democratic citizenship



Robert Rahman Raman

Assistant Professor at SRM University AP

What common thread links the mill workers' general strikes of 1919-20, the 1930 Gandhian civil disobedience movement, and Dr B.R. Ambedkar's farmers' rally against the khoti system in 1938 in Bombay (now Mumbai)? Beyond transgressing colonial laws, these popular mobilisations, representing different strands of anti-colonial movements, used and turned the alien and commanding spaces of colonial cities into a veritable theatre of contestation and claim-making. Following World War I, colonial India embraced new rituals of collective resistance such as processions, flag hoisting, public meetings, marches, boycotts and hartals. These new modes of protest transformed urban civic arenas, parks, seashores, maidans, streets, iconic colonial buildings and public squares, that symbolically represented colonial power, into sites of protest and anti-colonial performance.

Volunteers and activists took to the streets and alleys, organising marches, pickets, and processions that often culminated in large public gatherings, creating dramatic moments of confrontation with the colonial state. This topography of dissent and disobedience not only defied the politics of spatial segregation and public behaviour but further re-territorialised these spaces as nationalist spaces.

Take the Esplanade Maidan (now Azad Maidan) in south Bombay, which became a nerve centre and a key site of dramatic confrontation between diverse strands of popular mobilisations expressing collective dissent and the colonial state. In February 1930, 5,000 railwaymen gathered at Esplanade Maidan to demand a wage increase and an eight-hour working day. A few months later, in August 1930, the Satyagraha committee of the Bombay Provincial Congress unofficially renamed it Azad Maidan and called on Bombay's citizens to use this open space for congregation or for any other non-violent purpose, "undeterred by any orders or ordinances which are meant to throttle all expressions of freedom." After the 1937 provincial election and the formation of the Congress ministry in Bombay, Esplanade Maidan again became a site of protests, including a rally of more than 20,000 peasants who gathered at the call of Dr B.R. Ambedkar to oppose the khoti system.

Recent restrictions on protesters at Jantar Mantar and other public spaces undermine the historical relationship between civic arenas and democratic citizenship

Reclaiming space

This re-territorialisation is essential to understanding our collective transformation from colonial subjects to citizens during the freedom struggle. By defying colonial spatial dictates and claiming civic spaces for democratic protest, Indians asserted their right to the city and the nation as a whole.

Post-independence, civic arenas remained vital spatial anchors of Indian democracy. Building on the anti-colonial movement's spatial practices, citizens found creative ways to assert their constitutional rights and challenge the state's overreach. The Samyukta Maharashtra Movement offers a powerful example of this continuity. In the 1950s, Bombay's streets became arenas of mass mobilisation as protesters demanded a separate linguistic State for Marathi-speaking people.

Similarly, the Gandhi Maidan in Patna demonstrated how civic spaces could become battlegrounds against authoritarianism. During the anti-Emergency mobilisation of the 1970s, Jayaprakash Narayan's call for *Sampoorna Kranti* (total revolution) drew upon the political possibilities of popular mobilisation to challenge the concentration of state power. The open ground in central Patna became a theatre of democratic assertion, showing how occupying public space could restore political agency when institutional avenues of dissent were under strain.

This tradition of reclaiming civic space has endured, adapting to evolving political circumstances and constitutional anxieties. The Shaheen Bagh protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act transformed a road in Delhi into a sustained site of democratic resistance. Similarly, the farmers' movement turned highways and the borders of the national capital into enduring sites of protest. Taken together, these protests assert that the right to dissent has always been intrinsically linked to our right to reclaim and reimagine social spaces as citizens.

Recent restrictions on protesters at Jantar Mantar and other public spaces undermine this historical relationship between civic arenas and democratic citizenship. The struggle over public space is not merely about civic access. Treating it as a conditional privilege rather than a constitutional right not only abandons the legacy of the freedom struggle but also curtails citizens' rights.

A blue tsunami: historic sweep by Democrats in U.S. mid-terms

Across Senate, House and Governorships, Democrats make significant gains in a sharp rebuke of the Trump administration

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani
Sambavi Parthasarathy
Nitika Francis

In what has been described as a "blue tsunami", the Democratic Party ended unified Republican control of Washington, D.C., recapturing both the House of Representatives and the Senate in the mid-term elections. Riding a wave of discontent with the Donald Trump presidency, Democratic candidates outperformed expectations in both Houses of Congress.

The Democrats flipped Senate seats in seven of the States held by the Republicans – Texas, Ohio, South Carolina, Iowa, Maine, North Carolina and Kansas **(Table 1)**. The nationwide surge carried Democrats to Senate wins in Republican strongholds such as Texas, Kansas and South Carolina, while races in Alaska and Mississippi remained too close to call. As **Chart 3** shows, no Democrat has been elected from most of these States in decades, especially in what is considered a period of sharp polarisation in American politics.

Many of these States, along with others in **Table 1** were those that Mr. Trump carried in the 2024 elections with more than a 10 percentage point lead. If results in Alaska and Mississippi where Democrats are leading marginally, turn out in their favour, the party will control 56 seats in the Senate to the Republicans' 44. The 56 includes two independents who caucus with the Democrats.

As mentioned in our previous Data Point on Monday, the economy, future of democracy, healthcare and education were the key issues for American voters and the record of the Trump administration had driven its approval ratings to historic lows.

Even as Mr. Trump tried to mobilise Republican voters despite not being on the ballot, the Democrats managed to convert anti-incumbency against the President to strong support across the country.

Unprecedented gains

The scale of the upsets is clearer in historical terms. In Texas, where analysts also pointed to the weakness of the Republican nominee, Ken Paxton, the Democrat James Talarico, a former schoolteacher and State legislator, won by more than 12 percentage points to become the first Democrat elected to the Senate from the State since 1988. Adam Hamilton's win in Kansas is the party's first there since 1932, and Annie Andrews is the first Democrat South Carolina has sent to the Senate since 1998. In Mississippi, Scott Colom led by just 43 votes with nearly 97% of ballots counted. If he holds on, he will be the State's first Democratic senator elected since 1982.

In the House, the Democrats have won 228 seats to the Republicans' 139. With several races yet to be called, particularly in Democratic-leaning California, outlets like *The New York Times* project that the tally could exceed 250 seats, a commanding majority.

Control of both chambers, once the new Congress is sworn in January 2027, gives Democrats a firm check on Mr. Trump for the last two years of his term. He retains his veto, but Democrats can block his legislative agenda and use their control of government funding to constrain his administration, including by refusing to fund the war in Iran. A Democratic Senate can also reject or stall his nominees to the judiciary and the Cabinet.

The party's resurgence extended to the governorships too: Democrats will hold at least 28 of the 50 gubernatorial posts, up from 24. These gains will matter in future election cycles. In Texas, newly elected Gina Hinojosa will be the first Democratic Governor since 1995. In most States, governors can veto redistricting maps drawn by legislatures, giving Democrats a means to resist gerrymandering.

Historic turnaround



The data for the charts were sourced from Associated Press, Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Election Data lab, South Carolina Election Commission and Texas Secretary of State. In Chart 3C. 1990 elections were ignored because the Republicans won without a contest

TABLE 1: Margins in Senate races in few battleground States, compared with Donald Trump's margins in 2024. Margins are in percentage points

State	2026 Senate Winner	2026 Margin	Trump's Margin in 2024
Texas	James Talarico	12.07	13.7
Minnesota	Peggy Flanagan	10.16	-4.2
Michigan	Abdul El-Sayed	7.04	1.4
Maine	Troy D. Jackson	7.72	-6.9
Kansas	Adam Hamilton	4.87	16.1
South Carolina	Annie Andrews	4.48	17.9
Ohio	Sherrod Brown	4.86	11.2
Iowa	Josh Turek	4.11	13.2
Alaska*	Mary Peltola	0.3	13.1
Mississippi*	Scott Colom	0.01	22.9
Louisiana	Julia Letlow	1.76	22
Florida	Ashley Moody	2.88	13.1
Nebraska	Pete Ricketts	6.7	20.6
Alabama	Barry Moore	9.42	30.5
North Carolina	Roy Cooper	19.63	3.2

*Results not called. Democrats (●), Republicans (●)

CHART 2: Democrats won control of the House of Representatives with their largest majority in nearly two decades

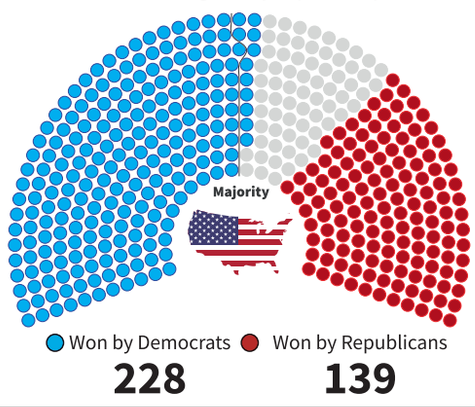


CHART 3A: A Democrat has been elected as Senator from South Carolina for the first time since 1998

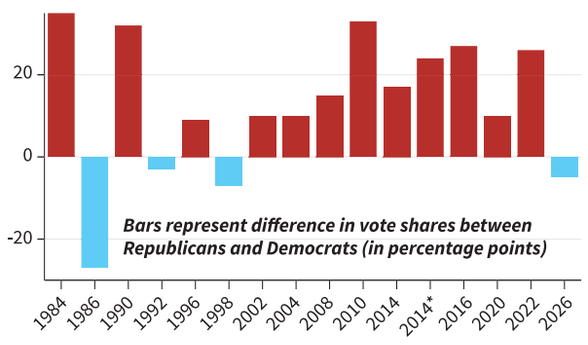


CHART 3B: A Democrat has been elected as Senator from Texas for the first time since 1988

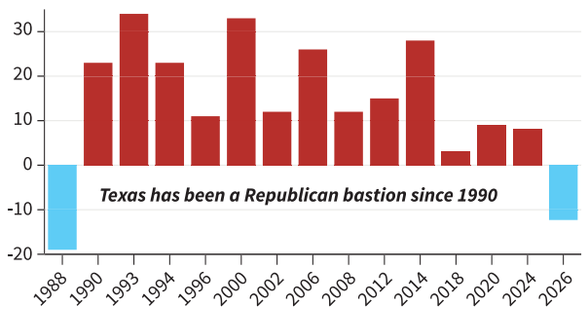
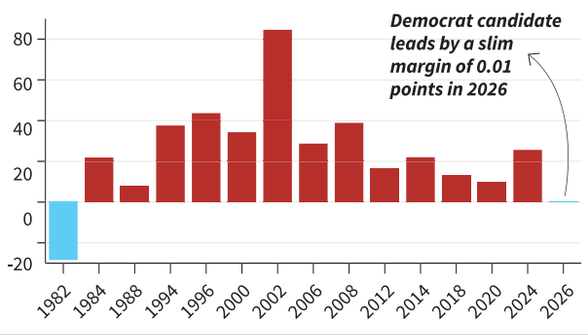


CHART 3C: A Democrat has been elected as Senator from Mississippi for the first time since 1982



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 5, 1976

Outmoded form

Salem, November 4 (from our correspondent): Though the elephant as a mode of conveyance for members of the bureaucracy is unlikely to be available in any part of Tamil Nadu, the Directorate of Stationery and Printing, which is in charge of supplying the form for travelling allowance claim by gazetted officers, seems to believe that it does.

The MTC 43 TA claim form for gazetted officers insists under para six, that the officer should give a declaration that he has not used a government elephant or boat or other forms of locomotion at the expense of the State.

A senior officer with 28 years of service, said he was not even aware of such a clause in the printed form and wondered whether there might have been a ban on use of elephants in earlier days.

Another senior officer, of the Treasury department, said perhaps the form had been prepared decades ago in England when the belief persisted that the most popular mode of conveyance in India was the elephant.

Another anachronism that anyone visiting the Salem taluk office could see is the public announcement in a recently-painted board that severe action would be taken against stray elephants, camel etc. found in the town.

The fine on a stray elephant is Rs 8 and on a camel Rs 2 and paise 12.

The cost of feeding to be recovered form the owner, for a camel is 84 paise a day and 28 paise for a buffalo.

The newly painted board reminds one of the days when elephants were kept by a number of households in Salem town and the price of cattle feed was ridiculously low.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 5, 1926

Electric lighting for the Mufassal

Mysore, November 2: I understand that the Government have directed the Chief Electrical Engineer to Government to prepare estimates for the supply of electric power to the towns of Seringapatam, Yedatore and Nanjangad. This is considered quite possible when the new installation at Sivasamudram will be complete. The towns of Yedatore, Nanjangad and Seringapatam had made representations some years ago to Government in this behalf.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Buses to ply from Chennai for Deepavali rush from Nov. 5 to 7

15,659 The TNSTC will operate 15,659 buses from Chennai between November 5 and 7 to manage the rush for Deepavali, Minister Vijay Tamilan Parthiban said. Of the 15,659 buses, 6,573 are regular services, 7,427 are special buses, and 1,659 are contract carriage buses, he said. PTI

Spike in CNG installations in NCR after vehicle curbs

50 in per cent. With the Delhi government imposing restrictions on non-Delhi-registered BS-IV vehicles, CNG installation centres in Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurugram have reported a sharp rise in demand, with operators seeing a spike of up to 50% in installations as people look to convert their cars to CNG. PTI

Number of nations exempted from transit restrictions in Hormuz

4 Iran has exempted commercial ships from four countries, including India and China, from transit restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz, an official said. Amir Hayat Moghadam, Deputy Chairman of Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, made the announcement in an interview on Tuesday. PTI

Amount earned through scrap disposal during recent drive

965 in ₹ crore. Over ₹965 crore has been earned through scrap disposal during the recently concluded special cleanliness campaign, the Centre said on Wednesday. During the special campaign 6, 276.8 lakh sq feet of space was freed as against 233.75 lakh square feet in the last campaign, it said. PTI

Amount approved by Cabinet for upgrading official system

4,371 in ₹ crore. The Union Cabinet approved a scheme to upgrade the country's statistical ecosystem, entailing an outlay of ₹4,371.1 crore. The Viksit Bharat Initiative for statistical transformation, analytics and research scheme is for five years. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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From poverty alleviation to prosperity

India has reduced extreme poverty, but its high prosperity gap shows that millions remain far from a comfortable standard of living; informal work, stagnant wages and limited employment opportunities continue to constrain upward mobility

ECONOMIC NOTES

Deepanshu Mohan
Sonakshi Garg



GETTY IMAGES

From the poverty income ruler line provided by the recent World Bank estimates, India has recorded one of the fastest extreme income-poverty declines in the world, as per its latest Poverty and Equity brief, which highlights that between 2011 and 2023, an estimated 496 million people moved out of poverty, with extreme income-based poverty ($3/per day) declining to 2.6%.

For the same period, the share of the population living below the lower middle-income country line ($4.20/day, 2021 PPP) fell from 57.7% to 16.1%. Non-monetary poverty indicators, as per OPHI's Multi-dimensional Poverty Index, also recorded a sharp reduction in overall poverty numbers, i.e., from 53.8% in 2005-06 to 16.4% in 2019-21.

The figures undoubtedly reflect that India has managed to reduce extreme poverty at a faster pace, even though one has to keep in mind the current (vs aspirational) stage of development position with respect to its measurement calculus, as determined by the poverty-measure line used, i.e., as a least developed country ($3/per day) or low- and middle-income developing countries (LMIDC) ($4.2/per day).

If we take the upper middle-income (UMIDC) poverty-measurement line, which is where India would like to be positioned for becoming more Viksit than now, this line would be defined as $8.30 per person per day as of current estimates. As per this measure, 80% of India's population would currently be below this poverty line of $8.30, applicable for an aspiring upper-middle-income country.

The conversion for $8.30/day may come to roughly ₹800 a day per person, with a monthly pay working out to about ₹24,000, which, even by current living standards across cities in India, is not much to speak of. And so, in that context, 80% of Indians still earn less than ₹24,000 per month (as per the $8.30/per day measure).

Irrespective of which line or measurement space one examines India's income-poverty position, one has to intersectionally relate this to assessing whether Indians, despite moving out of extreme poverty (3$/per day), are actually becoming more prosperous or not. Lifting millions above the extreme poverty line represents basic progress; however, it does not, in isolation, establish that the population has acquired better occupational status, socio-economic opportunities, or a better standard of living over time. Understanding the distance between escaping poverty and attaining prosperity is therefore critical to holistically evaluate whether India's economic growth is inclusive.

Measuring the prosperity gap

The prosperity gap is an indicator adopted by the World Bank that measures how far a society is from the baseline standard of prosperity. Introduced to promote the goal of prosperity, the criteria aim to increase sensitivity to distributional issues, shifting the conventional understanding of economic development away from average per capita income, and emphasising that good growth should benefit the least advantaged in society.

As per the recent brief, India's prosperity gap is 4.9, measured against the global benchmark of $28 per person per day (in 2021 purchasing power parity terms). Hence, the average consumption levels across India's population will need to increase by a factor of 4.9 to reach the desired standard of prosperity.

Since improvements in the earnings of poorer persons contribute more significantly to reducing the prosperity gap, India's score of 4.9 leads to the implication that despite substantial reduction in poverty, the nation must still strive for prosperity. A closer inquiry into the World Bank's poverty estimates reveals this marked unevenness in development.

In 2023, an estimated 2.6% of the population lived below $3.00 a day (the extreme poverty line), 16.1% below $4.20 (the lower-middle-income line) and 80.0% below $8.30 (the upper-middle-income line). Calculating the difference between successive thresholds, about 64% of the population lay between $4.20 and $8.30.

These percentages assist in inferring a segmentation of the prosperity gap, which is the average, across all people, of $28 divided by each person's daily income. The resulting gap is the factor by which that person's income must rise to reach the benchmark. For instance, a person earning $8.30 needs a factor of 3.4 to be considered prosperous.

Hence, it can be estimated that the 63.9% between $4.20 and $8.30 constitute the largest share of 4.9, leading to the inference that India's prosperity gap remains high because many Indians who have left poverty require their incomes to rise three to sevenfold to reach prosperity (Table 1).

This estimate indicates that this aspirational upward hike is difficult, and the factors that have helped escape poverty are not necessarily the same as those needed to achieve prosperity.

Mobility and human capital markets

While escaping poverty is a statistical phenomenon, building a secure socio-economic life is a labour-market-driven occurrence, and evidence suggests that India's labour market is still not seamlessly transforming the first event into the second. The World Bank brief itself flags this issue by stating that real earnings are broadly flat, employment growth is concentrated in low-productivity work, and youth unemployment rose from 14.6% to 15.9% (Q1 FY2026 to Q1 FY2027).

The data suggest that individuals exiting poverty are being met with weak jobs and uncertain routes to middle-income subgroups. Consequently, the underlying factors explaining the friction in a shift to a prosperous life imply that while employment is expanding, the quality of available jobs is concerning.

For instance, the ILO India Employment Report 2024 found that approximately 90% of India's workers were informally employed, with self-employment accounting for 55.8% of employment in 2022. The 2025 PLFS annual report provided only a modest relief, with regular wage work noted to have risen from 22.4% in 2024 to only 23.6% in 2025.

Informality is reinforced by research that unveils that an increase in employment can be the result of distress, rather than opportunity. Using PLFS data, it has been recorded that the share of unpaid family helpers among all workers increased from 12.41% in 2017-18 to 17.10% in 2023-24. This leads to an unfortunate deduction that increased employment does not necessarily translate to an expansion of well-paying, tertiary sector jobs.

One of the strongest indicators that the market is not functioning at its best is the fact that young entrants face the harshest undercurrents when entering the workforce. NCAER's analysis of the Time Use Survey 2024 found that only 46.7% of 20-29-year-olds were employed, with occupational opportunities varying across States.

The most startling figures pertain to the educated youth, as according to The India Employment Report 2024, educated young people accounted for approximately 65.7% of India's unemployed youth in 2022. This phenomenon highlights a mismatch between the qualifications young people are acquiring and the employment opportunities available to them.

Interestingly, households striving to enter the middle class through improved education and healthcare find themselves buying services they may not be able to easily evaluate when selecting.

Das and Dobbin describe 'human capital markets' as riddled with a plethora of fee-charging private providers of education and health, in which quality is difficult to determine, and services are a consumption and an investment. Paid schooling and care do not always guarantee the intended human capital formation, materialising in graduates being unable to convert their investments into employment opportunities.

A paradox that minimises the gains sought to follow increased employment is that even when people are employed, their earnings may not be sufficient to nudge them into a more comfortable economic position. This can occur because real wages have remained broadly flat, as observed by the World Bank brief, and substantiated by the ILO's India Employment Report 2024, which pegged real wages for regular, salaried workers as having remained stagnant or having declined between 2012 and 2022.

The report highlights that being able to consume has very little to do with one's job security, if earnings are not adjusted to the inflationary currents of the market. India has proven that it can combat poverty; however, it is yet to prove that it can foster prosperity. Even though many have breached the poverty line, the prosperity gap remains a caution that for an average Indian, a stable, comfortable life is still out of reach.

For Indians, the journey from escaping poverty to attaining prosperity will require tackling structural and institutional barriers that dictate who can progress and who only survive. The country has already achieved the first basic feat in extreme income poverty. Now, the focus for an aspiring country to become developed would require a transformational shift in supporting more prosperity-enhancing growth that secures and promises better livelihoods, effective human capital-building services, and genuine economic and social opportunities across the socio-economic pyramid. The road to doing that seems far ahead at this point.

(Deepanshu Mohan is Dean and Professor of Economics at O.P. Jindal Global University. He is a Visiting Professor at LSE and University of Oxford. Sonakshi Garg is a Senior Research Assistant at Centre for New Economics Studies, O.P. Jindal Global University)

Beyond the **poverty line**

India's gains in poverty reduction have yet to translate into secure livelihoods and a better standard of living

Graph 1: Decline in poverty rates across three income thresholds between 2011 and 2023

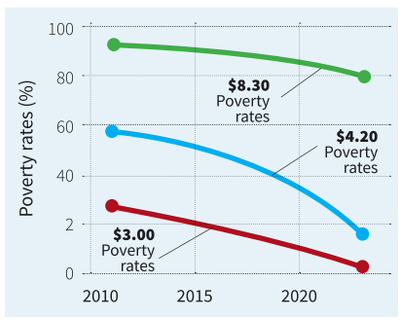


Table 1: The $4.20–$8.30 income group accounts for the largest share of India's prosperity gap

Band (2023)	Share of people	Factor needed	Contribution to 4.9
Below $3.00	2.6%	at least 9.3	at least 0.24
$3.00 to $4.20	13.5%	6.7 to 9.3	0.90 to 1.26
$4.20 to $8.30	63.9%	3.4 to 6.7	about 2.2 to 4.3
Above $8.30	20.0%	below 3.4	at most 0.67

THE GIST

- The World Bank's prosperity gap measures how far incomes are from the global benchmark of $28 per person per day; India's score of 4.9 points to the scale of the income increase required
- Nearly 64% of Indians fall in the $4.20-$8.30 daily income band, highlighting the concentration of the population just above the lower-middle-income poverty threshold
- Poor-quality human capital services, the prevalence of informal work, and the mismatch between educational qualifications and available jobs impede socio-economic mobility

‘The purpose of history is not to construct statements for contemporary political use’

Professor Romila Thapar says a Hindutva reading of Indian history cannot be ‘single and fixed’ and argues that historical inquiry must explain the evolution of Indian society rather than construct statements for contemporary political use

Edited excerpts from a speech delivered by Professor Romila Thapar on ‘Historiography and Early Indian History’, during the second Sitaram Yechury Memorial Lecture



Prof. Romila Thapar speaks during the second Sitaram Yechury Memorial Lecture in New Delhi on October 25. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

I would like to thank the Sitaram Yechury Foundation for the invitation to deliver a memorial lecture. The subject I have chosen to speak on is one on which I had a small conversation with Sitaram some time back, but we did not have the opportunity to discuss it at length. I am now speaking on it in remembrance.

Every society aspires to a past that explains how it came into being. Inevitably, this sometimes draws from the present and legitimizes it. The claims vary, as there is a difference between different sections of society. The questions we have to ask are: whose past are the sources referring to, who are the authors of the sources, and why and how do they want to appropriate the past? How authentic is their version of the past?

New historical perspectives now prevail. Slowly, the importance of historiography is being recognised in questions such as who is investigating the past today, how is the past being propagated, and with what intention? This was to be expected in the process of decolonising. We had to be clear as to what we were decolonising. Were we just replacing Mill and Max Müller with a partisan perspective on the past where Indian commentators were often basing themselves on colonial theories anyway, or were we going to open up the analysis of the past to a range of explanations that were needed to comprehend a complex society? A more analytical understanding of the past society was required, as also an awareness of what it was being replaced with, and by whom.

Theories of explanation surfaced in these readings. Those discussed more widely were not only the Marxist, but also others. For social history, the very different readings of Max Weber were also appraised. Clarifying the functions of social and economic institutions revealed fresh facets of history as in the analyses of texts. Thus, the political use of the past has become apparent in the adaptation of history to the ideology and requirements of Hindutva.

Historiography led to better-directed questions on the social infrastructures. Many questions began to surface. For example, did the polity change? Were there only kingdoms for four millennia or did some chiefships - gana-sanghas - change into kingdoms - rajyas - with a few kingdoms becoming the hub of empires in different periods? That all empires are highly centralized and uniform may be a convenient theory to underline political control, but does it explain the actual functioning of empires? The most substantial change was when, in modern times, kingdoms and colonies mutated into democratic nations. (or hoped to do so). The new national identity brought diverse groups into a single nation, which was also a historical process of change. Nationalism splintered into a Hindu and a Muslim nationalism, and now secular nationalism is fighting for survival. History was read differently by secular nationalists from those insisting on a Hindu or a Muslim nationalism.

Recognizing patterns of political control in history - whether of chiefships, kingdoms, or empires - required investigating the social basis of their economy, among other aspects. This is common sense. It doesn’t need a theory to say so. If land relations were based on a different pattern in post-Gupta times from that of pre-Gupta times, as the evidence from inscriptions suggests, then how did the change happen? What permitted Mauryan administration to control large parts of the sub-continent and even beyond? What was the impact of the very lucrative long-distance trade, both overland and maritime? There were impressively large places of worship, mosques and temples in the second millennium CE. The temples were for Shaiva, Vaishnava and Shakta worship, and some Jaina as well, on all of which much wealth was spent. Where did kings and devotees get the wealth to finance these? This would be added information of considerable interest.

References to varna and jatis/castes go back to early times. Curiously there is no mention of them in Ashoka’s edicts centrally concerned with society. But other sources register changes through the centuries. The cause of this may be variations in regional economies and social norms, diverse kinship systems, and changing ownership of resources. Religious sects also had a presence. Society was not static, so change would be expected. The change has to be explained. For example, why did the two Semitic religions, Christianity and Islam, although professing the equality of all, nevertheless permit the continuance of discrimination by their converted elite groups against the lesser castes?

Colonial scholars explained Hinduism as a somewhat exotic religion. It was assumed that all religions were monotheistic. But the religions of India were, in belief and practice, largely pluralistic, with many sects emanating from diverse teachings. Some were flexible and some rigid, some were more agglutinative and some pared down, some shone in their extensive plurality whereas others stayed close to a narrower singular belief. Religious sects were prolific and juxtaposed and proximity meant that some exchanges between them were inevitable, as also the evolution of new sects. This suggests the need for new ways of studying the religion and comprehending the diverse patterns.

The pluralism of the religion is even more evident in the absence of restriction in the range and form of devotion, as is evident from the multiple Bhakti sects. The rituals of worship could be particular to a sect. The projection of the same deity could be exclusive to a region, for example, Vishnu as Jagannath in Odisha and as Vitthala in Maharashtra. Each had different identities. The idiom of worship was devotion, but the form could differ. It was later, in colonial times, that new kinds of institutions evolved, the samajs, that seemed closer to an organized religion.

The Shramana religions held views that differed from the Hinduism of the Puranas, as did the materialist philosophy of the Charvaka. The same goes for some of the Bhakti teachers. Dissent was expressed, even if occasionally it led to serious conflict. Debating opposing views on a subject was recognized as a philosophical procedure, the outcome of which could bring a possible solution – a procedure somewhat similar to the dialectic in philosophical ideas.

For the historian, therefore, the history of Hinduism, as also of Indian Islam, Christianity and other religions, evokes formulations and explanations from diverse backgrounds. When, on the contrary, it is maintained that there is only one strand to Hinduism and that it is a simple monotheistic religion, one does rather wonder which religion is being discussed. This kind of formulation does not reflect the historian’s research into the history of the religion, where history is different from belief. It is more appropriate to the manner in which a religion can be put to political use, arguing for the priority claimed for the majority community, aspiring to establish a nation, in this case a Hindu Rashtra. These questions in relation to a religion have to be asked if its history is sought. They are not anti-religious but are simply reiterating that religion is always embedded in a society, and knowing the ambience of the society is necessary to even fully comprehend the religion.

Let me say in conclusion that the facets I have spoken of are but a part of what historians are investigating. These questions, so essential to studying the past, have their genesis in historiography. We need to give historiography the intellectual status that it is entitled to. This will not happen through a Hindutva reading of Indian history which is single and fixed, with no scope for further discussion.

In this interpretation, the purpose of history is not to explain what happened in the past, but instead to construct statements for contemporary political use. These statements deny the centrality of secularism and democracy, as essential components of the new nation, emerging from a colonial experience. However, the denial is already being challenged, despite the malicious attacks at various levels, by those who challenge the denial. Professional historians and some among those associated with them are researching the historical evolution of Indian society and economy, quite distinct from that imagined and propagated by Hindutva. We look forward to the new dimensions that historiography will reveal about our history.

THE DAILY QUIZ

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

The Democrats have won control of the both the House and the Senate in the U.S. A quiz on the midterm elections:

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1
Since 1845, Americans have been voting on this day of the week in November. This is to give people time to travel to a polling station after church and before market day. Which day of the week is this?

QUESTION 2
What is the last session of Congress called before new members are appointed?

QUESTION 3
Dorothy, from The Wizard of Oz, lives in this landlocked State, which is named after a river. This State has elected a Democratic U.S. senator after a record 94 years. Which State is this?

QUESTION 4
The first Black Governor has been elected in this State. It is known for its casinos and gambling. It features in popular films such as The Godfather and The Hangover. Name this State.

QUESTION 5
Historically, the party of the sitting president loses ground in midterm elections. More than two decades ago, the Republicans defied this longstanding electoral trend, gaining six seats in the House and two in the Senate. Which President led the party’s campaign, and what major incident was a reason for this?



Visual Question:
He is an epidemiologist and a Rhodes scholar from the University of Oxford. J.D. Vance once said he “supported Sharia law”; Donald Trump has repeatedly called him a “jihadist” and a “terrorist sympathiser”. Name this man, who made history in the 2026 midterm elections and whose first name is also the first name of a former Indian president. AFP

Questions and Answers to the previous day’s daily quiz: 1. Simple one to begin with. Expand the acronym UNESCO. **Ans: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**
2. UNESCO has a distinctive logo based on what type of edifice? And how many members does it have? **Ans: A classic Greek temple (similar to the Parthenon), and it has 194 members**
3. In 1960, UNESCO launched the ‘Nubian Campaign’ for what specific purpose? **Ans: To save ancient Egyptian monuments (like Abu Simbel and Philae) from being flooded by the Aswan Dam**
4. The resolution to establish one of the world’s largest and most respected centres for scientific research was adopted in 1954. Name the establishment located in Europe. **Ans: CERN**
5. Thanks to UNESCO making a request in the 1960s, scholars have completed nine volumes of which continent’s history from their own perspective? **Ans: Africa**
6. Name the organisation’s magazine that has brought local perspectives on global issues since 1948. **Ans: ‘The UNESCO Courier’**
Visual: This image shows Pope Leo XIV watering an olive tree alongside UNESCO Director-General Khaled El-Enany at the UNESCO HQ. Where is it located? **Ans: Paris**
Early Birds: Prem Nath Tiwari | Sadhan Panda | Ravindra Kumar Sahu | Prem Raj P. | Aryansh Raj Saxena



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the difference between “megalomaniac” and “kleptomaniac”? (A. Jayaraman, Hyderabad)
First, let’s deal with the pronunciation of these words. The “e” in the first syllable of “megalomaniac” is like the “e” in “set”, “bet”, and “pet”. The “a” in the second syllable and the “o” in the following syllable sound like the “a” in “china”. The “a” in “man” is like the “ay” in “day”, “may”, and “say”, while the “a” in the final syllable is like the “a” in “bat” and “hat”. The “i” is like the “i” in “hit” and “sit”. The stress is on the fourth syllable “ma”. Megalomania is a form of madness; the individual has delusions of grandeur. He/she has an exaggerated sense of his/her importance. I guess we could say that many politicians are megalomaniacs.

‘If I were you, I wouldn’t go anywhere near that megalomaniac.’

In the word “kleptomaniac,” the “e” and the “o” are pronounced like the “e” and “o” in megalomaniac. The main stress once again is on “ma”. A “kleptomaniac” is someone who has a compulsive desire to steal things. It’s a kind of disease; the individual cannot control himself. He may have a lot of money, but wherever he goes, he will walk away with something. He may come to your house and walk away with a spoon or two.

‘The millionaire is a confirmed kleptomaniac.’

What is the meaning and origin of the idiom “the apple of one’s eye”? (A. S. Kaushik, Hyderabad)
When you say something is the apple of your eye, what you are implying is that the object is a prized possession; it’s an object that you look after with a great deal of devotion. Similarly, when the apple of your eye happens to be a person, then he/she is a person whom you like very much.

The idiom has been around for several hundred years. The “apple” here doesn’t refer to the fruit, but the “pupil” in one’s eye. People felt that the shape of the pupil was similar to that of an apple. In fact, for quite some time the word “appel” was used to refer to both the eye and the fruit.

Which of the following sentences is correct? I am suffering from a headache or I am suffering from headache? – S. Geethanjali, Hyderabad.
The article “a” usually precedes minor aches and pains. One usually says “a headache”, “a sore throat”, “a cold”, etc. In the case of other aches like “stomach-ache”, “earache” and “toothache”, there is a difference in the manner in which Americans and the British treat them. In British English, these words are considered uncountable nouns. As a result, the article “a” does not precede them. In American English, they are considered countable nouns; therefore, it is common to hear Americans say “a cold” or “a stomach-ache”. Also, while it is common for us Indians to “suffer from a headache/toothache”, native speakers of English generally do not use “suffer” with these minor ailments. They usually say, “I have a headache”, “I have a stomach ache” and “I have a toothache”.
Published in The Hindu on June 18, 2002

Word of the day

Fulsome:
unpleasantly and excessively suave or ingratiating in manner or speech

Synonyms: sickening, gushy, abundant

Usage: *His fulsome praise made her feel uncomfortable.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/fulsome

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fʊlsəm/

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

From Page One

Democrats win Congress in setback to Trump

The landslide will give the Opposition power to launch broad investigations into Mr. Trump's administration and thwart his appointments.

In Kansas, Methodist Minister Adam Hamilton became the first Democrat elected to the Senate from the reliably conservative State since 1932. Iowa had not elected a Democratic Senator since 2008. In Maine, former logger Troy Jackson defeated long-time Republican Senator Susan Collins, the party's seventh Senate seat captured from Republicans.

"Michigan, we did it!" Mr. El-Sayed said in a speech at his election headquarters after his historic win. Mr. El-Sayed won despite a last-minute curveball in his campaign when congresswoman Haley Stevens, who lost the Democratic primary to Mr. El-Sayed, came out in support of the Republican candidate at the 11th hour.

Democrats also protected key Senate seats of their own, including Jon Ossoff in Georgia and an open seat in New Hampshire.

The party's House victory saw gains across Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Arizona, North Carolina, Wisconsin and New Jersey, including districts Mr. Trump had carried comfortably in 2024.

In one closely watched bellwether, Democrat J.D. Ford ousted Republican congresswoman Victoria Spartz in Indiana, capturing a district Mr. Trump won by 17 points two years earlier.

Democrats also won Georgia's governorship, electing former Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms as the first Black woman governor in U.S. history. Republicans had some consolation in Florida, where Trump-backed Byron Donalds became the state's first Black governor and Ashley Moody retained a Senate seat. – but only after seeing off surprisingly strong Democratic challenges.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries declared Mr. Trump's MAGA movement "on the run from sea to shining sea". Mr. Jeffries could become the first Black Speaker of the House when the new Congress convenes in January.

Agniveers get option for service extension

The objective is to align the aspirations of Agniveers with the operational requirements and organisational efficiency of the armed forces, the Defence Ministry said.

The government said a detailed assessment of the Agnipath scheme after four years of implementation had brought out several achievements, including a wider geographical footprint of recruitment across districts, a more standardised and transparent recruitment process, and high levels of physical fitness, morale, motivation, competitive spirit and discipline among Agniveers.

Two-child norm outdated, says SC

Justice Narasimha found such laws linking motherhood to political representation a violation of Article 21 (right to life) under the Constitution.

"Allowing such laws to stand excludes an entire class of citizens from political representation on grounds bearing little rational connection to their capacity to hold public office. It compels an unconscionable choice between bearing children and democratic participation, impinging on the right to reproductive autonomy under Article 21," Justice Narasimha observed. Seeking an immediate re-visitation of the 2003 judgment, the court permitted the appellant to continue in her elected position while staying proceedings against her.

How U.S. midterms could shape geopolitics for India

Republicans have faced losses but it is unclear whether Trump will seek an early exit from the Iran war; the victory of candidates from immigrant families could temper anti-immigrant rhetoric

NEWS ANALYSIS

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI


U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, left, had made positive comments on the FTA when he visited Mumbai last month. ANI

The dramatic results of the U.S. midterm elections will probably have less impact on India-U.S. bilateral relations than on geopolitics and, as a result, India's "operating environment" in the world. The elections gave the Democrats a majority in the House of Representatives and a comfortable edge in the Senate, which means U.S. President Donald Trump will face restraints on both domestic and foreign policy.

In interviews given after the results began to come in, Mr. Trump said he stood by his decision to attack Iran in February 2026, but acknowledged that Iran was "part" of the reason for Republican losses. It isn't clear whether this means he will give talks with Iran a greater chance and look for an early exit from the war, but New Delhi will watch closely.

Since the U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran began, at least 24 Indians have been killed, including 15 seafarers, who died in attacks by the U.S. and Iran on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman.

The Hormuz blockade has had a choking effect on India's energy and fertilizer imports and goods trade, and any cessation of hostilities would come not a day too soon for India.

On ties with Russia

The results could have a mixed, or even negative, effect on India's ties with Russia and its import of Russian oil. Mr. Trump's decision on October 16, 2026, to waive all tariffs on countries importing Russian oil under the Lindsey Graham sanctions Act (SRIA) has given India a temporary reprieve.

However, the SRIA had widespread bipartisan support, and New Delhi will need to work both sides of the aisle if it wants the Act calling for tariffs of up to 100% on Russian oil imports to remain waived.

Ministry of External Affairs officials have said India will not bow to unilateral U.S. sanctions in this case. However, compared with July 2026, when India imported about 51% of its oil needs from Russia, the figure dropped to 44% in August and 33% in September.

Another area where India would benefit from constraints on Mr. Trump's "adventurism" is tariffs and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with the U.S.

Despite positive comments from U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who travelled to Mumbai last month and met top Indian industry leaders, there is some doubt about whether the FTA can be ready in time for Mr. Modi's visit to North America and Europe in mid-December 2026, when he will attend the G-20 summit in Florida.

The rise of Democratic governors, senators and Congress members from immigrant families in these elections could mean a reduction in the anti-immigrant rhetoric that has worried Indians and persons of Indian origin in the U.S.

However, it is unlikely to change the administration's stance on curbing visas, restricting the naturalisation of professionals and deporting undocumented migrants, as these have widespread support.

U.S. poll results a display of people's strength: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI


Jairam Ramesh

Opposition leaders on Wednesday cited the results of the U.S. midterm elections to stress that people's collective strength can defeat "authoritarian tendencies".

While Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal said that "change is in the air", party communications chief Jairam Ramesh underscored the importance of midterm polls in enforcing accountability of executive action.

"The midterm results in the U.S. are a powerful demonstration of how people's collective strength can take on and defeat authoritarian tendencies, even when they are backed by big corporations, a compromised media ecosystem, and algorithm-driven social media platforms that amplify division, hatred, and anti-people politicians," Mr. Venugopal said in a post on X.

He argued that democracy belongs to ordinary citizens who make their voices heard, and not to billionaires, powerful interests, or technology platforms.

Mr. Ramesh described the results as a "stunning verdict" against U.S. President Donald Trump. "Personalities aside, the results demonstrate the power of midterm polls to enforce accountability. In our own country, the ONOE (One Nation, One Election) idea that is being advocated by the Modi government will significantly blunt that instrument," he said on X.

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen chief Asaduddin Owaisi put out a post on the victory of Democrat Abdul El-Sayed, who will be the first Muslim in the U.S. Senate.

"An Abdul has won in Michigan; now the Abdul from Uttar Pradesh will have to strengthen his political identity...," Mr. Owaisi said in a post on X.

Nirmala Lakshman wins Sharjah award for book *The Tamils*

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI


Nirmala Lakshman

Nirmala Lakshman, author, journalist and Director of The Hindu Group, has won the Sharjah Award for the Best International Book in the Best International Non-Fiction Book category for *The Tamils: A Portrait of a Community*. The award was presented by Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairperson of the Sharjah Book Authority.

According to a press release, the book, which was published by Aleph Book Company in January 2025, has sold several thousand copies since its release. Drawing on historical research and personal observations, it explores the history, society and culture of the Tamil people.

"I am deeply honoured by this recognition," said Dr. Nirmala Lakshman. "Writing *The Tamils* was both a personal journey and an exploration of a rich and complex history. I wanted to convey the diversity of Tamil life, the many influences that have shaped it, and its continuing vitality. It is especially meaningful to see this story resonate with readers and receive international recognition. I hope it encourages more people to rediscover the histories and ideas that connect us."

Agnipath review aimed at addressing youth discontent ahead of key polls

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI


Armed forces recruitment is a key issue in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which will soon hold elections. FILE PHOTO

The two-year extension for Agniveers, with the option of being retained thereafter in the armed forces, is the outcome of a review of the Agnipath scheme announced by the National Democratic Alliance government after the 2024 Lok Sabha election, in which the BJP lost its parliamentary majority and suffered losses in States where armed forces recruitment was high.

Soon after the results of the election came in, with the BJP at 240 seats and dependent on its allies to form the government, one of the first things demanded by the Janata Dal (United), the Telugu Desam Party, and the Lok Janshakti Party had been a review of the Agnipath scheme. NDA allies had gone on record asking for a review in 2024, and cited ground-level resentment among youngsters aspiring to join the armed forces.

BJP losses

According to one estimate, one of the reasons for the BJP's losses in Rajasthan, Haryana, and parts of Uttar Pradesh was the resentment with regard to the four-year Agnipath scheme, which replaced permanent recruitment into the armed forces below officer ranks. In fact, widespread protests had taken place in western Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan when the scheme was announced in 2022.

For the BJP, which will defend its governments in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand in the upcoming Assembly elections – States where armed forces recruitment is considered important – the review has come as a relief. "We did get feedback that this was an issue... We are happy that this has been announced before the first batch completes its four-year term," said a senior office-bearer in the BJP.

Rahul's assurance

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, had said that the Congress would be scrapping the scheme altogether if voted to power.

The changes in the Agnipath scheme will, in a way, help the BJP defuse what could have turned out to be a volatile issue for the young people with regard to employment, coming as it does after the Gen-Z protests against the leak of NEET papers and the discontent against the BJP on the University Grants Commission (UGC) social equity regulations.

PAC meet calls for closer scrutiny of public spending, quicker action on audit findings

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A conference of Public Accounts Committee Chairpersons from Parliament and 25 State legislatures has called for closer scrutiny of public spending, quicker action on audit findings, and the wider use of forensic tools to identify areas of governance requiring immediate legislative oversight, adopting a resolution to that effect at the end of a two-day meeting in Thiruvananthapuram.

"[Comptroller and Auditor General] CAG reports often reach us years after the money was spent, when officers have moved on and the trail has become untraceable. We were alarmed by the delays by a few governments in placing the reports before the House. There should be a robust mechanism to ensure that all this happens in a time-bound manner," said K.C. Venugopal, a senior Congress leader and chairman of Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), speaking at the conference's valedictory session.

In a post on X, he added: "Audit only matters when someone answers for what it finds. Accountability cannot end with a CAG report sitting on a shelf; it has to go on until the last rupee is accounted for and the last lapse is fixed."

Hold debates on reports

The PACs are responsible for auditing government revenue and expenditure and examining CAG audit reports. The conference, which was built on the theme, "Audit, accountability and good governance: the evolving role of PAC", concluded with the adoption of an eight-point resolution.


K.C. Venugopal

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who listened to the deliberations, said that the recommendations from the conference would provide a clear pathway to improve the functioning of PACs and ensure that public money is used for the right purpose.

Mr. Venugopal, on behalf of the PAC Chairpersons, requested the Speaker to ensure that the PAC reports are debated in Parliament and the Assemblies so that accountability is fixed by the government and the public would come to know of the valuable work of the PACs. He noted that a widely shared frustration by the PAC Chairpersons was that the replies from Ministries and Departments to the PAC often come late, are incomplete, or do not come at all.

The eight-point resolution committed PACs to ensuring that public funds are spent only for the purposes for which they were sanctioned and to safeguarding the public exchequer through rigorous monitoring. Among the key decisions was the creation of a digital platform to facilitate continuous peer learning, sharing of best practices, and procedural innovations among PACs across the country. The conference also resolved to work towards standardised timelines for governments to submit Action Taken Notes on audit observations and PAC recommendations.

To improve monitoring of audit findings, the participants called for the adoption of digital oversight systems on the lines of Parliament's Audit Para Monitoring System (APMS) in all State and Union Territory legislatures.

The conference also urged closer collaboration with the CAG, including the use of advanced forensic tools to identify high-risk areas requiring legislative oversight.

Cess levied on sales tax falls within State's ambit, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Constitution Bench's judgment was based on petitions dating as far back as 1994

The Supreme Court held on Wednesday that an additional tax levied by a State legislature on the sale or purchase of goods will not fall outside the State's competence.

A seven-judge Bench confirmed a 1975 ruling (*S. Kodar* versus *State of Kerala*) that a cess levied as an increment to an existing sales tax has to be judged in the same way as the principal tax.

"*S. Kodar* (supra) squarely holds that an additional tax or surcharge computed as a percentage of the sales tax payable is an enhancement of the rate of sales tax and a tax on the sale or purchase of goods within Entry 54 of List II, as it then stood. That decision continues to hold the field," the lead opinion authored by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant held.

In a concurring but separate opinion, Justice K.V. Viswanathan agreed that the judicial reasoning in the 1975 verdict indeed held the fort.

The Constitution Bench's judgment on Wednesday was based on petitions dating as far back as 1994, raising the question as to the legislative competence of a State Legislature, to levy a tax on the sale or purchase of goods under Entry 54 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, on sales tax payable by a dealer rather than directly on his turnover.

'Tax on tax'

The assessees had insisted that such an extra tax could be construed as a 'tax on tax'. They urged that a levy measured by the quantum of tax already payable does not fall upon the 'sale' or 'purchase of goods', which alone is the subject of Entry 54 of State List. Entry 54 covered taxes levied by States on the sale or purchase of goods other than newspapers.

The States, on the other hand, maintained that such a surcharge was nothing more than an enhancement of the rate of sales tax for a class of dealers, and that the mode of its computation did not alter its essential character as a tax on sale of goods.

SC tells excluded voters not to fear prosecution; ECI insists on Form 6

Court had earlier said ECI was in 'error' to force pre-existing voters, deleted from the electoral rolls, to apply as new voters under Form 6; it had nudged the poll body to allow purged voters to use Form 8 or an enumeration form to get included

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday assured petitioners that no voter will face criminal prosecution, even as advocate Prashant Bhushan said the Election Commission of India (ECI) is still insisting that voters excluded after the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Delhi, under the Absent, Shifted, Dead, or Duplicate (ASDD) categories, must fill up Form 6, which is meant exclusively for new voters.

On October 28, the Supreme Court had made it clear that the ECI was in "error" to force pre-existing voters, deleted from the electoral rolls, to apply as new voters under Form 6 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.


The ECI too had clarified that no penal action would be taken against excluded voters applying to be included using Form 6. PTI

The petitioners, activists Anjali Bhardwaj and Amrita Johri, represented by Mr. Bhushan and advocate Cheryl D'souza, had submitted on October 28 that the ECI was compelling voters to misrepresent themselves as new applicants, an offence which attracts imprisonment.

On October 28, the top court had orally nudged the ECI, saying that such purged voters should be allowed to use Form 8, which voters can use to apply for a change in residence, or an enumeration form for the SIR process.

On Wednesday, Mr. Bhushan said voters were still in the same quandary despite the SC's remarks. He referred to a press note issued by the ECI on Tuesday which had clarified that the submission of Form 6 for the purpose of inclusion in the electoral roll under SIR or afterwards was "not, by itself, false merely because the elector was previously enrolled".

The ECI note had promised that no penal action would be taken under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 by Electoral Registration Officers against electors "merely on the ground that they had been included in a previous electoral roll and had submitted Form 6 during the SIR process or afterwards".

He said the ECI note clearly showed that the court's oral observations to allow pre-existing voters to apply through Form 8 or their enumeration forms were not put into practice, leaving the voters to still apply through Form 6 and risk prosecution.

"Now they are in the horns of a dilemma," he submitted. "We are dealing with the matter, how can they feel like that," the CJI said. The Bench asked the petitioners to file an application on this aspect, and said the matter would be heard on November 19.

ECI separates online form for registration of fresh voters and SIR declaration

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has separated Form 6, used for fresh voter registration, and an accompanying declaration in its online version in States where the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise is under way.

Earlier in September, it had already withdrawn the declaration from its digital platforms in States where the SIR exercise had been completed.

Form 6 is used for fresh voters registrations and since the SIR in Bihar a separate declaration had been added to it in physical forms. However, in the digital mode, it was a single form and this included the declaration.

Under the revised process, each must be submitted separately, requiring a separate OTP verification and e-sign, an official said

The ECI had justified it saying a single OTP for the two documents had led to suggestions that the form had been tweaked without the approval of the Union Law Ministry.

This change in the online version of Form 6 had been one of the issues flagged in dissent notes by the two Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

On Wednesday, a senior ECI official said: "Previously, Form 6 and the accompanying declaration were submitted together using a single OTP and e-sign for the operational convenience of applicants. Under the revised process, each must be submitted separately, requiring a separate OTP verification and e-Sign. Applicants must complete both steps for successful submission".

Affidavit in court

The poll body has in a counter affidavit submitted in the court last week had said that according to an October 21 decision of its electoral roll division, "similar to physical submissions, online applications in Form 6 shall also be divided into two distinct parts: Form 6 as prescribed in the Rules; and the SIR Declaration."

Anarchic forces trying to create unrest in India, says RSS leader

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Wednesday said that "anarchic forces", both within India and outside, were trying to provoke the country's youth with the aim of creating unrest. Regime change, he said, must take place through elections and not violence.

"This is a democracy and governments change through elections. Whatever political goals people may have in wanting a change of government but stirring unrest in society, dividing people or turning to violence does not serve society's interest," Mr. Hosabale said speaking in Indore after the Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari Mandal meeting.

Responding to a question about the RSS's views on the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise, Mr. Hosabale said he was puzzled by the political uproar over a process he described as a "routine exercise".

Ahead of Shah's visit, Haryana Cong. poser to BJP on democracy

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Haryana to lead the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) 'Save democracy, remove anarchy' march, the Haryana Congress on Wednesday put out a series of pointed questions to the ruling party on issues related to democracy, electoral fairness, the independence of constitutional institutions, and the "steadily deteriorating" state of governance in the State.


The Union Home Minister will lead BJP's 'Save democracy' march in Haryana. FILE PHOTO

'No satisfactory answer'

"It was astonishing that the BJP, which had failed to provide satisfactory answers to serious questions concerning electoral transparency, is launching a campaign in the name of saving democracy," Congress's Haryana in-charge Sanjay Dutt said.

"Democracy is not safeguarded merely through slogans, processions and political events. It is protected through transparency, accountability, institutional independence and respect for the people's mandate. Amit Shah must answer the questions raised by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on alleged 'vote *chori*' [theft] in Haryana in the 2024 Assembly election," a joint statement by Haryana Congress president Rao Narender Singh and Mr. Dutt said.

"On November 5, when Mr. Shah leads the BJP's march in Karnal and addresses a public rally in Ambala, the people of Haryana will expect answers to these important questions," Mr. Dutt said.

Uttarakhand CM handing over govt. land to private parties, alleges Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday accused Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami of handing over government land and British-era heritage properties to private parties at throwaway prices, and alleged that Mr. Dhami had centralised decision-making powers to facilitate the transfers.


Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. FILE PHOTO

The Opposition party demanded Mr. Dhami's removal and said it would approach the Governor and move the court if no action was taken.

George Everest estate

At the centre of the Statewide agitation on Wednesday was the proposed transfer of the George Everest estate in Mussoorie, named after Sir George Everest, India's first Surveyor-General, to private entities.

The estate was part of Uttarakhand's historical and natural heritage, the Congress said, questioning the Uttarakhand government's decision to transfer such a significant public asset to the hands of private players.

The Congress general secretary in-charge of Uttarakhand, Kumari Selja, alleged that land and properties at nearly 40 locations across the State were being transferred to private entities, "compromising public assets and the interests of the local people".

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, Ms. Selja claimed Mr. Dhami had taken away the final authority over land transfers from the Cabinet, and was personally approving major transactions while also chairing the Uttarakhand Investment and Infrastructure Development Board.

Prohibitive orders passed *ex-parte* to prevent unrest, Delhi Police tells top court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Seven separate prohibitive orders passed by the Delhi Police under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) in the national capital show restrictions concerning free movement were imposed way before protests erupted demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

Six orders issued on August 20 or immediately before or after this date, came a month after the July 20 protests against alleged NEET paper leaks witnessed violence in New Delhi district. One of them imposes prohibitions from September 26 to November 24. The prohibitive orders are for a maximum period of 60 days, till the latter half of October. They are *ex-parte* or without hearing any objections, saying "notice cannot be served individually on all concerned".

The orders, which are part of an affidavit filed by Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar in the Supreme Court, said "reports have been received indicate that such conditions now exists that unrestricted holding of public meetings, processions/demonstrations, etc, in the area are likely to cause obstruction to traffic, danger to human safety and disturbance of public tranquillity".

The police reasoned in the orders that it was necessary to take "speedy measures" to "prevent danger to human life or safety and disturbance to public tranquillity".

Ladakh bureaucrats worse than Britishers, says Wangchuk's wife

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Ladakh activist Sonam Wangchuk's wife Gitanjali J. Angmo has accused the Ladakh bureaucrats of being "worse than Bristishers for stopping a kindergarten school under different pretexts" and termed it "a witch-hunt".

"This government is incompetent and indulges in witch hunting. They do not know how to run educational institutes but are good at stalling others to do so. On one hand, national institutions ask us to impart lectures on setting up similar educational institutes, on the other, the Desert Flower School, which is a kindergarten level, is stopped from starting admissions," she said.

'Maintain the status quo'

On November 3, the Ladakh administration said the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh's (HIAL) Desert Flower School commenced functioning "without necessary approvals from the competent authority"". It asked the HIAL to strictly maintain the status quo and avoid causing any prejudice to the land lease case pending before the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

She said the construction of the school was started in 2023 with the donations of Public Sector Units "after due diligence and compliances". "We could not start the admission last year due to the September 24 incident. We have followed the process of approvals but were directed to get no objection certificate from the Deputy Commissioner on not having any political members in the managing committee. While one office says it is a requirement, another denies the same," said Ms. Angmo.

She said the official approvals "ideally should be granted after the school is functional and its infrastructure and teaching staff were evaluated". "I challenge this government to set up a school like Desert Flower School in five years. Bureaucrats are supposed to facilitate the public-private partnership. However, they are stalling it. Do we have any university featuring among the top 10 in the world? We want answers," said Ms. Angmo.

'Land lease claim baseless'

Questioning the Ladakh administration's statement on land lease to the HIAL, Ms. Angmo said the claims made in the government order were "baseless".

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600,),
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/30/2026 Date : 04.11.2026

RE- TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of Drugs/ Consumable for Thalassemia Management for the year 2026 - 2027.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	No. Drugs
1.	KMSCL/ED/THALASSEMIA /RT/2026/027 dtd. 04/11/2026	05

Last date and time of online uploading of tender - 16.11.2026, 05.00 pm.
Date and time of opening of Technical bid - 18.11.2026 11.00 am.

Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru – 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-11/1063/2026-27 Date: 04.11.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Tender under two cover system on Turnkey basis is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Agencies, Individual Firms, Company, Public Sector Undertakings who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of Work : Establishment, Commissioning of 6.0 MLD Regional Combined Sewage & Effluent Treatment Facility (RCSETF), Civil/Common Infrastructure installed Treatment Machinery Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) on Turnkey Basis including Operation & Maintenance of entire plant for a period of 5 years at Mundargi 4th Phase Industrial Area, Ballari District **(2nd Call).**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **26.11.2026 upto 04:00 pm**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/JA/3522/2026-27

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 2

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.
Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-Mail: osscltd@bsnl.in & mdossclтd456@gmail.com

Tender No.OSSC/Engg-146/2026

Tender Call Notice for e-tender for Purchase of HDPE Bags 2026-27

OSSC Ltd, invites e-Tender only from the Manufacturers on item wise rate contact basis in double Cover System through Online Mode only for the work below.

Name of work	Purchase of HDPE bags for the year 2026-27
No of work	One Job
Availability of bid documents in portal	15.00 hours on dt. 05.11.2026 to 17.00 hours of dt.16.11.2025
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17.00 hours of dt.16.11.2026
Date and time of Opening of Bid	10.30 hours of dt.17.11.2026

The detailed description of HDPE bags, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the Tender Schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation can also be seen in the said website.

1001/207/2627

Sd/-
Managing Director, OSSC Ltd., BBSR
OIPR-1001/1045/1/26-27/0035

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, DHENKANAL (R&B) DIVISION, DHENKANAL
Email - eedklpwd@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. SE DKL (R&B). 29 / 2026-27
Invitation for Bids

1. The Superintending Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Division, Dhenkanal, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in single cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for Construction of Electrical works as detailed below.

2.	Nature of work	:	02 No Electrical Works
3.	No. of work	:	02 No.
4.	Bid Cost	:	₹ 6,000/-
5.	Class of Contractor	:	"HT" Licence
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	From 10.00 AM of 06.11.2026 to 5.00 PM of 20.11.2026
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt.21.11.2026 at 11.00 AM
8.	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.		

Superintending Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Division.

34001/1102/2627 OIPR-34001/34016/1/26-27/0032

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE-I, CANTONMENT ROAD, KATAKA.
Email id :- seeccuttack@gmail.com

"e" Procurement Notice No.ACE, EC-I/11 of 2026-27

1.	Nature of work	:	Road works & Canal Lining Work
2.	Total no. of works	:	04 Nos
3.	Tender Amount	:	Varies from Rs.368.00 lakh to Rs.590.40 lakh (Approx.)
4.	Tender paper cost	:	Rs.10,000/- per each tender (Non refundable)
5.	EMD required	:	As mentioned in Section No.1 of DTCN (Clause No.6)
6.	Class of contractor	:	As mentioned in Section No.1 of DTCN (Clause No.1)
7.	Period of completion	:	As mentioned in Section No.1 of DTCN (Clause No.8)
8.	Online for bidding	:	11.11.2026 at 10.00 hrs. to 25.11.2026 up to 17.30 hrs.
9.	Date & time of opening of Tender (Technical bid)	:	26.11.2026 at 11.30 hrs.

Other terms and conditions can be seen from the Govt. website "**www.tendersodisha.gov.in**".

All corrigendum / cancellation of tender if any, will only be uploaded in the above web site.

Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Kataka.

32001/1245/2627 OIPR-32001/32370/1/26-27/0010

INBRIEF



Navy puts two officers on trial over 2024 capsize of warship

The Navy has initiated court martial proceedings against two officers for alleged negligence that led to the partial capsizing of guided-missile frigate *INS Brahmaputra* at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai in July 2024. A senior Navy official confirmed that the proceedings against the warship's commanding officer, a Captain, and its officer of the day, a Lieutenant Commander, began on October 12. The Captain faces charges of hazarding a naval ship and negligence in performing his duties, while the junior officer has been charged with negligence. The ship tilted onto its side after a fire broke out during repairs. A sailor drowned in the incident.

CBI gets custody of 'kingpin' in Mahadev betting app case

A special court in Raipur on Wednesday remanded Sourabh Chandrakar, the alleged kingpin of the ₹6,000-crore Mahadev online betting app scam, in CBI custody for eight days. The development follows the recent extradition of Chandrakar from Oman to Delhi after which he was brought to Raipur on Tuesday. Defence lawyer Tushar Giri told journalists that the court also allowed the Central probe agency to take the accused to Delhi for questioning. The CBI took over the probe in 2024, while the ED has been probing the money laundering linked to the cases.

Despite High Court rap, Dia Mirza's video not restored by BMC

'BJP disrespecting court': Oppn., civil rights organisations hit out at the State govt. for the lapse, demand that the video be restored immediately

Vinaya Vilas Deshpande
MUMBAI



BMC sources say they will study the court order on the actor's appeal for a noise-free and pollution-free Deepavali. FILE PHOTO

Over 24 hours after the Bombay High Court directed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to restore the video message of actor Dia Mirza's appeal for a noise-free and pollution-free Deepavali, the BMC has failed to do so. Sources in the BMC said they will study the court order and take an appropriate call on it. They refused to give a timeline for the restoration of the video.

Meanwhile, the Opposition and civil rights organisations hit out at the government for the lapse.

Shiv Sena (UBT) demanded that the civic body restore the video immediately. "The BJP regime is now blatantly disrespecting the court. Firstly, it criticised Ms. Dia's video, because of her surname. The video was made after an appeal of the High Court order itself. Then the BJP calls her 'anti-national'. For what? Raising environmental issues? Making a video appeal for a court order? The regime can't handle the administration – be it the city or the country," Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aditya Thackeray told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

Civil rights activist Sumaira Abdulali, who has been working for the cause of noise pollution, demanded that the BMC give an explanation on why it had pulled down a video which was recorded as per the directives of the High Court.

"How can a politician interfere in a court direction? The second question is to ignore the order 24 hours later. The State government is not respecting the court of law. The noise rules were made in the year 2000. The first orders started coming around since the year 2003. We have still not been following those court orders," she told *The Hindu*.

BMC sources said the officials were busy on Wednesday with a demolition drive in Borivali after a Supreme Court order.

PIL seeks use of calculators in Class 12 exams for students with disabilities

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought responses from the Centre and other authorities on a public interest litigation seeking permission for students with disabilities, other than those diagnosed with Dyscalculia, to use basic calculators in Class 12 board examinations in mathematics and accountancy.

A Bench of Acting Chief Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre and Justice Sanjay Sharma issued notices to the Centre, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and PARAKH (National Assessment Centre).

During the hearing, CBSE's counsel told the court that the issue was already under consideration and sought time to obtain instructions from the board.

The PIL, filed by Vishal Dua and several parents, seeks to extend the existing facility of using calculators, currently available only to students with Dyscalculia, to students with other disabilities as well.

Fast-track special courts scheme extended till 2031

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Centre plans to operationalise 850 fast track courts to deal with child abuse and rape cases

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a five-year extension of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for fast-track special courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO courts, from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2031.

The scheme, operational since October 10, 2019, has undergone extensions to ensure expeditious disposal of cases related to rape and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. It was initially launched for one year and was extended up to March 31, 2026.

The scheme has a total financial outlay of ₹3,788.04 crore, comprising a Central share of ₹2,353.15 crore and a State/Union Territory share of ₹1,434.89 crore.

The Centre's allocation will be met from the Nirbhaya Fund. There are 779 functional FTSCs across the country, including 399 exclusive POCSO courts. They have disposed of 4,02,457 cases since the scheme's inception.

Under the extended scheme, the government plans to operationalise 850 FTSCs, including exclusive POCSO courts, across participating States and Union Territories.

This expansion shall be based on case pendency data across all States and Union Territories.

There is also a provision for a dedicated Judicial Officer, a Special Public Prosecutor and six support staff to facilitate expeditious disposal of pending cases relating to rape and offences under the POCSO Act, 2012.

The continuation of the scheme is expected to expedite trials, reduce the backlog of rape and POCSO cases, and encourage the establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres and child-friendly court spaces to facilitate victim testimonies without causing further distress, while prioritising cases involving vulnerable groups like women and children, an official statement said.

Cong. slams govt. over new rural jobs scheme norms

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Criticising the government for weakening the grievance redressal mechanism under the rural employment programme Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday said the government had reduced India's most significant rights-based law to an administrative scheme.

Mr. Ramesh was responding to *The Hindu's* report on the government dropping several provisions that had figured in the draft rules circulated in May. Key clauses dropped include a provision requiring the registration of a first information report for *prima facie* evidence of financial irregularities, and the requirement to place action-taken reports before local body meetings for review and monitoring. In a post on X, Mr. Ramesh said that while the government had an opportunity to strengthen mechanisms to address violations of the programme's provisions, it had instead "removed those avenues altogether".

According to the Congress leader, one of the most significant changes was deleting a draft provision that treated failure to dispose of grievances within seven working days as a contravention of the Act.

Mr. Ramesh further criticised the deletion of provisions mandating review of grievance-related action by Intermediate and District Panchayats and designation of a fixed weekly day for officials to receive complaints.

CPI(M) opposes linking welfare benefits to voter IDs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Wednesday criticised the Union Panchayati Raj Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh's remarks that Aadhaar should be replaced with biometrics and voter identity cards as the identification document for welfare disbursals.

The party said welfare schemes should not be contingent on documents or technological requirements that many poor households were unable to meet.

Four dead in gunfight between rival armed groups in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

At least four people were killed and several injured in a gunfight between rival armed groups in Manipur's Noney district on Wednesday.

Officials said the gunfight, reportedly between different Naga groups, began around 3.30 a.m. at Taodaijang village in the Nungba police station limits and continued for hours. "The exchange of fire prevented security personnel from immediately reaching the area," a district official said.

The groups involved were reportedly the Jenchui faction of the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF), the Kamson faction of the ZUF, and the National Socialist Council of Nagalim, also known as the NSCN (Isak-Muivah). The last two are allies.

According to local people, three of those killed belonged to the ZUF (Jenchui) group, and one was a ZUF (Kamson) member. Several people from all three groups were injured. It was not clear what led to the gunfight.

The Rongmei Naga Luphuam, an apex women's body of the Rongmei community, appealed to all armed groups to stop fighting.

Shutdown extended

Meanwhile, the Committee on Tribal Unity, a Kuki-Zo organisation, on Wednesday extended its ongoing shutdown in Kangpokpi district by another 48 hours to protest the government's failure to deliver justice for two Kuki youths who were abducted and killed a few days ago.

The shutdown was scheduled to conclude at 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

Kedartal trek turns tragic for sisters from Lucknow

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI



Deepika Verma and Vartika Verma had set out from Gangotri for Kedartal with other trekkers on October 27. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A family's search for two missing daughters ended in tragedy on Wednesday after the bodies of sisters Vartika Verma and Deepika Verma, residents of Lucknow, were recovered following an avalanche on the Kedartal trekking route in Uttarakhand.

The sisters were among the eight trekkers stranded near Kacchi Dhang, on their way to Kedartal. The group had set out from Gangotri on October 27, but heavy snowfall and avalanches cut off their route, leaving them stranded in the mountains.

Brother's call for help

"Please don't scroll. Please share," Atul Verma posted on Instagram, alongside an AI-generated photograph of his younger sisters smiling in the front row of a trekking group. He was desperately trying to draw attention to the missing trekkers and reach someone who could help.

"This is not just a photograph of a trekking group. These are eight human lives, eight families waiting for their loved ones to return," Mr. Verma wrote.

The family said they learnt about the incident through social media and not from the trekking agency. Mr. Verma rushed to Uttarkashi, hoping there was still a chance of finding his sisters safe. He reached the district headquarters on Tuesday with other relatives, but was eventually informed that both sisters had died.

The sisters shared a love for trekking and had explored several trails across India and Nepal.

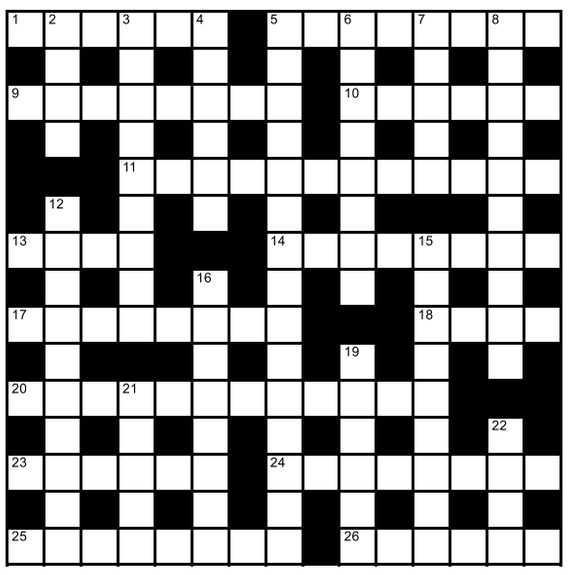
With the recovery of two more bodies, the death toll in the avalanche has reached four. Rescuers are continuing search for the remaining four trekkers, all from West Bengal.

TH CROSSWORD + 14941

(set by Avtaar)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 It is like hell when husband's fired by present coach (6)
5 Yankee tie, crest and official garments (5-3)
9 Dope is worthless - contains adulterated musk (8)
10 Double-woven blouse, extremely lacy, worn by women (3-3)
11 Bubbly unopened alcohol is toted after the start in sign of childhood camaraderie (3,6,3)
13 Ducks in a row? (4)
14 12 eggs found in nobleman's jacket - issue being reviewed (8)
17 Vocal and essentially cynical freak subject to emotional fits (8)
18 75% of 14 is 5 less? (4)
20 Reserve hospital taken over by sick senior civil servant? (6-6)
23 Actor undressed completely going for a vivid Asian wrap (6)
24 Restraining covert operation about suffering (8)
25 Bust without head, feels very hard (8)
26 Time for cold drink and sweet (6)

Down

2 Hammer ball into channel (4)
3 See black rat entering complex seconds away from crisis (9)
4 Obstinate Republican boards train (6)
5 Silly Conservative focuses on reforms with intense third party scrutiny (4-11)
6 Class of anemones cultured in a zoo that wants it (8)
7 All orderlies in retreat drinking rum (5)
8 British daily featuring extremely unusual, shortened clip on soldiers' execution (10)
12 Reached outside old University with standard mask (10)
15 Instruction for band members in centrefold, briefly edited (5,4)
16 First to go out, believing bum's sweet talk (8)
19 Aimless commercial break (6)
21 1-0; United (2,3)
22 Regularly connected in the past (4)

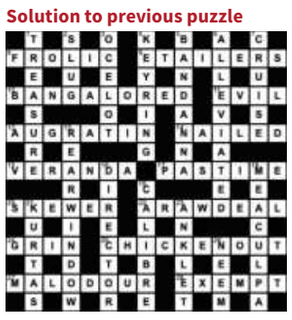
SUDOKU

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

No.SS7052 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Three realities of Tattva

Swamy Vedanta Desika authored 'Tattva Navaneetam' in his work 'Miscellaneous Secrets' ('Sillarai Rahasyam'). Just as butter is churned from curd, he churns out Tattva Navaneetam from his work Sillarai Rahasyam, said Sri Desika Srinivasa Thathachariar in a discourse. Tattva denotes three realities: *chetanam* (sentient), *achetanam* (non-sentient), and the Supreme Lord (Eswaran). Anyone who desires liberation (*mumukshutva*) must know these tattvas. The Vedas, Manusmriti, epics such as the Mahabharata and the Ramayana, and the Vishnu Purana clearly describe these three tattvas in detail. The Upanishads give these tattvas different names: *bhokta*, *bhogyam* and *prerita*. The sentient soul, jivatma, is the *chetana* tattva and is called the *bhokta* – the experiencer. The non-sentient object is called *achetana* tattva and is *bhogyam*, meaning the object to be experienced. The Supreme Lord is called *prerita* (Eswaran) and is the controller. Jivatma experiences the fruits of karma. That is why it is called *bhokta*. Inanimate objects exist solely for others' experience (*bhogyam*). The Supreme Lord commands both the experiencer (*chetanam*) and the experienced object (*achetanam*) according to the laws.

Jivatmas are of three types: *baddha* (bound), *mukta* (liberated), and *nitya suri* (eternal). *Baddha* (bound souls) are trapped in worldly bondage; *Mukta* (liberated souls) have escaped this bondage and attained liberation (*moksha*) through acharyas (bhakti or prapatti). *Nitya suris* are forever free from worldly bondage and render eternal service to the Supreme Lord. They are Senai Mudaliar, Periya Thiruvadi and Ananthazhwar.

INBRIEF



Centre earmarks ₹2,814 crore for lithium, nickel processing

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹2,814-crore capital expenditure support scheme to establish domestic processing facilities for lithium and nickel, seeking to strengthen India's critical mineral ecosystem and reduce import dependence. The scheme will remain in force for five years. Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said the scheme would strengthen domestic capabilities, boost manufacturing and reduce dependence on imports.

Cabinet approves scheme to overhaul statistical system

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹4,371 crore scheme – Viksit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics & Research (VISTAR) – to overhaul the statistical architecture at both the Central and State levels, for the period 2026-27 to 2030-31. The scheme will be divided into three components: Comprehensive statistical operations and strengthening of the ecosystem, support for statistical strengthening, and an economic census.

Gold prices rise 3% as U.S. dollar slips to five-week low

Gold prices rose 3% on Wednesday following the biggest decline in the dollar index in over a month as investors awaited U.S. mid-term election results. The dollar index, which measures the strength of the greenback against a basket of six major currencies, slipped to a 5-week low of 101.3 on Wednesday. A weaker dollar makes dollar-denominated assets like gold less expensive for consumers of other currencies, boosting demand for the yellow metal.

India secures $400-billion investment commitments in renewables

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

India has secured preliminary investment commitments worth $400 billion across the renewable energy sector, including green hydrogen, energy storage and transmission, among others, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit and Expo, he said the commitments were made during a CEO roundtable involving global investors and fund managers. "The fund managers have taken all the details and have given a commitment of $400 billion," he said, adding that the figures were preliminary.

Separately, the government will consult industry stakeholders over the next 10-15 days before deciding whether to extend the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) framework, Mr. Joshi said.

Volatility index stays elevated despite five-day market rally

VIX surges 65.4% YTD, reflecting heightened investor anxiety despite recent recovery in equities; crude crisis, flaring up of West Asia conflict, U.S. results and Trump's response add to tension

Gowri Lakshmi
MUMBAI

India's stock markets may have extended their winning streak to five consecutive sessions, but the persistence of the volatility index (VIX) around 15 points suggests that investors remain far from reassured.

The so-called 'fear gauge', which measures the market's expected volatility over the next 30 days, has eased from its late-October high of 17 but remains elevated amid mounting global uncertainties. While the Nifty 50 has declined nearly 8% since the beginning of 2026, the VIX has surged 65.4% year-to-date, reflecting heightened investor anxiety despite the recent recovery in equities.

"VIX basically suggests potential for volatility in markets. The market has been on a rally but investors fear a decline for several reasons. The crude crisis, flaring up of West Asia conflict, U.S. results and Trump's response, all add to anxieties for global investors," V. K. Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.



On Wednesday, Sensex gained 383 points, or 0.5%, to close at 77,301, while Nifty advanced 149 points to settle at 23,960. PTI

On Wednesday, the 30-share Sensex gained 383 points, or 0.5%, to close at 77,301, while the Nifty 50 advanced 149 points, or 0.6%, to settle at 23,960, extending the market's recovery for a fifth straight session.

However, the gains were partly restrained by weakness in information technology stocks. The Nifty IT index declined 1.5% to 32,061 after falling as much as 3% during the session, weighing on broader market sentiment.

"Post the U.S. midterm elections, investor focus will shift to the U.S. administration's next course of action on West Asia, as any further escalation or diplomatic progress could significantly influence crude oil prices and global market sentiment in the near term," Siddhartha Khemka, head of research, wealth management at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said in a note.

Strong corporate earnings for the September quarter have provided domestic equities with some support.

Analysts also point to a possible shift in global capital flows towards India as concerns over stretched valuations in artificial intelligence-linked stocks trigger a reassessment of investment allocations.

The AI-led rally over the past two years had attracted substantial foreign capital to markets such as South Korea, Taiwan and the U.S., diverting flows away from India.

Crude oil remains another critical variable.

"Crude has to sustain the current levels or below $100 a barrel for markets to recover completely," Ajit Mishra, senior vice-president, Research, Religare Broking, said, adding, "A reversal in AI deceleration could also potentially risk reverse the gains we have seen so far."

Mercedes-Benz Group AG to scale up tech, parts sourcing from India

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

India will play an important role in Mercedes-Benz Group AG's global business as the company would source more technology and components from India for its global operations before exporting vehicles from the country, Ola Källenius. Mercedes-Benz's Group AG Chairman of the Board of Management said in a select interaction.

"And these tech partnerships and supply partnerships are going from strength to strength. And the fact that we have the biggest R&D centre outside of Germany here in Bengaluru, we also have a very competent production setup since more than 30 years," he stated.

The company on Wednesday announced fresh investment of ₹200 crore in India, taking the total investment to ₹3,200 crore, and introduced the electric GLC SUV starting ₹78.5 lakh with 711 km range on a single charge.

Cabinet okays ₹14,500 cr. VGF scheme for large scale energy storage

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹14,500 crore Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for the development of grid-scale energy storage systems for the period 2026-27 to 2030-31, the government announced on Wednesday.

The scheme is aimed at supporting the development of 92 GWh of fresh, yet-to-be-commissioned, energy storage capacity across the country.

"The scheme will support creation of new capacities equivalent to 170% of the present-day grid scale energy storage system capacity in the country and help meet the required grid scale ESS capacity of 411 GWh by 2031-32," the government said in a release.

The scheme is designed to provide for the development of 60 GWh of hydro pumped storage plant (PSP) capacity, 30 GWh of battery energy storage system (BESS) capacity and 2 GWh of capacity through alternative energy storage technologies, with a total estimated investment of ₹97,600 crore. "The VGF support will help improve the financial viability of these projects and accelerate the deployment of large-scale energy storage infrastructure in the country," the government said, adding that the scheme will also provide an impetus to domestic manufacturing of BESS

Energy storage capacity will be allocated through a tariff-based competitive bidding process with both public and private sector electricity discoms eligible for VGF support for BESS and hydro PSP projects.

U.S. midterm impact on India: faster trade deal talks, higher tariffs likely

NEWS ANALYSIS

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI





Difficult choices: U.S. President Donald Trump may exert pressure on India to reach a trade deal. AP/ REUTERS

> Trump will now use his executive powers to pressure India for a quick deal that secures market access for U.S. farm, industrial goods, alongside other sops
>
> **AJAY SRIVASTAVA**
> Global Trade Research Initiative

The results of the U.S. midterm polls, which show that the Democrats having gained control of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, will likely hasten talks between India and the U.S. on a trade deal but could also see higher tariffs on India until the deal is closed, experts said.

On one hand, a desire to quickly close the trade pact to show strength domestically may induce Mr. Trump to raise tariff pressure on India, while on the other, Indian negotiators will likely see this election result as an opportunity to push through a favourable deal for India.

U.S. pressure to rise

According to Ajay Srivastava, founder of trade think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative, this loss will push U.S. President Donald Trump to increase his exercise of his executive powers to pressure India into accepting a deal.

"With foreign policy leverage failing against Russia, China and Iran, Trump needs a quick win," Mr. Srivastava said. "Expect heightened pressure on India for a trade deal to prove American clout."

Leaders in the U.S. and India have repeatedly said over the last few months that the deal between the two countries is almost ready and is awaiting final approvals.

India, in particular, has been holding out until it receives an assurance that it will win a clear advantage over its competitors.

"Trump will now use his executive powers to pressure India for a quick deal that secures market access for U.S. agricultural and industrial goods, alongside other major concessions for U.S. companies," Mr. Srivastava said.

While the U.S. Supreme Court in February defanged Mr. Trump's reciprocal tariff policy that had seen tariffs of up to 50% being levied on India, the President has other tools through which he can levy tariffs.

According to Deep Pal, director of geopolitics and policy at the Koan Advisory Group, the implications of these election results might lead to some difficulty for Mr. Trump in gaining support for his policies.

"For this administration, especially after tonight, any decision has to look like a win domestically, to core Republican voters," Mr. Pal said.

"With Congress out of his hands, a lot will depend on how much control Mr. Trump has over the Republican party and if there will be any purchase for his ideas."

However, Mr. Pal pointed out that the Indian government might view this new reality in the U.S. with greater optimism.

"Indian negotiators, on the other hand, may think that the new realities will make the Trump administration amenable to a better trade deal for India, breaking the current deadlock, and leading to a flurry of new conversations," Mr. Pal said.

He added, though, that the White House has so far shown it does not believe in stepping back, but rather in doubling down.

Tariffs may surge

The U.S. has already implemented several tariffs on India and other nations and has put into place tools that empower it to levy more.

The Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, which envisages tariffs of up to 100% on countries such as India that import large quantities of Russian oil and gas, was first co-proposed by a Republican and Democrat senator and received significant bipartisan support during its passage in both the Senate and the House.

Act in abeyance

Mr. Trump has kept the provisions of the Act in abeyance for now in national interest, but even if he were to decide to implement the tariffs, he will not receive resistance from the Democrat-controlled Congress due to the bipartisan support the Act received.

The U.S. is also currently investigating India and other countries under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974 into whether they are using strategic excess manufacturing capacity to hurt the U.S. economy. Mr. Trump can authorise additional tariffs on the basis of the findings of this investigation without the need for Congress approval.

10% tariff

He has already imposed a tariff of 10% on India on the basis of a Section 301 investigation into whether U.S. trade partners were doing enough to prevent the import of goods made using forced labour.

These Section 301 tariffs will come on top of the 50% tariffs Mr. Trump imposed last year under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 on the import of all steel and aluminium, including from India. The U.S. Supreme Court, while striking down the legal basis for the reciprocal tariff system, allowed the Section 232 tariffs to remain. Even a Democrat-led Congress will not be able to revoke these tariffs.

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
An Autonomous Institute under Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India,
Paschim Boragaon, Garchuk, Guwahati-781035

Advt.No.614 Date: 05/11/2026

IASST, Guwahati invites applications for admission under institutional JRF programme for the year 2027. Application should be submitted online at **https://iasst.gov.in** within 15 days of publication of this advertisement.

Please refer to the detailed advertisement published in the web site **https://iasst.gov.in**

Registrar, IASST

RAJASTHAN STATE GANGANAGAR SUGAR MILLS LIMITED
(Centre of Excellence for Revenue Research & Analysis) सूरतिया मंजिल, अजमेर सदन के पास, झालाना डूंगरी, जयपुर-302004
Tel: 0141-2740841, Fax: 0141-2740676, Email-ID : dgmpurchase.rgsm@rajasthan.gov.in
NIB No. :- RSGSM/NGB/RC/2025-26/PUR/20 Dated :- 03/11/2026
SHORT NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids for new glass bottles are invited from interested bidders up to 6.00 p.m. of 19.11.2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in)** of the state; **http://excise.rajasthan.gov.in/,** departmental website.
UBN : GSM2627GLRC00069
Raj.Samwad/C/26/12907 Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

अजमेर विकास प्राधिकरण, अजमेर
रोडवेज बस, विश्राम स्थली, अजमेर, Email :- ajmerada@gmail.com,
Website :- www.rajasthan.gov.in/ada, Tel.No. :- 0145-2627748-2627749
क्रमांक :- अविप्रा/प.2/तकनीकी/2026-27/राजकाज 25287429 दिनांक :- 31/10/2026
E-TENDER - 33/2026-27
Bids for "Development & Construction including Repairing of Public Amenities of Existing Bus Stand Pushkar, Ajmer" amounting Rs. 626.50 Lacs are invited from interested bidders for upto 25.11.2026, 6:00 pm. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in)** & **(http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** **http://www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/ada** departmental website.
UBN No. : AJD2627WLOB00171
Raj.Samwad/C/26/12842 Executive Engineer

BHARAT DYNAMICS LIMITED
(A Government Of India Enterprise)
Ministry Of Defence, Gachibowli Hyderabad 500032
Ref: BDL/CC/OT/GT/006/2026-27 Dt: 05.11.2026
e-PROCUREMENT ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
Inviting Indigenous Competitive Bidding

Sl.NO	Tender ID	Description	Estimate in Rs
1	67137	Infrastructure Works at User Location Sukna near Siliguri, West Bengal	896.13 Lakhs

Please visit website **https://bdltenders.abcprocure.com, select online tenders on dashboard** for further details. Bids should be submitted online only. **"corrigendum if any shall be issued through our e-portal only and not in Newspapers"**
*Bidders are Requested to apply for online Vendor Registration in BDL website **https://bdl-india.in/registration-contractors** prospects.
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (Corp Comml)

MALKAJGIRI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
O/o. The Superintending Engineer, SWM & Tr. MMC, Hyderabad
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Tender Notice No. 17/SE (SWM & Tr.)/MMC/2026-27, Dt: .10.2026

Item No.	Name of Work	Estimate Amount
1	Establishment of 200 TPD Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste Processing Plant in Sy. No. 226 situated at Rampally Village, Keesara Mandal of Ghatkesar Circle, under SBM (U) 2.0 Funds on PPP Mode cum Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Basis in Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation, Telangana.	Rs. 12.00 Crores
	TOTAL	Rs. 12.00 Crores

S.No.	Events		Date and Time
1.	Start Date	:	03-11-2026 from 11.00 AM
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting	:	10-11-2026 at 3.00 PM
3.	Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids	:	17-11-2026 upto 12.00 PM
4.	Opening of Technical Bid	:	17-11-2026 after 12.30 PM

Note: The Bidders are advised to visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in to download RFP & other Documents. Any Queries can be addressed to eeswmtr@gmail.com, achealthmmc@gmail.com
Address of the officer concerned Superintending Engineer (SWM & Tr.) Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation, Hyderabad. (9154768808).
Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement https://tender.telangana.gov.in
Sd/- Superintending Engineer
DIPR R.O.No.13145-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Dt. 04.11.2026 (SWM & Tr.), MMC

Lakshadweep Administration
Directorate of Education, Kavaratti- 682 555
E-mail: highereducationcell2021@gmail.com
Dated: 04.11.2026
ADVERTISEMENT
The Department of Education proposes to engage faculty on contract/guest basis for the Government Colleges in Lakshadweep under the Department of Education. The interested and eligible candidates may register in **http://serviceonline.gov.in** and login to apply. Visit **www.lakshadweep.gov.in** for Notification.
Sd/- M. BHARANI, DANICS
(DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION)

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PARADESH
2nd FLOOR, KISAN BAZAR, VIBHUTI KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW, U.P.
No. ME-3/2026/ 1947 Lucknow: Dated 03 November 2026
Time Schedule Of Stray Vacancy Round of Online Counseling For UP NEET UG-2026.
In continuation of the time-table issued by Medical Counseling Committee (MCC), New Delhi for counseling of NEET UG course, the time-table of stray vacancy round of online counseling for admission of state quota seats of UG course (MBBS/BDS) in Government/Private Medical/Dental Colleges/ Universities of the State is as follows :-

S.No.	Description	Dates
1.	Date of online registration and uploading of documents	05 November, 2026 (From 11:00 AM) to 07 November, 2026 (Till 11:00 AM)
2.	Date of depositing registration fee and security Fee	05 November, 2026 (From 11:00 AM) to 07 November, 2026 (Till 02:00 PM)
3.	Date of declaration of merit list	07 November, 2026
4.	Date of online choice filling	07 November, 2026 (From 05:00 PM) to 12 November, 2026 (Till 11:00 AM)
5.	Date of declaration of result of seat allotment	12 November, 2026
6.	downloading allotment letters and admission process	13 November, 2026 to 16 November, 2026

All information related to UP NEET UG-2026 counseling will be uploaded on Departmental website **https://upneet.gov.in** and **www.dgme.up.gov.in** DIRECTOR GENERAL
Help Line Numbers-8189011696, 8189011697, 8189011698, 8189011699, 8189011700,(Timing-From 11:00 AM to Till 05:00 PM)

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture,
Bommanahalli Zone-2, Bengaluru - 560 068
No.:BSCC(Bom)Tender/PR/03/2026-27 Date:04.11.2026
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER(IFT)
(Through KPP Portal Only) (Two Cover System)
The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Bommanahalli Zone, invites tenders from eligible tenderers for work detailed in the table below.

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1.	Comprehensive development of eco-friendly model park (AECS Layout Parks) Development of new Parks which includes comprehensive development, Biodiversity conservation, Leaf Composting unit, Paver blocks and green cement, children Play equipment, Plantation of local species and dustbins etc. Estimate Cost: **Rs. 250.00 Lakhs**. EMD: **Rs. 3,75,000/-.**

1)Tender documents can be downloaded from KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 06.11.2026 onwards. 2)** Pre-bid meeting: **11.11.2026 at 11.30 a.m. 3)** Last Date for receipt of tenders: **17.11.2026 upto 4.00 p.m. 4)** Opening of Technical bids: **18.11.2026 at 4.30 p.m.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/-
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture,
Bommanahalli Zone-2, BSCC.

SEOUL

N. Korea launches missiles as it protests against U.S. claims on hack



AFP

North Korea launched multiple missiles toward the sea on Wednesday, South Korea's military said, hours after Pyongyang said it saw no need to resume diplomacy with Washington in protest of accusations that North Korean hackers were behind the recent cryptocurrency heist at Binance. AP

WASHINGTON

U.S. court blocks administration's plan to deport Afghan immigrants



AP

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York blocked on Tuesday the Trump administration's plans to deport Afghan immigrants back to Afghanistan, a move advocacy groups said could endanger their lives. Among the group were relatives of Afghans who assisted the U.S. military prior to the fall of Kabul. AFP

JOHANNESBURG

South Africans vote as anger over failing services threatens ANC



AFP

South Africans queued from early on Wednesday to vote in municipal elections, with anger over corruption, crime and failing public services threatening to inflict fresh losses on the African National Congress (ANC). The outcome will help shape the political landscape ahead of the 2029 national election. REUTERS

KYIV

Ukraine's Zelenskyy awards U.S. first lady Melania state honour



AFP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has awarded U.S. first lady Melania Trump a state honour for her role in helping to organise a humanitarian evacuation from a frontline town last week. The award, the Order of Princess Olga, first class, honours women who have made exceptional contributions. REUTERS

Indian-American Democratic lawmakers make strong showing in U.S. midterm polls

Ami Bera, Ro Khanna, Suhas Subramanyam and Pramila Jayapal retain their seats in the House of Representatives; Pia Dandiya enters Congress for the first time; Trump-backed Republican Vivek Ramaswamy loses Ohio Governor's race; Indian-American community is estimated to be over 5 mn

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

Indian-American Democratic lawmakers Ami Bera, Ro Khanna, Suhas Subramanyam and Pramila Jayapal have been re-elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, while Pia Dandiya has made her debut in the U.S. Congress, marking a strong showing by the community in the midterm elections.

Several other Indian-American candidates contested elections for offices ranging from governor to state legislatures and local bodies.

The elections, held on Tuesday, covered all 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, 35 Senate seats, 36 gubernatorial posts and several local public offices.

Mr. Bera, 61, has won re-election to the U.S. House from California's 3rd Congressional District, defeating Republican Robb Tucker. He has secured an eighth term, and is the longest-serving Indian-American in the U.S. Congress.

He was first elected to Congress in 2012 and took office in January 2013. He currently serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Khanna, 50, has won re-election from California's 17th Congressional District, located in the heart of Silicon Valley. He is completing his fifth term and will begin his sixth in January.



Bagging wins: From top left, Aruna Miller, Pia Dandiya, Pramila Jayapal, Suhas Subramanyam, Ami Bera, and Ro Khanna. PTI

Mr. Subramanyam, 40, has been re-elected from Virginia's 10th Congressional District, defeating Republican Dave Beckwith. He secured over 61% of the vote against Mr. Beckwith. Mr. Subramanyam previously served as an adviser to former U.S. President Barack Obama.

Ms. Jayapal, who represents Washington's 7th Congressional District, has secured a sixth term in the House of Representatives.

Ms. Dandiya, 39, won Florida's 22nd Congressional District, defeating Republican Casey Askar. She secured 51.9% of the vote.

In Maryland, Indian-American Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, a Democrat, secured another term.

Meanwhile, Indian-American Vivek Ramaswamy, who was backed by U.S. President Donald Trump, lost Ohio's gubernatorial race to Democrat Amy Acton. Mr. Ramaswamy, the son of immigrants from Keralam, had won the Republican primary in May. Several other Indian-American candidates were also awaiting the outcome of their contests.

The Indian-American community is estimated to number over 5 million, making it the second-largest Asian-origin population in the United States.

Trump congratulates Democrats on result, says war played role

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump had rare praise for rival Democrats on Tuesday after their stunning U.S. midterm elections victory and admitted the Iran war may have played a part in the defeat of his Republican Party.

But the 80-year-old refused to take any personal responsibility for the result that upends the final two years of his presidency, instead trying to shift the blame to his fellow Republicans.

"Well, I say this: congratulations to the Democrats. They did a good job," Mr. Trump said in a telephone interview with Fox News Democracy 26.

The complimentary comments were highly unusual for Mr. Trump, who spent much of the midterms campaign branding Democrats as everything from communists to Islamists.

Mr. Trump also reiterated that, unlike his 2020 presidential election loss, he accepted the vote results and was ready to work with Democrats now that they will control Congress.

"I can work with them on many things," Mr. Trump said.

Veto power

At the same time, Mr. Trump warned he was ready to use his executive power to veto any Democratic legislation he felt like. "They can send over, you know, 50 different great Bills that they're all excited about, and I send them back with a nice stamp – 'veto.'"

With polls showing the Iran war and resulting rise in oil prices was vastly unpopular with voters, Trump also acknowledged that the stalled conflict had contributed to the result.

Time and again on the campaign trail the 80-year-old told Republicans to "pretend I'm on the ballot." But on Tuesday he insisted that the opposite was the problem.

"I wasn't on the Ballot and if I was, we would have won IN A LANDSLIDE!" Mr. Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform.

Mr. Trump posted later that he was going to "become a political pundit" and give the reasons why Republicans lost.



Donald Trump

V-P Vance echoes Trump's remark on reason for loss

WASHINGTON

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance said on Wednesday that the Iran war had doomed Republicans in the midterm elections, moving to distance himself from the unpopular conflict ahead of a possible 2028 White House run.

"The reason we lost is the war. The President himself said so last night," Mr. Vance said in a lengthy post on X — apparently referring to President Donald Trump's remarks that the Iran war was "part of it" but that it was still justified.

Mr. Vance, a longtime vocal critic of U.S. foreign interventionism, had reportedly been skeptical behind the scenes about the war on Iran that was launched in late February.

Mapping the blue wave

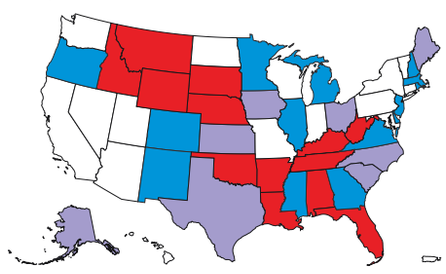
In the last two years of his presidency, Donald Trump will face a changed White House, as Democrats surged to full control of Congress in the November 2026 U.S. midterm elections



ILLUSTRATION: SAAI

Democrats flipped at least seven Senate seats in ruby-red States and battlegrounds as well

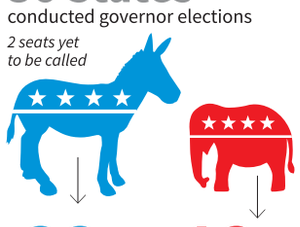
Democrats · Democrats (flipped) · Republicans · No race



Democrats 54 | Republicans 44

36 States conducted governor elections

2 seats yet to be called



22 seats Won by Democrats

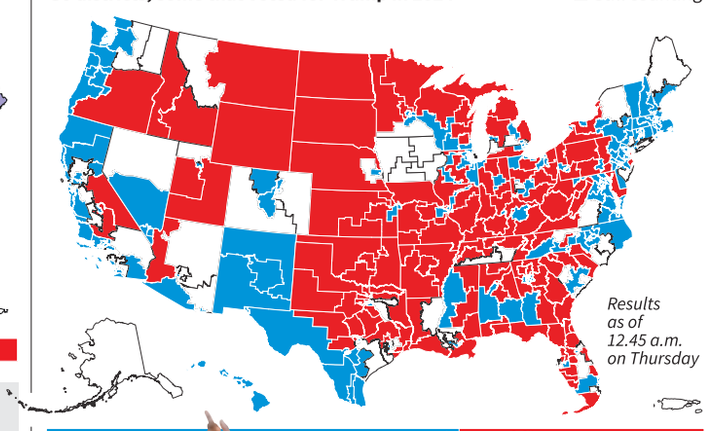
12 seats Won by Republicans

5 States flipped from Republican governors to Democrats

Democrats will control a majority of governors' offices for the first time since 2010

In the House, Democrats flipped over 30 districts, some that voted for Trump in 2024

Still counting



Results as of 12.45 a.m. on Thursday

Democrats 237 | Republicans 139

This was the second consecutive election in which the party that spent more lost, after former Vice-President **Kamala Harris lost to Trump** in 2024 presidential polls



The vote reflected deep anger over living costs, tariffs and Trump's war against Iran, which has sent fuel prices soaring and compounded dissatisfaction with an already deeply unpopular President

The election included many historic firsts, including the first Black female governor in U.S., the first Muslim in the U.S. Senate, and the first openly gay man elected to U.S. Senate

Of the two gubernatorial races yet to be called, Democrats were leading comfortably in Alaska and with a thin margin in Kansas

Republicans lost in southern House districts with 'gerrymandered' maps

Iran says tankers destroyed after hitting mines in strait

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Four oil tankers caught fire after hitting mines while attempting to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, Iran said on Wednesday, after it warned no one would benefit from a return to war.

It came a day after President Donald Trump said the U.S. had launched strikes on the Islamic republic, following reports of a raid on Qeshm, the largest island in the strait.

"Four non-compliant oil tankers attempting to pass through the prohibited passage south of the Strait of Hormuz were destroyed after striking naval mines and are still burning," Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps said in a statement quoted by the state TV.

A statement by IRGC said they had shot down a drone over the vital waterway

"Two other non-compliant ships or vessels have also been halted."

The Guards also said they had shot down a drone over the strait.

'Finger on trigger'

Tehran claims control over Hormuz, a vital global energy conduit, and has targeted vessels that attempt to cross without its authorisation since the war erupted.

Indirect contact between the U.S. and Iran via mediators has continued with little sign of any diplomatic breakthrough, and Iran has said it is ready to reopen the strait but only if Washington agrees to a long-standing list of demands.

Tehran's chief negotiator in talks with the U.S., Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, said the Islamic republic was "ready for battle with its finger on the trigger", although President Masoud Pezeshkian insisted his government was trying to resolve the crisis "through dialogue".

"No one will benefit from this war" if fighting resumes, Mr. Pezeshkian said on Tuesday.

U.S. slaps new sanctions on Indian firms for aiding Iran

Reuters
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Treasury issued fresh sanctions on Wednesday against companies and individuals based in India and Turkiye for their support of Iran, warning that it would continue to go after anyone who supported the Iranian government.

The sanctions are part of the Trump administration's "Operation Economic Outcast," which aims to cut off Iran's ability to sell oil to fund the war with the U.S. and Israel.

Treasury had last week said its actions were decimating Iran's economy.

Bhutan sets Guinness World Record for erecting 108 stupas in nine hours

Rahul Karmakar
GELEPHU

Bhutan has set a Guinness World Record by erecting 108 Buddhist stupas in nine hours, Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) Governor Lotay Tshering said.

A Guinness World Records representative handed Dr. Tshering the certificate on Tuesday evening acknowledging the feat at Gelephu.

About 40,000 trained volunteers raised the 108 stupas, also called Jangchub Chortens, between 3 a.m. and 11.55 a.m. on November 1, marking the 18th coronation anniversary of King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.



Collective effort: Lotay Tshering, Governor of Gelephu Mindfulness City, holds a certificate acknowledging the feat. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Officials who oversaw the feat said the volunteers were divided into teams of 20-23 members, who worked simultaneously across designated sites to raise the stupas, each 14 metres tall and 108 metres apart along the banks of the Mau Chhu River.

The Bhutanese King's vision to build a country for the future, but rooted in tradition, drove Project 108 (stupas). He also envisaged the project as a foundation of GMC, a spirituality-based ethical global economic hub.

Each chorten cost an estimated $200,000, and individuals, families, communities and institutions worldwide have contributed to the project. One of these, Chorten No. 76, was dedicated to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as an "enduring symbol" of the King's "profound admiration" of India's "steadfast commitment for the realisation" of GMC.

"To raise 108 Stupas in a matter of hours is a remarkable accomplishment. But the true fruit of those blessings, those prayers, and that labour is seen in us, the Bhutanese people. In our values and virtues, in our loyalty, and in the joy we take in service," King Wangchuck said.

MASTER OF ALL CONDITIONS

Kohli the first to have 50-plus average across all SENA nations



X@BCCI

Virat Kohli became the first in history of ODI cricket to achieve a batting average of 50 or more across South Africa (993 runs, 76.38 avg.), England (1493, 51.48), New Zealand (670, 51.53) and Australia (1401, 50.03). Kohli took his ODI average in SENA nations above 50 with a quick-fire 74 against New Zealand in the first match.

ON THE DOT

It was about bowling consistent lines and lengths, says Kamboj



X@BCCI

I think the key was bowling consistent lines and lengths. The basic plan was to bowl the right length. The wobble seam was working well and I was just using that. I also get good bounce. It's about the length and focussing on that — Anshul Kamboj, who bowled 46 dot-balls in his spell of two for 22 in the first ODI.

IMPACTFUL

Kohli a pretty good guy to break the chase easily: Duffy



X@BCCI

Kiwi pacer Jacob Duffy said there "was no hole" in Virat Kohli's game. "Yeah, it was a bit annoying, wasn't it? Yeah, small targets like that, if you get a guy to come out with that kind of intent to knock it off, it can break the chase pretty easily. And he's a pretty good guy to do it."

A CROSSOVER

Gill, Rohit and Kohli receive jerseys from All Blacks legend Mealamu



X@BCCI

India captain Shubman Gill and batting stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma met rugby legend Keven Mealamu before the start of the first ODI against New Zealand on Wednesday and were presented with personalised jerseys by the All Blacks great. Mealamu made 132 appearances for New Zealand's rugby team.

Young pacers prove too hot for Kiwis before Kohli takes over

Arshdeep, Gurnoor and Kamboj rise to the occasion, send the home team packing for 185; the chase-master celebrates his 38th birthday a day early with a superb knock as Gill's men make a perfect start to the five-match ODI series

INDIA IN NZ

Press Trust of India
AUCKLAND

A young pace unit headlined by Arshdeep Singh and Gurnoor Brar scarred New Zealand with disconcerting bounce before Virat Kohli decided to celebrate his 38th birthday a day in advance by striking a chiselled 74 as India coasted to a five-wicket win in the rain-curtailed first ODI here on Wednesday.

The 6'5" Gurnoor repaid skipper Shubman Gill's faith by intimidating the home batters with his speed and bounce in the company of Arshdeep Singh as the visitors dismissed the Black Caps for a below-par 185 in 40.2 overs.

India reached the revised target of 143 in 22.4 overs with Kohli's 51-ball knock, comprising 13 boundaries and a maximum, doing the job.

With India's first choice troika of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna not available due to workload management and injury-related issues, it was the Punjab duo of Arshdeep (four for 70 in 10 overs) and Gurnoor (three for 44 in 9.2 overs), which took up the mantle of unsettling the Black Caps.

Anshul Kamboj (10-2-22-2) was also remarkably accurate during the middle-overs. He bowled an eye-popping 46 dot balls in his spell.



Demolition men: Arshdeep and Gurnoor blasted out the home batters to set the stage for a Kohli masterclass. CREIMAS/BCCI

Controlled aggression

In pursuit of the modest target, Kohli's controlled aggression made all the difference for India after the early dismissal of Rohit Sharma (0).

Despite multiple rain interruptions, Kohli's intensity was unwavering as he played his customary cover-drives, the whips through mid-wicket and the imperious pull shots.

The Indian maestro, who will turn 38 on Thursday, hit his 80th ODI half-century, added 113 for the second wicket with Gill (37), who played second fiddle to perfection.

However, the story of the day was India's four-pronged pace attack with a cumulative experience of 29 ODIs that made life difficult for the home team on a good batting surface.

Arshdeep got a couple of wickets inside the PowerPlay as New Zealand managed only 45 in the first 10 overs.

Gill introduced Gurnoor after the field restrictions were eased and the lanky Chandigarh bowler repeatedly befuddled the batters with his back-of-length deliveries. He snared two wickets, the highlight being the sharp reflex return catch to send back Test skipper Tom Latham.

At the halfway stage, New Zealand was 109 for five and the Indian bowlers didn't allow the opposition any leeway. Blair Tickner, batting at No. 11, hit 34 which included three sixes in Arshdeep's last over, to get the home team past 180.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND

Will Young c Shreyas b Arshdeep 9 *(11b, 2x4)*, Tim Seifert c sub (Ruturaj) b Gurnoor 38 *(43b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Henry Nicholls c Dhir b Arshdeep 9 *(11b, 2x4)*, Daryl Mitchell run out 28 *(41b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Tom Latham c & b Gurnoor 3 *(11b)*, Glenn Phillips c Shreyas b Arshdeep 30 *(51b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Mitchell Santner b Kamboj 4 *(16b)*, Nathan Smith c Kohli b Kamboj 1 *(9b)*, Kyle Jamieson c Kohli b Arshdeep 1 *(6b)*, Jacob Duffy (not out) 15 *(21b, 3x4)*, Blair Tickner c Rahul b Gurnoor 34 *(23b, 1x4, 4x6)*; Extras (lb-4, nb-1, w-8): 13; Total (in 40.2 overs): 185.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-22 (Young, 4.3 overs), 2-40 (Nicholls, 8.3), 3-73 (Seifert, 14.2), 4-84 (Latham, 16.6), 5-97 (Mitchell, 21.1), 6-113 (Santner, 26.1), 7-115 (Smith, 28.3), 8-131 (Jamieson, 31.1), 9-146 (Phillips, 35.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Arshdeep 10-0-70-4, Nabi 6-0-33-0, Kamboj 10-2-22-2, Gurnoor 9.2-0-44-3, Axar 5-0-12-0.

INDIA

Rohit Sharma c Santner b Jamieson 0 *(6b)*, Shubman Gill c Latham b Smith 37 *(56b, 5x4)*, Virat Kohli c Seifert b Duffy 74 *(51b, 13x4, 1x6)*, Shreyas Iyer c Nicholls b Duffy 15 *(13b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Axar Patel c Phillips b Duffy 0 *(2b)*, K.L. Rahul (not out) 3 *(5b)*, Naman Dhir (not out) 5 *(3b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-8): 9; Total (for five wkts. in 22.4 overs): 143.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-1 (Rohit, 0.6), 2-114 (Gill, 18.2), 3-124 (Kohli, 19.4), 4-124 (Axar, 19.6), 5-136 (Shreyas, 21.4).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Jamieson 7-0-34-1, Duffy 7-0-49-3, Tickner 4-0-38-0, Smith 4.4-0-21-1.

Toss: India; **PoM:** Kamboj.
India won by five wickets with 56 balls remaining (DLS Method) to lead the five-match series 1-0.
Second ODI: November 7, Wellington, 7.30 a.m. IST.

Kamboj tailor-made for these conditions: skipper Gill

Press Trust of India
AUCKLAND

India captain Shubman Gill was delighted to see Anshul Kamboj's excellent effort in the first ODI against New Zealand here on Wednesday, saying the pacer is "tailor-made" for the Antipodean conditions.

"Anshul is the kind of a bowler. I think he's tailor-made for these conditions, always nippy, trying to seam the ball, and good with the old ball," Gill told the broadcaster during the post-match presentation.

"We felt when there's not much happening from the wicket, he can create that extra bounce and with his pace and the way both of them bowled tonight was really magnificent to watch," he said.

"We were very good with the bowling and our fielding was also really good. That run out by Rohit bhai, I think changed the momentum of the game," Gill said.

"It was really that partnership as even in India also those two batted really well. Overall, a very good team performance for us".



Kamboj. CREIMAS/BCCI

WPL 2027 schedule



The Women's Premier League (WPL) 2027 runs from January 14 to February 7. While the opening 11 matches will be played in Vadodara, the remaining league fixtures and playoffs will be held at the Cricket Club of India in Mumbai.
The top-ranked team will advance to the final while the second- and third-placed teams will contest the Eliminator.

Jan. 14	Royal Challengers	Mumbai Indians	Vadodara	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 15	Gujarat Giants	UP Warriorz	Vadodara	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 16	Delhi Capitals	Royal Challengers	Vadodara	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 17	UP Warriorz	Mumbai Indians	Vadodara	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 18	Gujarat Giants	Delhi Capitals	Vadodara	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 19	Royal Challengers	UP Warriorz	Vadodara	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 20	Gujarat Giants	Mumbai Indians	Vadodara	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 21	UP Warriorz	Delhi Capitals	Vadodara	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Gujarat Giants	Royal Challengers	Vadodara	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 23	Delhi Capitals	Mumbai Indians	Vadodara	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 24	UP Warriorz	Gujarat Giants	Vadodara	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 26	Mumbai Indians	Royal Challengers	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 27	Delhi Capitals	Gujarat Giants	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 28	Mumbai Indians	UP Warriorz	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 29	Royal Challengers	Delhi Capitals	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 30	Mumbai Indians	Gujarat Giants	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.
Jan. 31	UP Warriorz	Royal Challengers	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.
Feb. 1	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.
Feb. 2	Royal Challengers	Gujarat Giants	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.
Feb. 3	Delhi Capitals	UP Warriorz	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.
KNOCKOUTS				
Feb. 5	—	Eliminator	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.
Feb. 7	—	Final	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.

Sindhu credits her team for resurgence

BADMINTON

Anirudh Velamuri

P.V. Sindhu is no longer chasing her old self. She is rebuilding her, one title at a time.

Victory at the Hylo Open, Sindhu's second title in four months, has pushed her back to World No. 6 and into the top 10 for the first time since 2023.

It also ended a long wait for silverware. Before the Japan Open in July, she last won at the 2024 Syed Modi International.

"I've had a new team this year, and we've been working on every aspect. I'm very grateful to them because there are days where you're absolutely not at your best and you're sad, but I think as a team they pump you up every single time, get things together and make things work," the 31-year-old said in a media interaction facilitated by the Badminton Association of India.

Sindhu, who has secured a place in the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals, insisted that age is no barrier to competing at the highest level, as long as rest and recovery are prioritised.

"You're not 20 anymore, and you can't keep playing tournaments back-to-back. It's about giving 100% when you play but also knowing when your body is not feeling up to it, stepping back to recover and coming back stronger."

Regaining the dominance she once enjoyed is, for Sindhu, not a far-fetched dream. She reserved special praise for her husband, Venkata Datta Sai, who regularly features in her corner, for his support through it all.

"Datta also travels for some of the tournaments, understands sports, and what you're going through in those moments where you're really at your lowest. At the Australia Open this year, he sat in as coach and it was nice to have his perspective watching me from the outside."



Frank talk: Sindhu feels age is not a barrier to compete at the elite level. BWF/BADMINTON PHOTO

Rampant India storms into the final, meets Japan



Opening salvo: Lakra began India's goal-rush with a fourth-minute strike. R.V. MOORTHY

ACT

Uthra Ganesan
MOHALI

India marched towards its sixth Asian Champions Trophy title in seven finals with a 8-1 thumping of Korea in the semifinal at the Olympian Balbir Singh International Stadium here on Wednesday.

Up next would be Japan on Thursday in the first-ever final between the two sides in the competition after the latter upset Malaysia for the second time running, via the shoot-out.

The scoreline was different but the domination that the host displayed in its final league match two days ago in Jalandhar against the same opponent was not.

India began with a bang and kept the foot on the pedal all through, barring a small period in the third quarter that was not as productive in terms of goals as the others. The Koreans, in a transition phase with mostly youngsters and just five members from the side that played the recent Asian Games, tried their best to match the Indians but it was soon evident that the gap was too huge to break a seven-year losing streak.

A fourth-minute goal lifted into the net by Shilanand Lakra set the ball rolling and then the goals kept coming at regular intervals. Han Sangjun levelled five minutes later that was the only time Korea surprised India with a sudden burst of pace and acceleration. By the end of first quarter, India was up 3-1 that became 6-1 at half time.

The pace dropped a notch after break but there was never any danger of Korea bouncing back, India was always in control. A couple of close chances towards the end of the third quarter were parried by desperate defending from Korea, goalkeeper Kim Jaehyeon pulling off-some impressive saves to minimise the damage.

Earlier, Japan entered its third ACT final and the first since 2021 with a second consecutive win against higher-ranked Malaysia, this time in a shoot-out after being goalless in regulation time. With an airtight defence and stand-out performance from goalkeeper Takumi Kitagawa, Japan frustrated the Malaysian forwards despite repeated attempts and five penalty corners. Japan's lone PC in the 57th minute saw them come agonisingly close to breaking the deadlock, captain Raiki Fujishima's shot rebounding off the post.

The results:

Semifinals: Japan 0 drew with Malaysia 0; Japan won the shootout 5-3; India 8 (Shilanand Lakra 4, 13 pc, Harmanpreet Singh 10, Sukhjeet Singh 21, Dilpreet Singh 21, 25, Angad Bir Singh 36, Vivek Sagar Prasad 54) bt Korea 1 (Han Sangjun 8).

5th-6th place: China 3 (Yulai Zhao 10, Yaqi Wang 18, Chen Chongcong 22-ps) bt Bangladesh 1 (Md. Shohanur Rahman 48 pc).

INBRIEF



Chanu clinches bronze medal in wushu in Youth Olympics

Rajkumari Lanchenbi Chanu on Tuesday became the first Indian to win a wushu medal in Youth Olympic Games, clinching a bronze in the women's Changquan combined event, in Dakar on Tuesday. Chanu scored 18.039 points to finish third behind Egypt's Sondos Sonbol (18.660) and Valeria Frannerys Dudamel (18.199) of Venezuela.



Divyanshi-Abhinandh duo the No. 1 in u-19 mixed doubles

The Indian pair of P.B. Abhinandh and Divyanshi Bhowmick became World No. 1 in the youth (under-19) mixed doubles category, according to the latest rankings. The pair's rise was largely driven by its gold-medal-winning performance in the WTT Youth Star Contender in Doha in January, followed by a bronze-medal finish in the Asian youth championships in Bangkok in June-July.

Anmol and Tanvi advance, Prannoy, Dhruv-Maneesha out

India's Anmol Kharb and Tanvi Sharma advances to the women's singles second round of the Korea Open Super 500 badminton tournament in Yeosu, South Korea, on Wednesday. However, H.S. Prannoy in men's singles and the mixed doubles team of Dhruv and Maneesha lost.

The results: Men: Yoo Tae-bin bt H.S. Prannoy 23-21, 21-15. **Women:** Anmol Kharb bt Rachel Chan 21-19, 21-18; Tanvi Sharma bt Manami Suizu 21-16, 12-21, 21-17. **Mixed Doubles:** Zhu Yi Jun & Li Qian bt Dhruv Rawat & Maneesha K. 20-22, 21-12, 24-22.

AITA pencils in 21 international junior tournaments in 2027

The All India Tennis Association, on Wednesday, announced a programme of 21 international junior tennis tournaments in India in 2027. Events are set to run from January to November, and will be held across multiple cities. The calendar comprises one J300 tournament, two J200s, three J100s, five J60s, nine J30s, and one JB1 even.



Indian artist Sehgal designs special Bayern Munich shirt

On the occasion of Deepavali, FC Bayern Munich has collaborated with Indian artist Abhay Sehgal for a special edition of the third kit. Sehgal's design, made using traditional Indian craft techniques, focuses on the dreams of young footballers. Harry Kane and his teammates displayed the jersey while wishing their fans for the festival.

Ahlawat stands tall for Services against his former team

The right-hander takes the attack to the Delhi bowlers to notch up a wonderful century and rescue his side; Goyat claims his first five-wicket haul

RANJI TROPHY

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Mohit Ahlawat's journey in domestic cricket started with Delhi under Gautam Gambhir's captaincy back in the 2015-16 season. After three Ranji Trophy matches without success, Ahlawat was consigned to the wilderness. An entry into the Indian Navy resulted in Services offering a cricketing lifeline three seasons later.

Life seemed to come full circle for the 30-year-old on Wednesday when he scored his maiden First Class century for Services on day three of the Elite Group-C joust against his former team at the Airforce Complex Ground in Palam. Ahlawat's 142 took just 150 balls and contained seven maximums as Services reached 280 for five in its second innings. It ended the day with a lead of 202 runs.



Fighting innings: Ahlawat's maiden century knock for Services came off 150 balls and contained seven maximums. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

It was a stirring fightback by the visitors once Delhi, which resumed on 299 for six, was bundled out for 344 for a first-innings lead of 78 runs. For Ayush Badoni's side, Sumit Mathur was agonisingly dismissed on 99 when he cut Jayant Goyat to backward point, adding just 19 runs to his overnight score. Goyat, a 21-year-old who stands at an imposing 6'4", was the pick of the Services bowlers, and claimed his first five-wicket haul.

Services was in strife at 13 for two in response. While Nitin Tanwar was pinned leg-before wicket by Navdeep Saini, Shubham Rohilla shouldered arms to the pacer and saw his stumps cartwheeling.

In usual circumstances, Vineet Dhankhar would have walked out at No. 4. He was unwell, opening the door for Ahlawat to take guard and stamp his authority from the get-go.

Particularly against spin, Ahlawat was in fine flow. Not only did he step out and loft the Delhi tweakers down the ground, he also challenged their command over line by using the sweep and reverse-sweep to good effect. Ravi Chauhan (56, 105b, 6x4, 1x6) offered able company in a partnership of 126. As did Rajat Paliwal, unbeaten on 62, in an alliance of 127.

The scores: Services — 1st innings: 266.
Delhi — 1st innings: Priyansh Arya c Goyat b Arjun 58, Sanat Sangwan c Paliwal b Narang 11, Yash Dhull b Goyat 33, Ayush Badoni b Arjun 7, Ayush Doseja c Nakul b Virender 78, Anuj Rawat b Goyat 0, Sumit Mathur c (sub) b Goyat 99, Dev Lakra c Nakul b Goyat 28, Hrithik Shokeen b Arjun 6, Navdeep Saini c (sub) b Goyat 1, Aman Chaudhary (not out) 0; Extras (b-12, lb-9, nb-2): 23; Total (in 105.4 overs): 344.
Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-114, 3-114, 4-134, 5-135, 6-279, 7-320, 8-335, 9-343
Services bowling: Narang 25-3-72-1, Virender 19-0-62-1, Goyat 23.4-4-65-5, Arjun 21-2-65-3, Tanwar 12-1-32-0, Chauhan 2-0-7-0, Dhankhar 3-1-20-0
Services — 2nd innings: Nitin Tanwar lbw b Saini 2, Shubham Rohilla b Saini 5, Ravi Chauhan b Shokeen 56, Mohit Ahlawat c Sangwan b Aman 142, Rajat Paliwal (batting) 62, Nakul Sharma c Badoni b Aman 1, Vineet Dhankhar (batting) 5; Extras (b-6, lb-1): 7; Total (for five wkts. in 66 overs): 280.
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-13, 3-139, 4-266, 5-268.
Delhi bowling: Saini 10-0-50-2, Shokeen 13-2-45-1, Lakra 10-3-26-0, Aman 22-2-87-2, Badoni 2-0-17-0, Mathur 6-0-31-0, Priyansh 3-0-17-0.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES — ROUND FOUR, DAY THREE

Elite: Group A: At Kanpur: Baroda 355 vs. Uttar Pradesh 455/8 in 133 overs (Adarsh Singh 162, Madhav Kaushik 137, Aryan Juyal 67, Mahesh Pithiya 5/112).
At Panaji: Goa 397 bt Bihar 107 & 113 in 45.3 overs (Ayush Loharuka 47, Lalit Yadav 5/23); **Points: Goa 7(7), Bihar 0(0).**
At Nagpur: Madhya Pradesh 209 & 105 in 33.3 overs (Parth Rekhade 5/14, Harsh Dubey 5/37) lost to Vidarbha 334; **Vidarbha 7(26), MP 0(13).**
At Srinagar: Pondicherry 385 vs. Jammu & Kashmir 491/5 in 130 overs (Qamran Iqbal 160, Shubham Khajuria 190, Kawalpreet Singh 53 batting).
Group B: At Guwahati: Assam 135 & 128 in 40.2 overs (Denish Das 50, Shreyas Gopal 4/39) lost to Karnataka 577/6 decl. in 133.2 overs (Rohan Patil 89, Mayank Agarwal 72, K.V. Aneesh 145, Aneeshwar Gautam 83, Manvanth Kumar 100 n.o.); **Karnataka 7(16), Assam 0(7).**
At Agartala: Tripura 268 & 191 in 64.4 overs (Sridam Paul 50, Sentu Sarkar 46) vs. Saurashtra 118 & 131/7 in 41 overs (Sandip Sarkar 4/55).
At Hyderabad: Chhattisgarh 284 & 254 in 68.4 overs (Mayank Verma 81, Sanjeet Desai 51) vs. Hyderabad 280 in 86.1 overs (Rahul Radesh 72, K. Himateja 46, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 5/84) & 13/2 in 4.5 overs.
At New Chandigarh: Punjab 592/9 decl. vs. Andhra Pradesh 240/2 in 87 overs (C.R. Gnaneshwar 49, Shaik Rasheed 110 batting, Karan Shinde 73 batting).
Group C: At Bhubaneswar: Jharkhand 433/8 decl. in 142.1 overs (Aditya Singh 104 n.o., Anukul Roy 89, Robin Minz 100 n.o., Shubh Sharma 58) vs. Odisha 23/0 in five overs.
At Kolkata: Bengal 143 & 76/4 in 24 overs vs. Maharashtra 218 in 82.5 overs (Tanay Sanghvi 60 n.o., Mohammed Shami 4/37).
At Ahmedabad: Gujarat 534/9 decl. vs. Kerala 279 in 88.2 overs (Sachin Baby 42, Vishnu Vinod 66, Mohammed Azharuddeen 57, Aditya Sarwate 58, Arzan Nagwaswalla 4/59) & 41/1 in 16 overs.
At New Delhi: Services 266 & 280/5 in 66 overs (Ravi Chauhan 56, Mohit Ahlawat 142, Rajat Paliwal 62 batting) vs. Delhi 344 in 105.4 overs (Priyansh Arya 58, Ayush Doseja 78, Sumit Mathur 99, Jayant Goyat 5/65).
Group D: At Dehradun: Haryana 153 & 159 in 55.5 overs (Jagadeesha Suchith 4/50) lost to Uttarakhand 305 in 125.4 overs (Aarav Mahajan 51, Dega Nischal 153, Kunal Chandela 56, Nishant Sindhu 5/89, Kanishk Chouhan 4/58) & 9/0 in 1.2 overs; **Uttarakhand 7(11), Haryana 0(13).**
At Mumbai: Mumbai 396 & 174/4 in 36 overs (Divyaansh Saxena 68 batting, Angkrish Raghuvanshi 79) vs. Railways 259 in 79.5 overs (Ravi Singh 43, Tanush Kotian 7/45).
At Chandigarh: Tamil Nadu 571/7 decl. vs. Chandigarh 94 in 37.3 overs (Sonu Yadav 4/18) & 189/7 in 57 overs (Arjun Azad 60, Manan Vohra 59, Ajith Ram 4/32).
At Dharamshala: Rajasthan 78 & 521/8 decl. in 131.1 overs (Rohan Rajbar 140, Mahipal Lomror 97, Kartik Sharma 63, Vishal Harsh 50, Kunal Singh Rathore 86) vs. Himachal Pradesh 153 & 83/4 in 29 overs.
Plate: At Anand: Arunachal Pradesh 285 & 86/1 in 32 overs (Techi Doria 40 batting, Techi Neri 42 batting) vs. Mizoram 571/9 decl. in 157 overs (Lalhruaizela 69, Chinmay Sutar 175, Manender Singh 73, Jehu Anderson 50, Joseph Lalthankhuma 86, Khiangte Vanrotlinga 53 n.o.).
At Ahmedabad: Sikkim 432 & 81/0 in 25 overs (Amit Rajera 41 batting) vs. Manipur 289 in 108.2 overs (Pheiroijam Jotin 137, Satyajeet Bachhav 6/50).
At Shillong: Nagaland 254 & 184 in 78.5 overs (Rongsen Jonathan 48) vs. Meghalaya 144.



Run feast: Shubham (190) and Qamran (160) put the Pondicherry attack to the sword. IMRAN NISSAR

Considered quitting two years ago: Goyat

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Jayant Goyat is a 21-year-old seam-bowling all-rounder. He stands at 6'4".

These are rare traits to have in a system historically deprived of seam-bowling all-rounders. At the Airforce Complex Ground in Palam on Wednesday, Goyat showcased his credentials by way of a robust performance for Services. In his 12th First Class appearance, Goyat, recruited by the Indian Airforce under the Agniveer scheme, claimed his maiden five-wicket haul.

After two wickets on Tuesday, he cleaned up the Delhi lower-order quickly on Wednesday, returning figures of 23.4-4-65-5. "It is a very good feeling to get my first fifer. The pitch is slow and flat. I put in extra effort and got the results," the soft-spoken Goyat told reporters.

Goyat, an admirer of Jacques Kallis, considers bowling to be his stronger suit. But it was his batting that he was more invested in until a couple of years ago. When he was in the fray for India's u-19 World Cup squad in 2024, it was owing to his returns with the willow. In an u-19 Challenger series in the build-up, the boy from Bhiwani remembers a century in a quarterfinal with fondness.



Hero! Goyat is the toast of his teammates after his five-wicket effort. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

It was around that time that Goyat considered quitting cricket. A lean patch in one of the district-based tournaments in Haryana was the reason, but his father, Dr. Wazir Singh Goyat, persuaded him to persevere.

The latter's own experience – he was in Haryana's Ranji squad during Kapil Dev's final season – may have come to use.

"I hadn't performed in 3-4 matches on the trot. I had decided midway into a game that I will quit cricket. He motivated me, and helped me get out of that slump," said the youngster.

Sports journalist Bhasi Malaparamba no more

Sports Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Bhasi Malaparamba, sports journalist and novelist, passed away, aged 85.

Though he was an engineer by profession, and he worked in the PWD, he was better known for his coverage of several football World Cups as a freelance journalist.

He reported eight World Cups, between 1982 and 2010, as well as the European championship in 2008.

He also published several novels in Malayalam.

He was a competitive footballer who represented Kozhikode district.

Bhasi's was a friendly presence in the sporting and cultural spheres of Kozhikode.

Until he fell ill, he would attend most of the football matches held in the city, even when he was not on a reporting assignment.

Bhasi's contribution to Malayalam sports journalism as a knowledgeable football writer was significant, especially in the pre-Internet era.



Bhasi Malaparamba. K. RAGESH

He reported eight World Cups, between 1982 and 2010, as well as the European championship in 2008

Gauff, Pegula in Rybakina's group

WTA FINALS

Associated Press
INDIAN WELLS

Top-ranked Elena Rybakina and World No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka head their respective singles groups for the WTA Finals, with Americans Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula landing in the same group.

The draw on Tuesday divided the eight qualifying singles and doubles teams into round-robin groups for the season-ending championships, which begin on Sunday and run through November 15 at Indian Wells Tennis Garden.

Each player and team will face the other three in their group over the first six days, with the top two advancing to semifinals.

Besides defending WTA Finals champion Rybakina, fourth-seeded Gauff, fifth-seeded Pegula and No. 8 seed Linda Noskova are in Group-1.

After Sabalenka, the others in Group 2 are No. 3 seed Mirra Andreeva, No. 6 Elina Svitolina and No. 7 Karolina Muchova.

Last year, Rybakina defeated Sabalenka in the final to win the title.

French Open champion Andreeva, Muchova and Wimbledon champion Noskova are making their Finals debuts.

Indian shooters miss medal targets

Press Trust of India
DOHA

Indian shooters endured another disappointing day at the ISSF World Championships here on Wednesday, failing to compete for medals in both the 10m air rifle mixed team and 25m rapid fire pistol events.

The 10m air rifle mixed team pair of Sonam Uttam Maskar and Himanshu Dhillon failed to qualify for the four-team final, finishing seventh with an aggregate of 632.4. Sonam shot 316.6, while Himanshu returned 315.8.

The other Indian pair, Shambhavi Kshirsagar and Parth Mane, was disqualified after the former fell foul of the ISSF rules pertaining to apparel and equipment.

It was Shambhavi's second disqualification in a major competition in five months for a similar violation. She had also been disqualified at the ISSF Junior World Championships in Suhl in June.

India's medal hopes also fizzled out in the 25m rapid fire pistol event, with none of the three shooters managing to make the eight-shooter final.

On Tuesday, the Indian troika of Ravinder Singh, Saurabh Chaudhary and Amanpreet Singh clinched the team gold in men's 50m pistol competition.

Ravinder also won the silver in individual competition of the event that is not on the Olympic roster.

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs West Indies: Second Test, Day 1, FanCode, 9.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Men's Under-19 Asia Cup: Sony Sports Ten 1, 5 & LIV, 10.30 a.m.
Afghanistan vs Zimbabwe: First Test, Day 1, FanCode, 11.30 a.m.
SAFF Championships: India vs Pakistan, VETO App, 3 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.
ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 & LIV, 11.15 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Maaya enters the last eight, ends long wait

The 17-year-old Indian emulates Sania; top-seeded Tjen overcomes Garland to set up a meeting with Kudermetova; Montgomery advances

WTA CHENNAI OPEN

Nihit Sachdeva
CHENNAI

Maaya Rajeshwaran took down Polish qualifier Weronika Falkowska 6-4, 6-3 in a topsy-turvy encounter to reach the WTA 250 Chennai Open quarterfinals on Wednesday, ending a wait of almost 15 years for Indian tennis.

With her win over World No. 277 Falkowska, the 17-year-old Maaya became the first Indian woman to make it to the last-eight stage of a Tour-level event since Sania Mirza's quarterfinal finish in Pattaya City in 2012.

Maaya, who had stunned Polish World No. 115 Katarzyna Kawa in the first round for her maiden Tour-level win, will next meet USA's Robin Montgomery for a place in the semifinals.

In the battle between two former junior US Open champions, Montgomery had the final say as she took out Belgian teenager Jeline Vandromme 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 in nearly three hours under hot and humid conditions on Centre Court at the SDAT Stadium.



Take that! Maaya served up a delectable fare as she marched into the quarterfinals. R. RAGU

A stutter

Top seed and reigning champion Janice Tjen survived a tough opener before cruising through the second set against Taiwan's Joanna Garland 7-6 (1), 6-1.

World No. 196 Garland drew the Indonesian into a long deuce game and got the crucial break to lead 5-3 when Tjen overhit a forehand.

However, the 24-year-old Tjen, who won her maiden Tour-level title here last year, struck back immediately in spectacular fashion as Garland served for the set.

Tjen hit three forehand winners – two down the line and one inside-out – with the backhand slice, her bread-and-butter shot, also drawing an error from the opponent.

Tjen then played a perfect tie-breaker, reeling off seven straight points, to clinch the opener.

She broke Garland twice in the second set to seal the win and book a spot in the quarterfinals against the sixth-seeded Uzbek Polina Kudermetova, who brushed aside Spain's Oksana Selekhmeteva 6-3, 6-0 in an hour and 19 minutes.

The results (second round): Maaya Rajeshwaran bt Weronika Falkowska (Pol) 6-4, 6-3; Janice Tjen (Ina) bt Joanna Garland (Tpe) 7-6(1), 6-1; Polina Kudermetova (Uzb) bt Oksana Selekhmeteva (Esp) 6-3, 6-0; Robin Montgomery (USA) bt Jeline Vandromme (Bel) 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

Montgomery — resilient and courageous in equal measure

Nihit Sachdeva
CHENNAI

Resilience is a big part of Robin Montgomery's game.

Recording three-set wins over a flat hitter in Hungarian Panna Udvardy (6-4, 1-6, 6-1) by mixing things up and rising Belgian teenager Jeline Vandroome (6-4, 3-6, 7-5) in an absorbing three-hour contest under hot and humid conditions, the 22-year-old left-handed American, currently World No. 161, has shown that fighting spirit over the last two days at the WTA 250 Chennai Open to reach the quarterfinals.

Her upbringing has played a big role in who she is, not just as a player but even as an individual. She was raised by a single mother and her grandmother in Washington D.C. "I definitely come from a household of strong, independent women and I wouldn't change that for the world," she said.

Even making it as a tennis player needed courage. Her mother found out about Junior Tennis Champions Center (JTCC), a training facility in College Park, Maryland, only through an advertisement in *The Washington Post*.

Under the community outreach tennis program sponsored by GEICO in partnership with JTCC, the five-year-old Montgomery was awarded a full scholarship.

By the time she turned 17, Montgomery had already become the Junior US Open Champion, turned pro and even made her Grand Slam debut.

But the rigours of the senior circuit took a toll on her soon. In 2025, the year she made her Top 100 debut, she also had to undergo surgery for a persistent wrist issue and stayed out of action for 10 months.

Having been through a lot while still being only 22, Montgomery tries to not be too hard on herself. "Sometimes I forget how young I am and I try to keep that in perspective," she said.

The American is on a comeback trail, having won her maiden Tour-level title in 's-Hertogenbosch in June. The Chennai Open could be her next conquest.



Fighter: Montgomery is on a comeback trail after a wrist injury laid her low for 10 months. R. RAGU

Bhullar in sole lead after rain-affected second round

GOLF

K. Keerthivasan
VISAKHAPATNAM

The weather continued to pose a challenge, but Gaganjeet Bhullar handled the conditions best.

The 38-year-old remained calm and composed to retain top position after a six-under 44 in the second round of the Maritime Invitational 2026, part of the Indian Golf Premier League Tour, here on Wednesday.

Due to incessant rain, the round was shortened to 14 holes and the total par for the day was 50.

Six-shot advantage

Bhullar, who has carded a nine-under total over 32 holes, has opened up a six-shot lead over the quartet of Sachin Baisoya, Tushar Pannu, Deepak Yadav and Ravi Kumar.

Bhullar is aiming for back-to-back victories and a third win this season, repeating his feat of 2025.

Creating history

He will create history if he achieves the feat, as no other player has recorded more than two wins in the IGPL. He is also seeking to take his overall tally to six titles.

The second round was delayed by more than two hours following overnight rain, which played havoc on the course and left some holes unfit for play.

(The writer is in Visakhapatnam at the invitation of Indian Golf Premier League).



A much-needed win: Cunha completes United's remarkable turnaround against Roma. AP

PSG, Barca turn on the magic, United posts win

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Manchester United fought back from two goals down to beat Roma 3-2 in the Champions League on Tuesday to hand beleaguered manager Michael Carrick a reprieve, while holder Paris Saint-Germain continued its perfect start in the competition by hitting Villarreal for six.

Raphinha struck twice to propel Barcelona to a 3-0 win over visitor Aston Villa. Barcelona took an early lead through Lamine Yamal before Raphinha continued his fine goal-scoring form.

Looking set for another abject defeat when two behind within 18 minutes through a smart Mathias Soule finish and Donyell Malen's penalty, United staged a thrilling comeback in the second half to turn a poisonous atmosphere at Old Trafford to one of joy. Matheus Cunha, who was sent off in stoppage time, saved the day for United with a brace in three minutes with the final whistle nearing, sparking wild celebrations in the stands. PSG was ruthless, with Joao Neves, Desire Doue, Senny Mayulu and Fabian Ruiz all striking in eight first-half minutes as the French outfit set a record for the fastest four goals scored in a match in Europe's elite club competition. Further strikes from Ruiz and teenager David Boly rounded off a stellar performance.

Bayern Munich, missing a host of stars, saw off Atletico Madrid 2-0 to move into the top eight positions.

The results: Shakhtar Donetsk 0 lost to Sporting Lisbon 1 (Doumbia 59); Manchester United 3 (Fernandes 58-pen, Cunha 83, 86) bt Roma 2 (Soule 11, Malen 17-pen).

Galatasaray 2 (Batrakov 12, 15) bt VfB Stuttgart 0; Barcelona 3 (Yamal 7, Raphinha 52, 64) bt Aston Villa 0.

Atletico Madrid 0 lost to Bayern Munich 2 (Karl 54, Laimer 74); Feyenoord 0 lost to Inter Milan 3 (Bisseck 8, Esposito 34, Zielinski 54); Linzer ASK 4 (Jorgensen 19, 37, Ljubicic 44, Adeniran 48) bt Slovan Bratislava 0; Bodo/Glimt 0 drew with Lille 0.

Villarreal 0 lost to PSG 6 (Goncalves Neves 9, Doue 12, Mayulu 13, Ruiz 17, 50, Boly 78).

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

S SURESH (60), Retired Senior Supervisor, Despatch, The Hindu, MM Nagar passed away on 04-11-2026. Address: 26, Hindu Avenue, Karanai Puduchery, Kattur, Urapakkam, Chennai - 603202. Ph: 90808 98790

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POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH
CORRIGENDUM
Ref: E-Tender Notice No. PI(EP)/26-27/G/02
Following changes are made :-

Sr No.	Equipment/Item Name	Original Bid Submission Date	Revised Bid Submission Date	Original Bid Opening Date	Revised Bid Opening Date	Deptt. Name
06	Microdebrider for ENT Surgery	11.11.2026	**30.11.2026**	12.11.2026	**01.12.2026**	ENT

All other details shall remain the same.
PGI/RC/Advt./2026/HR-000571 **Professor In-Charge (EP)**

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH
CORRIGENDUM
Ref: E-Tender Notice No. PI(EP)/26-27/01
Following changes are made :-

Sr No.	Equipment/Item Name	Original Bid Submission Date	Revised Bid Submission Date	Original Bid Opening Date	Revised Bid Opening Date	Deptt. Name
07	Laser Capture Micro Dissection	26.10.2026	**26.11.2026**	27.10.2026	**27.11.2026**	Histopathology

All other details shall remain the same.
PGI/RC/Advt./2026/HR-000573 **Professor In-Charge (EP)**

Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA)
Urban Development Department, Government of Uttarakhand
777, Saatvik Tower, Kaulagarh Road, Rajendra Nagar Dehradun
Telephone +91-135-2753894, Tele-fax +91- 135-2754895
Email: uusdip@gmail.com, Website: www.uusda.uk.gov.in

Advt. No: UUSDA/P-113/1894 **Date: 04.11.2026**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Urban Development Department (UDD), Government of Uttarakhand (GoU) has received financing from European Investment Bank (EIB) for the **Uttarakhand Water and Sanitation Project (UWSP), in the State of Uttarakhand**. The project aims to develop and strengthen urban infrastructure in Uttarakhand through the implementation of water supply systems and other essential urban infrastructure components and intends to apply part of the proceeds of the Loan for the works as mentioned in the table below.

The **"Program Director"**, Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA), Government of Uttarakhand" **(the Employer)** invites online bids through the Uttarakhand state e-procurement portal **https://uktenders.gov.in,** from eligible Bidders for the execution of the work as detailed below:

Name of Work	Package No.	Invitation of Bid No.	Last Date & Time of Submission
Development of water supply system (Intake works, rising main, OHT/CWR, Distribution System, Pump House, House Service Connections and Allied Works), including 2 Year O&M, at **Pithoragarh town** in Uttarakhand	**WS-PTH-01**	**UWSP/OCB-I-WS-PTH-01**	**22nd December 2026 till 03:00 PM, (15:00 Hrs)**

Date of publication of bid document	**06.11.2026 at 03:30 PM, (15:30 Hrs.)**
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	**18.11.2026 at 11:30 AM, (11:30 Hrs.)**
Bid documents may be uploaded from	**14.12.2026 at 03:00 PM, (15:00 Hrs.)**
Last date for submission of original EMD at the Promoter's Office	**21.12.2026 at 04:00 PM, (16:00 Hrs.)**
Last Date / Time for downloading of the bid document	**22.12.2026 at 02:30 PM, (14:30 Hrs.)**
Date / Time for opening of the Technical bid	**22.12.2026 at 03:30 PM, (15:30 Hrs.)**

The prospective bidders can download the detailed bid document in the prescribed format and upload the bid on the website, **https://uktenders.gov.in**. Program Director, UUSDA reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals or to cancel the entire process without assigning any reason thereof. Further details of the bid document including subsequent addendum/ corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be downloaded from the website **https://uktenders.gov.in.**

Program Director
UUSDA

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E-TENDER NOTICE (NIT)

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd., Dehradun invites e-tender for following as detailed below:-

Sl. No.	Name of Item	Tender Specification No.	Tender Qty.	Estimated cost (in ₹)	Average yearly Turn Over of Preceding Three Financial Year i.e. 2022-2023, 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Cost of tender document including GST (in ₹)	Last Date & time of online request for Tender and Submission of tender in online & Offline mode	Date of opening of bid Part-I in online and offline mode
1	8Meter Long Steel Tubular Pole SP-10 (Bottom Portion Hot Dip Galvanized)	CCP-I /29/ 2026-2027	11000 Nos	7,75,68,150.00	11,63,53,000.00	15,52,000.00	23,600.00	19.11.2026 upto 17:00 hrs	20.11.2026 at 15:30hrs
2	8.5Meter Long Steel Tubular Pole SP-21 (Bottom Portion Hot Dip Galvanized)	CCP-I /30/ 2026-(2027	16000 Nos	20,34,93,920.00	30,52,41,000.00	40,70,000.00	29,500.00	19.11.2026 upto 17:00 hrs.	20.11.2026 at 15:45hrs

For further details, please visit our website **www.uktenders.gov.in.**

No. 905/1/EE(cm) /UPCL/A-2 Date 04.11.2026
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Tender Notice No.:- 1859/7CB(I)-11/2026-27 Date: 4-11-2026

National Competitive Bidding

The Superintending Engineer, 11th (E/M), Circle, PWD Dehradun on behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" invites National Competitive Bidding (Two Bid System) e-tender for the following work. Tender related information shall will be available on Web-site https://www.uktenders.gov.in from 06.11.2026 (5:00 PM onwards).

S. No.	Name of work	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Tender Fee	Tender Validity	Completion Period
1.	S.I.T.C. of Integrated Visual System, Sound System, Stage Light & Drapery System at Auditorium in Lok Bhavan, Dehradun.	6,00,000/-	(1) Tender Cost Rs. 5000.00 (2) 18% GST Rs. 900.00	90 Days	03 months + 03 Years (Operation & Maintenance)
2.	Renovation & Interior Development of Conference Room including Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Integrated Audio-Visual and Digital Conferencing System at Conference Room, Lok Bhavan, Dehradun.	6,00,000/-	(1) Tender Cost Rs. 5000.00 (2) 18% GST Rs. 900.00	90 Days	03 months

Department of Mines and Geology
Government of Telangana
Email: dmg-eauction-mines@telangana.gov.in

Ref: 4135844/MI/MMB/Phase-VIII/2026 **Date: November 05, 2026**
Notice Inviting Tender
'Invitation of bids for grant of Quarry Lease for Minor Mineral blocks'

The Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Telangana, invites bids for the grant of quarry leases for 16 minor mineral blocks through electronic auction under Rule 12 of the Telangana Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1966, as notified pursuant to Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Out of the 16 minor mineral blocks, 02 blocks are being auctioned with pre-embedded statutory clearances. The minerals proposed for grant include **Building Stone, Colour Granite, Black Granite, Gravel, Rough Stone, Road Metal.** Interested bidders may obtain the Tender Document containing eligibility criteria, auction schedule, reserve price, bidding parameters, terms and conditions, and other details from the e-auction portal of MSTC Limited at: (**https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mmb/tgmmb/index.jsp**).

Mineral Block Summaries and the model tender document are available free of cost on the portal. Block-specific Tender Documents are available for purchase on the portal. Interested bidders may register themselves on the website to obtain login credentials required for submission of bids and participation in the e-auction process.

The date for commencement of Sale of Tender Document is **Friday, 6 November, 2026. The last date for purchasing the Tender Document is Monday, 23 November 2026 on or before 17:00 hours (Indian Standard Time), and submission of the bid is Monday, 30 November, 2026 on or before 17:00 hours (Indian Standard Time).**

Sd/-
Director of Mines & Geology (FAC)
DIPR R.O.No.734-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt:04-11-2026

DEPARTMENT OF STAMPS AND REGISTRATION
Office of the Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps
Kandaya Bhavan, 8th Floor, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009
Ph: 080-22220672, e-mail: igr@karnataka.gov.in

No. DSR/2026-27/SE0012 Date: 02-11-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited by the Department of Stamps and Registration for **Selection of a Service Provider for the Scanning and Indexing of Legacy Records at Sub Registrar offices under Department of Stamps & Registration, Karnataka.** The tender forms, terms and conditions may be obtained through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** the last date for submitting completed tender forms is **02-12-2026 till 5.30 pm.** For further details please contact **Assistant Inspector General of Registration (Computers) & Project Director, Kaveri (e-mail: aigrcomp@karnataka.gov.in).**

Sd/- Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps, Bengaluru
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PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s Shree Energy Developers Pvt. Ltd.
Regd. Office: 421 P Sector 17, Faridabad 121002

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s Shree Energy Developers Pvt. Ltd. is developing the project **"Galleria High Street"** in commercial Colony in Village- Bhatola, Sector 82, Faridabad, Haryana over an area measuring 3.07777 acres, in accordance with License No. 108 of 2019 dated 11.09.2019 granted by Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh. We, M/s Shree Energy Developers Pvt. Ltd. requested for construction of commercial complex, namely **"Galleria High Street"**, within the said registered area situated at Village- Bhatola, Sector 82, Faridabad, Haryana. The project has been approved by RERA Authority having its RERA registration No.- **HRERA-PKL-FBD-217-2020 dated 19.10.2020**. The certificate is also uploaded on the website i.e., haryanarera.gov.in. The company has three RERA accounts in AXIS Bank Ltd mentioned below:
Account No:-926020021835833 (70% Escrow Account)
Account No:-926020021866798 (30% Free Account)
Account No:-926020021866824 (100% Master Account)
Bank Name:- Axis Bank Ltd
Branch:-Plot 40, SCO, Sector-7, Ballabgarh Faridabad -121006
IFSC Code:-UTIB0000039
MICR Code:- 110211005, Branch Code : 0039

Place: Faridabad **Project Head**
Date: 04.11.2026 **M/s Shree Energy Developers Pvt Ltd**

TENDERS

THINK SALVAGE
E- AUCTION NOTICE
E-Auction forms are invited from interested buyers for offered materials/salvage strictly on "As Is Where Is" basis, for **Disposal of Fire Affected Stock of Sports & Gym Items (Swimming Googles, Cricket Bat Sensor, Shoes, Wrist Band, Gloves, Stumps, Cricket Hat, Helmet, Jump Rope, Skates & etc.) on "Single Lot" Lumpsum Basis (Table Tennis Racquet 132 nos., Table Tennis Ball 1 nos., Swimming Cap 11 nos., Swimming Goggles 14 nos., Swimming Dress 1 nos., Cricket Bat Sensor 46 nos., Basketball 139 nos., Sipper & Bottles 136 nos., Wrist Band 65 nos., Shin Guard 3 nos., Chest Guard 3 nos., Leg Guard 177 nos., Shoes 164 nos., Cricket kit 45 nos., Stumps 9 nos., Arm Guard 8 nos., Thigh Pad 57 nos., Gloves 157 nos., Elbow Guard 25 nos., Abdominal Guard 412 nos., Cricket Hat 15 nos., Athletic supporter 139 nos., Cricket Bat 359 nos., Helmet 143 nos., Cricket Kit Bag 129 nos., Cricket Ball 216 nos., Pickle Ball Racquet 57 nos., Football 47 nos., Tennis Racquet 12 nos., Badminton Kit Bag 18 nos., Jump Rope 22 nos., Net 12 nos., Volleyball 23 nos., Yoga Mat 28 nos., Socks 74 nos., Sports Clothes 214 nos., Head tie 10 nos., Head Band 13 nos., Skates 16 nos., Tonning Tube 72 nos., Sports & Gym Supporters 2646 nos.)** : belonging to **M/s Media Axis**, lying at Second Floor, C-62, Road Number 316, Near Nexa, Mangolpuri Industrial Area Phase 1, New Delhi – 110083. The offered goods can be inspected between 05/11/2026 to 17/11/2026 (10:00am to 05:00pm), after taking prior appointment with **Mr. Aseem Ralhan at Ph: +91 - 9350272876**. For the participation in above E-Auction to be held on 18/11/2026 (04:00pm to 05:00pm), please contact **Mr. Ram Raghav Tyagi at Ph: +91 9873038677.**
of
Think Salvage Services LLP, (Auctioneers)
at Suite No. 018 – Ankur Appts I.P Extension PPG, Delhi - 110092, or email: contact@thinksalvage.com. Last date for submission of E-auction form is 17/11/2026 before 05:00pm.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS COURT – II, AT ERNAKULAM
O.S. No. 14 of 2026

Edu Mithra Intellectual Services Private Limited. : **Petitioner/Plaintiff**
- Vs -
Propagation Space and Technology Private Limited : **Respondent/Defendant**
To
Propagation Space and Technology Private Limited, a private limited company registered under the Companies Act, 2013, bearing Corporate Identification Number (CIN) U85500RJ2026PTC112817. The Defendant conducts its operations under the trade name and style of "Indian Space School" having its office at Flat No. 01, C/O - Mrs. Ranjita Pankaj, Sukhadiya Colony, Near Government Girls Secondary School Acharol, Amer, Jaipur, Rajasthan, Pin Code – 303002 represented by its authorised signatory.

Whereas the above named plaintiff has instituted the above suit against you before the Hon'ble Additional District and Sessions Court – II, Ernakulam. The suit seeks a decree of declaration and permanent prohibitory injunction. It seeks to restrain you from using the titles "Indian Space Olympiad" and "ISO" for your educational testing services. The above suit and I.A. No. 1 of 2026 therein are posted for your appearance to **20.11.2026.** You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court either in person or through counsel at 11 AM on that day. You may submit your objections if any. Otherwise the matter will be decided in your absence.

Dated this the 4th day of November 2026.
By order of
(Sd/-) **Prabhu Murali Krishnan**
Advocate

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KALPANA Khurana, w/o Anil Khurana, resident of, Plot No. 1, A Block, Sector 31, Noida, Uttar Pradesh – 201301, have changed my name from Kalpana Khurana to Kalpana Shankar Khurana. Henceforth, I would be known by the Name of Kalpana Shankar Khurana for all future purposes.

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A new face for a new era

Mercedes team boss punted on Kimi Antonelli and backed him through a bruising rookie year, a barrage of doubts and a few departing sponsors. But he never once wavered in his belief. The youngest champion in F1 history has repaid that faith, and silenced the critics along the way



GETTY IMAGES

Anirudh Velamuri

Some nights, a whole country stops and looks at glowing screens, big and small. When people speak of the moon landing, they remember where they were. After this weekend, Italy will remember where it was too. A nation that lives and breathes motorsport sat glued to the television as Kimi Antonelli became the youngest champion in Formula One history.

He is not the first Italian to wear the crown, but he is the first to win it in front of a nation watching together. Alberto Ascari, the last Italian champion, was crowned on August 23, 1953, a few months before the country's first nationwide television broadcast on January 3, 1954.

The wait took 73 years. The moment, when it came, belonged to everyone.

At the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez in Mexico City, Antonelli needed only two points. He took a podium instead. He finished third, behind Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton, and crossed the line in tears. At 20 years and 68 days, he beat Sebastian Vettel's record, set at 23 years and 134 days, by more than three years.

Vettel was among the first to send congratulations.

"*Campione del mondo*. Wow! Only very few of us have managed to achieve that, and nobody has done it as young as you. You are curious. You listen. You learn fast. You are fearless. Your driving has been very clean and controlled, yet on the limit when it needed to be. You understood that you can only control what you can control. You have a unique drive, and we enjoy watching you. Lastly, a piece of advice: great achievements might change the way people look at you, but you don't have to change the way you look at people," he said.

Hamilton, the man whose seat he inherited, was among the first to embrace him. In truth, few saw it coming. In March, the hype belonged to his experienced Mercedes teammate George Russell, who was finally handed the strongest car on the grid. Antonelli was expected to merely grow after a tricky debut year in 2025.

That year left scars. He struggled with the ground-effect cars, and a run of poor results gave critics the ammunition to ask whether he had been promoted too soon. The questions followed him into 2026, when he crashed in final practice at the season opener in Australia. A fifth place in the China sprint, including a penalty for hitting Isack Hadjar, turned up the volume.

Then, just as the knives were being sharpened, he levelled up. In China he became the youngest pole-sitter in the sport's history and took his maiden win, five seconds clear of Russell. Toto Wolff came on the radio at once, to congratulate his driver and to answer the doubters. "He's too young. We shouldn't put him in a Mercedes. Put him in a smaller team. He needs the experience. Look at the mistakes he makes. Here we go Kimi. Victory!" Wolff calmly declared.

Doubt to dominance

Two weeks later in Japan, Antonelli dropped to sixth, then surged to the top step of the podium, and the championship lead he took there was never relinquished. Miami and Canada followed. Monaco sealed the story: pole, a near-flawless drive, and two restarts that erased a 30-second lead without shaking him. It was his fifth win on the trot, and it all but silenced the critics.

The road was not smooth. In Barcelona, an electrical shutdown stopped his Mercedes and handed Hamilton his first win for Ferrari. At Silverstone, a wheel shield failure turned a fight for victory into nothing. He answered with a win in Belgium and podiums in Hungary and the Netherlands.

Then came Monza, and even the staunchest of atheists might have found a little faith in the idea of a well-set plan. A year earlier, on the same soil, Wolff had been urging his driver to buckle up.

"Monza was the point where I for the first time said to him, listen, you've got to wake up here," he admitted.

This time, Antonelli started 19th after an engine penalty and carved his way to the front for a come-from-behind win for the ages. Only one driver has won from further back: John Watson, from P22 at the 1983 United States West Grand Prix. That drive is folklore, and now so is Antonelli's. It left Wolff reaching for a comparison beyond the human.

"It is still a surprise and amazing to see how quickly he develops. For me, it's like an AI agent that continuously self-improves and learns, that's the speed. And there also his age is, for sure, beneficial. The ability cognitively, intellectually to constantly become better," Wolff remarked. Even this run had a blemish. In Baku, he crashed in qualifying while Russell took pole, his first genuinely consequential mistake since Australia. On race day, he chose damage limitation over heroics, finished fifth, and kept owning the error.

Then he won in Austin, and the title became a matter of when. Russell needed a top-eight finish there just to stay notionally alive, got eighth after a five-second penalty, and admitted his pace was poor.

All that remained was Mexico where he triumphantly took the podium with Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton. The image that capped it all was Antonelli hoisted onto the shoulders of his veteran colleagues, a Hollywood-esque ending few could have scripted better.

Once the confetti settled in Mexico City, Wolff described the choppy waters Mercedes had navigated when the call was made to promote Antonelli.

"It's incredible, we have to pinch ourselves because it seems like yesterday he was 11 years old in the garage in junior karting. And it goes so fast. He wins the junior formula, then a difficult year in F2 and that's already where people started to doubt. Then when Lewis told me 'I'm going to Ferrari', it was my immediate reaction that we've got to put him in the car. But people were doubters," he told *Sky Sports*.



"I was thinking before, we had two sponsors leaving us because of that, because who is this kid? There were others who stayed with us until today, some are here that reap the full reward and then the difficult year. People said he shouldn't even be in F1, he should be at a smaller team, 10 races and no points, the tears in Spa, and then this. I'm just so proud of the team, all of them continued to trust him and he delivered."

Among the tifosi there is also a parallel universe in which Antonelli's celebrations are in scarlet red. At 11, the popular story goes, he was recommended to Ferrari by Massimo Rivola, then director of its driving academy, but was overruled by the then-team principal Maurizio Arrivabene, who felt he was 'too small' to be a serious prospect. It is one of the sport's more intriguing "what ifs."

With Ferrari struggling and Antonelli soaring, Italy said out loud what many wondered in their heads. *Gazzetta dello Sport,* celebrating the title, put its verdict on the front page: "Kimi Antonelli is the Formula 1 world champion. Thanks to his talent, his car, and not having raced for Ferrari."

The reaction back home was immediate. Jannik Sinner told him he had made the whole country happy, and celebrities from Valentino Rossi and Alessandro Del Piero to Marco Belinelli sent their warmest regards.

Singer-songwriter and poet Vasco Rossi called Antonelli 'a flash of light in this dark moment'. "It excites me to see him so strong on the track and so tender outside, able to get to the top without losing his simplicity. It reminds us that you can win with talent, work and a smile," Il Blasco said.

The Senna thread

Antonelli, who looks up to Ayrton Senna, is the first since the Brazilian to clinch the title while driving a car number 12.

Senna reached him through old season-review DVDs and documentaries. He never saw the Brazilian race, but what stayed with him was the person as much as the driver. He took Senna's number as his own and, in São Paulo last year, climbed to the grave at Morumbi Cemetery, twice in one day, to sit in the quiet with a book about his hero. After the race, he gave the Senna family the helmet he had worn at Interlagos.

Yet he has never claimed the throne. When Monaco brought a pole lap that echoed Senna's 1988 masterpiece, and Martin Brundle heard the Brazilian in it, Antonelli answered with humility: he was still very far from that level.

F1 chief executive Stefano Domenicali has said the title is "only the beginning of an extraordinary legacy."

Antonelli himself has said he believes more titles can follow. Wolff, for his part, sees him as the flag-bearer of a new generation, better equipped for success than those before it.

Nothing in this sport is guaranteed, and legacies are written over decades, not seasons. But a 20-year-old who outlasted the doubters, outdrove the grid and crossed the line in tears at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez has already given F1 something it cannot easily manufacture: a new face for a new era.

Now the story turns full circle. This weekend, Antonelli heads to Senna's home soil for his first race as world champion, in a helmet honouring Senna's 1991 victory there, won 35 years ago with the car stuck in sixth gear.

THE GIST

- Antonelli, who looks up to Ayrton Senna, is the first since the Brazilian to clinch the title while driving a car number 12. Senna reached him through old season-review DVDs and documentaries. He never saw the Brazilian race, but what stayed with him was the person as much as the driver
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Bengaluru exhibition attempts to make the quantum seem human

The 'QUANTUM' series at Science Gallery Bengaluru showcases a meld of science and art to turn the counter-intuitive principles of quantum physics into a human experience; it forces the visitors to acknowledge that their place in the universe is governed by uncertainty, ambiguity, and possibility

Sayantan Datta
BENGALURU



Light topic: A mediator explains experiments displayed as part of the QUANTUM exhibition at Science Gallery Bengaluru. J. ALLEN EGENUSE

If you enter Science Gallery Bengaluru one of these weekends, you should find Mr. Tomkins to your right. At first glance, he might appear asleep – or dead. But look at him from a different angle, and you might catch him in the middle of a prance.

'Mr. Tomkins meets Schrödinger' is one of the 34 exhibits at the Gallery's latest programme, simply called 'QUANTUM'.

Set up by The Hashtag# Collective, comprising artists Parvathi Nayar, Saira Biju, Abin Chaudhuri, Biju Kuriakose, and Sindhura V.S., 'Mr. Tomkins' depicts – somewhat literally – Erwin Schrödinger's famous 1935 thought experiment called Schrödinger's cat. The Austrian scientist came up with the thought experiment to contemplate a quantum phenomenon called superposition, where a physical system can exist in a combination of multiple possible states at the same time.

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar opened the exhibit on August 7. According to the curatorial note, 'QUANTUM' seeks to make "the invisible somewhat visible, somewhat palpable, and somewhat knowable".

The work on display in the exhibit ranges from models of different ways in which humans have conceived the atom to abstract and material meditations on descriptions of the quantum realm. Visitors can also expect to encounter, across galleries, the work of scientists who wrote "India's Quantum Story", in the Gallery's words, as well as women scientists from around the world who shaped the history of quantum physics, often sans the recognition their male peers garnered.

But QUANTUM's real achievement lies in reimagining quantum physics as a starting point for deliberations on our place in a world, forcing us to acknowledge that it is governed by uncertainty, ambiguity, and possibility.

"We want visitors to leave with new questions and a sense of wonder about the world around us," Jahnavi Phalkey, the Gallery's Founding Director, said. "QUANTUM is an invitation to explore what we know and consider what we are yet to discover in the field of quantum science."

Using both physics and metaphors, QUANTUM turns the principles and properties of quantum physics into a human experience.

Like in the quantum world, where the act of measurement collapses a particle to one state, it is human encounter in these exhibits that affirms one possibility out of many

Encounters with entanglement

Quantum physics is the branch of science that studies the behaviour of matter and light at atomic and subatomic scales. It describes many counterintuitive phenomena like superposition and entanglement that, in the public consciousness, are often incredibly mysterious as well.

Entanglement is when distinct particles, e.g. electrons, share a single quantum state. It is a mathematical idea physicists use to describe the unusual way in which entangled particles behave. For example, if you measure the state of one electron, it will instantly determine the state of an entangled electron – even if they are many kilometres apart.

For humans, entanglement is difficult to visualise. It defies our everyday experience of the universe.

But the artists at SGB have tried to capture its character through their work.

For example, Dayanand Nagaraju's 'Kaggantu' (shown below) is a large three-panel painting that hangs in the exhibit's first gallery. 'Kaggantu' is a Kannada word that literally means 'a knot that is hard to untie'.

The painting's first impact is its sheer size: the painting is 2.7 metres wide and 1.5 metres tall, (excluding the frame and the gaps between panels). Then come the striking colours: hues of orange, a more fleshlike tone, and shades of black and gray. Daunting though the painting's detail might be up close, viewing it from a distance allows a different perspective to emerge: the contours of literal knots, among shapes entwining with each other like strands of DNA.

But the real knot in the painting might be its meaning: 'Kaggantu' is simultaneously a literal reading of entanglement and a representation of its innate mystery. Per the note accompanying 'Kaggantu', the work "creates a landscape where meaning is never fully settled. Some knots cannot be untangled, only encountered."

Many other exhibits use quantum phenomena as starting points to meditate on the world we inhabit. For example, 'Fowl Action at a Distance' by the U.S. artist Lyndsey Walsh is inspired by research indicating that birds perceive the earth's magnetic field through proteins in their eyes. Focusing on chickens trained to respond to an electromagnet on a farm in Bengaluru's Sarjapur, 'Fowl Actions' combines motion-capture imagery, holographic projections, and sound to explore the "invisible connections between farm and city, human and animal, technology and ecology".

Another interactive installation, 'Quantum Hearts, Entangled Lives', draws on quantum properties like superposition and entanglement to play with the notion of narrative. Instead of the conventional, linear understanding of narrative – where one event leads to another before a conclusion emerges – 'Quantum Hearts' presents four connected narrative arcs that, according to the curatorial note, "exist in multiple possible states at once".

Visitors interact with the installation through rectangular and cylindrical blocks. Depending on how the blocks are arranged, the multiple possibilities give way to a unique outcome – much like how the act of measurement determines the state of a quantum particle.

The four arcs are called "Encryption", "Love", "Mystery", and "Justice".

Consider the case of Love. Two characters fighting a court case against each other meet online anonymously and continue to text each other. Two possible outcomes of the story are whether they meet.

Similarly, in the case of Mystery, one of the same characters is looking to uncover the cause of his father's death. As visitors, we are told the father died by suicide resulting from loneliness. Whether the character finds this out is contingent on how visitors arrange the blocks.

That said, the outcome of a particular arrangement is not always the same. For each arrangement possible combination, there are multiple probable storylines – just like quantum superposition.

Mulla Aizaz Muzawar, who collates exhibition-related research at SGB and interacts with visitors on the floor, said the exhibit is "also a way to evoke the feeling that sometimes you can keep trying to lead things towards a certain outcome and they might still never head that way."

Human in the loop

Like 'Quantum Hearts', many other exhibits at QUANTUM invite visitors to participate, sometimes by manipulating objects and at others by simply touching them.

For instance, Berlin-based game developer and interactive installation artist Robin Baumgarten's 'Quantum Jungle' is a hexagonal installation made of a thousand touch-sensitive springs. Each spring is surrounded by a ring of LED lights. When a visitor touches the springs, the lights come alive in a stunning, disco-like display, meant to communicate quantum superposition and Schrödinger's wave equation.

According to Baumgarten, the glow around each spring represents how a quantum particle can occupy multiple positions at once, being in a superposition of all those positions.

When a visitor withdraws the hand, the lights begin to disperse out, creating what the accompanying note calls "a cloud of possibilities". This is akin to a quantum walk – a way to determine the probability of finding a particle at different positions as it moves through space.

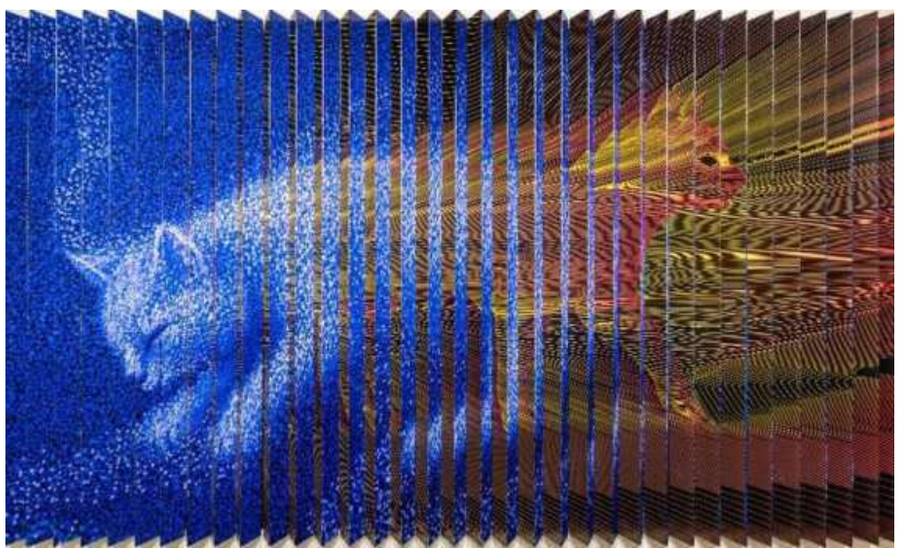
An algorithm on the display's back-end uses Schrödinger's wave equation, which predicts how the quantum state of a particle changes over time and space, to determine the probabilities for each possible position. These probabilities are coded in the colours and brightness of the lights: the brighter the glow around a spring, the more likely the particle is to be found there.

Finally, when the visitor touches a spring again – which represents a quantum system being observed – the cloud fades. What appears instead is a glowing set of LEDs surrounding a single spring, representing the collapse of these multiple possibilities into a single position. Physicists call this the observer effect: when one tries to measure the state of a quantum system in superposition, the act of measurement collapses the system into one definite state.

The tactile nature of 'Quantum Jungle' and 'Quantum Hearts' turns visitors from passive observers into active participants. Like in the quantum world, where the act of measurement collapses a particle to one state, it is human encounter in these exhibits that affirms one possibility out of many.

QUANTUM is open to more such encounters.

(The author thanks Mulla Aizaz Muzawar for inputs.
Sayantan Datta heads the Science Writing & Data Storytelling Lab at Alliance University - Quantum AI School for Advanced Research, Bengaluru. dattasayantan95@gmail.com)





Provoking thoughts: 'Mr. Tomkins meets Schrödinger' by The Hashtag# Collective, top, and 'Kaggantu' by Dayanand Nagaraju displayed at the QUANTUM exibition. SCIENCE GALLERY BENGALURU AND SAMRIDDHI NANDA/SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



In 2024, as much as 38% of deforestation was caused by fire. Here, the Brazilian Amazon burns. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The Amazon is no longer a carbon sink, it is an emitter

Divya Gandhi

The world's largest tropical forest, referred to as the 'lungs of the planet,' the Amazon rainforest once acted as a vast carbon sink that helped absorb human-induced CO_2 emissions. But now, a study has found that the Amazon *releases* more CO_2 than it absorbs from the atmosphere, as it is decimated by deforestation and forest fires.

Scientists measured CO_2 levels at different atmospheric altitudes, using research airplanes, between the years 2010 and 2024 at four Amazonian sites. Their findings indicated that "Amazonia is a net carbon source rather than a sink and cannot offset regional anthropogenic emissions."

Wildfires caused the Amazon to emit 1.17 billion more metric tonnes of carbon than it absorbed, found the study, published in the journal *Nature*.

"Forest loss reduces precipitation, raises temperatures and lengthens the dry season, delaying the onset of the wet season," said the authors. There was a reduction in precipitation by 17% during the dry-season peak period (August-October), from 1979 to 2018 and an increase in annual temperature of 0.9°C during the same period.

Flammable forests

"Climate stress is stronger in more deforested regions, rendering forests progressively more flammable," said the study. This phenomenon is amplified by climate events such as El Niño and a greater frequency of droughts.

In the peak of a strong El Niño in 2024 the highest carbon emissions were recorded. This period was the hottest, driest and most strongly degraded by fire: as much as 38% of deforestation was caused by fire that year. "Most Amazonian wildfires are intentionally set, and severe droughts exacerbate their extent and intensity," said the study.

"The main message of the study is shocking: the problem in the Amazon is human activity," said lead author and climate scientist Luciana Vanni Gatti, in a release. "We're losing the forest because the region's development model has been based on destruction. We need public policies that value the standing forest."

Deforestation accelerated sharply particularly between 2019 and 2022 when the Amazon witnessed a loss of 7,91,835 sq.km. of forests. Between 2010-24, there was a 272% rise in mining area, a 19% increase in pasture area, and a 193% expansion of soybean plantations.

"These results highlight the urgent need to implement a zero-deforestation policy, strengthen controls on biomass burning and prioritize forest restoration programmes," said the authors.

The Amazon, which spans five million sq.km. across nine countries, also happens to be a habitat to no less than 10% of all plant and animal species, and home to 30 million people.

The Amazon forest stores approximately 100 billion tonnes of carbon in vegetation and soils. Meanwhile, a study from India published in *Environmental Research: Climate,* said that the country's forests could nearly double carbon storage by 2100.

Vegetation carbon biomass could increase by 97% under a high-emissions, fossil-fuel-intensive scenario by the end of the century, owing to rising precipitation and elevated atmospheric CO_2. Climate change is indeed morphing India's landscape: the largest increases in vegetation carbon are projected in the arid and semi-arid zones in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, the study said.

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