SUNDAY
November 15, 2026

DELHI
CITY EDITION
24 Pages ₹ 15.00

# THE HINDU ON SUNDAY

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

www.thehindu.com
Vol. 16 • No. 46
Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08
RNI No. UPENG/1986/49939

To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna




PROGRESS AT A PRICE

## The growing footprint of data centres

From rising power demand to constant noise, the AI infrastructure boom is unsettling communities across the U.S.

MAGAZINE» PAGE 1




Why did Microsoft Outlook and other products go offline?

FAQ » PAGE 12



Thousands of flights cancelled across U.S. over technical issues

WORLD » PAGE 14



India needs to regroup as it seeks series win

SPORT » PAGE 15

## IN BRIEF



### 'NCP merger talks ended with Ajit Pawar's death'

**MUMBAI**
Putting a "full stop" on a potential merger between the two Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) factions, NCP (Sharad Pawar) MP Supriya Sule said on Saturday that the talks ended with the death of her cousin Ajit Pawar. » Page 8

### Naga group seeks NIA probe into Ukhrul killing

**GUWAHATI**
A Naga organisation in Manipur has issued a three-day "public ultimatum" to the Union and State governments to let the NIA probe the killing of four Naga civilians in Ukhrul district on Friday. » Page 9

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 6
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

# Pakistan to send Minister to India for SCO dialogue

Musadik Masood Malik has been a vocal critic of India's decision to place Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance after Pahalgam attack; Pak. says committed to promoting dialogue among civilisations

**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
NEW DELHI

Pakistan's Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Musadik Masood Malik, will represent his country at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue to be held here from November 20 to 22, Islamabad announced on Saturday.

Mr. Malik has been a vocal critic of New Delhi's decision to place the Indus Waters Treaty "in abeyance" following the April 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack. The last Pakistani Minister to visit India was Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who had visited Goa in May 2023 for the SCO Foreign Ministers meeting.

**A step across**

**Musadik Masood Malik** will be the first Pakistani Minister to visit India since Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attended the 2023 SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting in Goa

- Pakistan's Climate Change Minister has been vocal against India placing the **Indus Waters Treaty** in abeyance following the Pahalgam terror attack
- The Minister will attend the **SCO Civilisational Dialogue** in New Delhi to be held from November 20 to 22
- Confirmation comes a day after India stressed the shared **'civilisational and cultural' past** of the two neighbours
- Committed to **fostering people-to-people contacts** within the SCO framework in a spirit of mutual respect, says Pakistan



*The Hindu* reported on October 28 that the Indian government had invited Pakistan's Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurungzeb Khan Khichi, to attend the SCO Civilisational Dialogue event, the first such Ministerial-level invitation since 2023. However, the Pakistani government has nominated a different representative.

"The Government of Pakistan remains committed to promoting dialogue among civilisations and fostering people to people contacts within the SCO framework in a spirit of mutual respect," the Pakistan government said in a statement on Saturday.

India and Pakistan engaged in military hostilities after the terror attack in Pahalgam, following which India placed the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty "in abeyance". Mr. Malik, a technocrat-turned-Minister, said in a press conference in June this year that Pakistan would "cut off those hands" that are attempting to control the Indus waters. Asserting its claim on the Indus, Pakistan has been highlighting the Indus Valley civilisation of Mohenjo Daro and Harappa and other ancient sites in the country in recent months.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

# Democratic system destroyed in 2014; Opposition parties pushed to the margins: Rahul

**R. Ravikanth Reddy**
HYDERABAD


Rahul Gandhi, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and other dignitaries at the Bharat Summit in Hyderabad. NAGARA GOPAL

India's democratic system was destroyed in 2014, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, said on Saturday, claiming that money power and the capture of institutions have transformed the country's electoral and political landscape and pushed Opposition parties to the margins.

Speaking at the valedictory session of the Bharat Summit 2026, Mr. Gandhi claimed that millions of dollars were pumped into the electoral system during the 2014 Lok Sabha election, ushering in a new kind of politics that left Opposition parties in shock. The trend continued in subsequent elections, with the ruling party enjoying enormous financial resources while parties committed to democratic processes struggled to compete, he argued.

He attributed the marginalisation of Opposition parties to the growing influence of money power, divisive politics, and the alleged capture of institutions.

The transformation was evident in the electoral landscape, which had earlier witnessed close contests and coalition governments but had since undergone a dramatic change, leaving Opposition parties wondering about the emerging political patterns, he said.

Mr. Gandhi said the election results across States had been analysed to understand the changing electoral trends.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

# Mekedatu project is Karnataka's right: CM

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday asserted that Karnataka will go ahead with the Mekedatu balancing reservoir project, describing it as the State's right and duty, while assuring that Tamil Nadu would receive its stipulated share of Cauvery water.

Responding to opposition from leaders in Tamil Nadu, Mr. Shivakumar said the neighbouring State should send a delegation to Karnataka to understand the project's benefits.

"... If they wish, let them send a delegation. I am prepared to take them to the dam site and explain the project," he told presspersons.

Mr. Shivakumar said Karnataka would respect Tamil Nadu's entitlement of 177 tmc ft of Cauvery water as stipulated by the Supreme Court. "We will build the dam and ensure that they receive their share. Protecting Karnataka's water rights while ensuring that Tamil Nadu gets its due share is our responsibility. We will not back down when it comes to safeguarding the interests of our State," he said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

## *Pulling off a heist*




**One for the ages:** The India under-19 team chased down a target of 338 to regain the Asia Cup at Al Amerat in Oman on Saturday. With three needed off the last ball, Mohit Ulva smashed a boundary to seal an incredible one-wicket win against Pakistan. X@BCCI (REPORT: PAGE 15)

# Union Minister backs coordinated measures to curb NCR pollution

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI


Union Minister Bhupender Yadav chaired a meeting to review measures to mitigate air pollution on Saturday. ANI

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav on Saturday called for coordinated and uniform implementation of pollution control measures across Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR), with real-time monitoring and greater accountability of field officers for violations.

"Air pollution does not recognise State boundaries," Mr. Yadav said at a review meeting with officials from Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to assess measures being taken to mitigate pollution across the region, according to an official statement from his office.

During the meeting, he directed all agencies to move beyond planning and ensure rigorous, time-bound and coordinated enforcement on the ground.

"The Minister directed the State governments to nominate Secretary-level officials for seven cities in Haryana, four cities in Uttar Pradesh and four cities in Rajasthan, making them responsible for implementing pollution control measures through field visits and reporting to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on a weekly basis," the statement read.

Mr. Yadav also directed the concerned States to install automatic number plate recognition cameras at fuel stations and integrate them with the VAHAN and Pollution Under Control Certificate databases to intensify action against old and polluting vehicles.

According to the statement, he warned that the CAQM would initiate criminal prosecution against delinquent Transport Department officials after November 30 if the directions were not followed. The Central Pollution Control Board was also directed to immediately seal 191 identified non-conforming polluting industries which, despite repeated directions, had not even placed orders for installing air pollution control devices.

For traffic decongestion, the Minister directed immediate action at the 233 identified congestion points across NCR. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) was asked to complete the installation of Multi-Lane Free Flow systems at 154 Delhi border entry points by December 31, according to the statement.

# Quad leaders to meet in Philippines on Tuesday

**Suhasini Haidar**
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet U.S. President Donald Trump and the leaders of Japan and Australia at the first Quad summit since 2024, on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Manila, the Philippines, on Tuesday, sources said. The meeting will be the first to be held in a non-Quad country.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 7

# T.N. truck driver detained for questioning dies in custody

**S. Sundar**
MADURAI


R. Balakrishnan

A truck driver from Theni district, R. Balakrishnan, who was being questioned at the Chekkanoorani police station in Madurai in connection with a container truck fire, died in custody on Saturday morning. The police claimed he was found dead in the restroom on the station premises.

Amid outrage over the custodial death, Muthu, Inspector of the Chekkanoorani police station, and two police constables were placed under suspension.

The case was transferred to the Crime Branch-CID for further investigation and Balakrishnan's body was taken to the Government Rajaji Hospital.

A statement from the Madurai police said Balakrishnan had submitted a complaint that his truck had caught fire near Valandur on November 3, destroying the cardamom bags stored in its container. Based on the complaint, the Valandur police registered a case of accidental fire on Friday evening. Balakrishnan was then detained at the Chekkanoorani police station for inquiry.

**'Help with probe'**

The statement claimed that he was detained at the station to assist the Investigating Officer in verifying CCTV camera footage related to the case.

The police claimed that Balakrishnan had gone to the restroom at 6 a.m. on Saturday and attempted to end his life.

The police found him unconscious in the restroom and rushed him to a hospital in Madurai, where the doctor declared him brought dead.

However, his wife Sudha claimed that Balakrishnan had been questioned by the police on Thursday too, and the inquiry had resumed for the second day on Friday.

"I had accompanied him to the police station on the previous day (Thursday). He was questioned there from 6 p.m. till 11.30 p.m. He was asked to come again the next day," she said, crying inconsolably. She regretted not having accompanied her husband to the police station on Friday.

Ms. Sudha charged the police were putting undue pressure on her husband and he was "fixed" in this case in which he himself was the complainant, as the value of the cardamom destroyed in the fire accident was higher.

Stating that Balakrishnan had recorded on his mobile phone the entire incident of truck fire accident and even the owner had rushed to the spot of accident in short time, she complained the police had detained her husband alone in the police station on Friday.

Reacting to the incident, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami strongly criticised the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu.




Outdoor workers report breathing difficulties, persistent coughs and burning eyes amid rising pollution. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

# Outdoor workers bear the brunt of worsening pollution

**Shrimansi Kaushik**
NEW DELHI

For traffic police personnel, domestic workers, roadside vendors, mechanics and gig workers, staying indoors is rarely an option.

With the air quality index crossing 400 at several locations in Delhi, those working outdoors for long hours reported breathing difficulties, persistent coughs, headaches and burning eyes, often without adequate protection from pollution.

**Health risks**

Yogendra Kumar, a traffic Inspector posted in Outer North Delhi, said pollution-related health risks for traffic personnel persisted throughout the year but increased significantly when air quality deteriorated.

"The impact on health is inevitable on the outskirts, as road dust also contributes to pollution alongside emissions. We have no safeguards apart from masks. Prolonged exposure causes breathing problems and a persistent cough," he said.

Reena Chaudhary, a domestic worker in Palam Colony, said she began experiencing breathing difficulties on the night before Deepavali. "I leave home around 7 a.m. and return by 9 p.m. I began having headaches and burning eyes the day before Deepavali, particularly while passing through smoke-filled lanes between houses at night. On Deepavali, my condition worsened. I felt dizzy throughout the day, had a persistent cough and just wanted to lie down. But who would work if I did?" she said. Since then, she has been taking her daughter along in case she falls ill and is unable to work.

**Trying to breathe**

Ravi, a 21-year-old gig worker who attends college during the day, said he works through the night, picking up rides across the city to support his family.

"Even at night, I can see that the air is dense. At times, I have to stop near a green area, such as Vande Mataram Marg, just to be able to breathe," he added.

Mukesh Yadav, an e-rickshaw driver in Palam, works at least eight hours a day, making several trips between Palam metro station and Kailashpuri, a one-kilometre stretch that witnesses heavy traffic.

"The only time I am not outdoors is when I am charging my e-rickshaw. I thought my cough was due to the cold, but everyone seems to be coughing, even the passengers. It could be due to pollution," he said.

# Air quality remains 'very poor' in Delhi; rain may bring relief

Stubble burning, solid biofuels account for 25.5% of air pollution, data show; concentrations of particulate matter also expected to decline

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI



The 24-hour average air quality index stood at 367 on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Delhi's air quality remained in the 'very poor' category on Saturday, with stubble burning and the domestic use of solid biofuels, such as dung cakes and wood, contributing 25.5% to the city's pollution, according to official data.

The air quality is, however, expected to improve slightly in the coming days due to rain, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. According to the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, concentrations of particulate matter (PM) – PM2.5 and PM10 – are also expected to decline over the next two days.

"A western disturbance is likely to cause light/moderate rainfall/snowfall over the western Himalayan region and light rainfall over the plains of north-west India on November 15," the IMD forecast read.

The 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 367 on Saturday, in the 'very poor' category. Of the 59 monitoring stations that recorded data on Saturday, 17 reported 'severe' air quality, 38 'very poor', three 'poor' and one 'moderate' level.

AQI is a measurement of air pollution on a scale of 0-500. A higher value suggests an increase in toxicity. 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'.

The transport sector was the largest contributor to Delhi's pollution on Saturday, accounting for 20.5%, according to the Decision Support System. Stubble burning contributed 13.3%. Satellite data recorded 537 farm fire incidents across six States on Saturday.

**Cameras set up**

Meanwhile, the Gurugram administration will deploy 300 automated number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras at petrol pumps from Sunday to enforce the 'no valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate, no fuel' rule, District Transport Officer Sanjeev Singla said.

Petrol pumps have also been directed to display warning boards stating that vehicles without valid PUC certificates will not be provided fuel, he added.

*(With inputs from PTI)*

# Overcrowded trains fail to dampen spirits of passengers heading home for Chhath

**Shrimansi Kaushik**
NEW DELHI




Passengers thronging to board a Bihar-bound special train at New Delhi railway station on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Undeterred by overcrowded trains and packed platforms, lakhs of passengers continue to leave Delhi for their hometowns to celebrate Chhath Puja with their families, with hourly ticket sales at major railway stations rising by 25% to 30%, railway officials said on Saturday.

Himanshu Upadhyay, Chief Public Relations Officer, Northern Railway, said additional trains have been introduced amid the festive rush and officials have stepped up crowd management and security arrangements to handle the rush. "Twenty-seven additional east-bound trains operated on Saturday, while 22 are scheduled to run today. Overall footfall at stations across Delhi increases from five lakh to eight lakh every year during Chhath Puja. Footfall is higher at Anand Vihar terminal," he added.

**Crowd management**

A permanent holding area for unreserved passengers has been commissioned at Anand Vihar terminal, along with a temporary tented holding area. These facilities have dedicated ticket counters, automatic ticket vending machines, toilets and drinking water.

Mr. Upadhyay said AI-enabled CCTV surveillance systems provide estimates of passenger numbers in different parts of stations. "It also flags sudden crowd surge, following which dispersal mechanisms are deployed," he added.

At New Delhi railway station, a foot overbridge connects the station to the metro and bus terminal. Passengers are directed to separate holding areas for security checks and screening before proceeding to the platforms. "We have made separate entry and exit arrangements for reserved and unreserved passengers at major stations like New Delhi and Anand Vihar," said Mr. Upadhyay.

"The hourly ticket-sale tracking system helps identify destinations where tickets sell out quickly and no train is immediately available. Special on-demand trains are arranged in such cases within 15 to 20 minutes," he added.

**Security deployment**

Mr. Upadhyay said the deployment of Railway Protection Force personnel has been increased by 60% while ambulances and fire response teams had also been deployed.

However, passengers complained of overcrowding on platforms and foot overbridge. "The arrangements outside the station are good but the platforms are very crowded," said Sonia Jha, a domestic worker travelling to her village in Bihar's Darbhanga.

"It is crowded, but I am more excited about visiting home after months," said Kapila Singh, who was travelling to Patna with her husband.

# FIR registered on DJB, flood dept. complaints over 'misinformation' on fish deaths in Yamuna

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has registered an FIR against unidentified persons for allegedly spreading misinformation that dead fish were found floating in the Yamuna near Sonia Vihar on Thursday, a police officer said on Saturday.

According to the officer, the FIR was registered at Wazirabad police station on a complaint by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department under Sections 353, 352 and 240 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has separately submitted a complaint to the police, seeking an FIR against unidentified persons for allegedly spreading misinformation on social media about chemical discharges into the river, the officer added. Visuals of dead fish floating in the river near Sonia Vihar surfaced on social media on November 12, raising concerns over possible contamination. The cause of the fish deaths is yet to be established.

*(With inputs from PTI)*



Chief Minister Rekha Gupta during the inauguration of the Delhi Pavilion at the India International Trade Fair. @CMODELHI X

# CM Gupta inaugurates 'Delhi Pavilion' at trade fair, hails city's history

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday inaugurated the 'Delhi Pavilion' at the 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF-2026), being held at Bharat Mandapam.

Delhi has been accorded the status of 'Focus State' at this year's fair. Ms. Gupta said the opportunity was being used to showcase the Capital's growing economic, cultural and industrial identity.

"The Delhi Pavilion brings together the Capital's glorious heritage and its journey of modern development. It also provides entrepreneurs, women business owners, artisans and local producers with an opportunity to showcase their talent and products and gain wider recognition," she said.

She added that her government aimed to preserve the Capital's cultural identity while highlighting its work in development, innovation, entrepreneurship and environmental conservation at national and international levels.

**Women entrepreneurs**

According to a government statement, the 996-sq. -metre pavilion has 62 stalls, including 10 for women entrepreneurs, showcasing Delhi's art, culture, heritage and initiatives such as Namo Van, Swachh Yamuna and electric vehicles. "Delhi is not only the national capital but also a symbol of India's rich historical heritage, diverse culture, entrepreneurship and modern development," Ms. Gupta said.

# Fire engulfs shoe factory in Mangolpuri, no injuries

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

A massive fire broke out at a footwear factory in Outer Delhi's Mangolpuri industrial area on Saturday afternoon, taking firefighters around five hours to bring it under control, an official said. No injuries or casualties were reported.

According to the official, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) received a call about the fire at 1.10 p.m., following which eight fire tenders were dispatched to the spot. By 1.30 p.m., 11 fire tenders had been deployed, and officials called for 16 more to help douse the blaze. "The fire, initially categorised as a 'Make 4' incident, was upgraded to 'Make 6' within minutes. At 6.30 p.m., the DFS declared the blaze under control," the official added.

# More Namo Bharat trains during peak hours

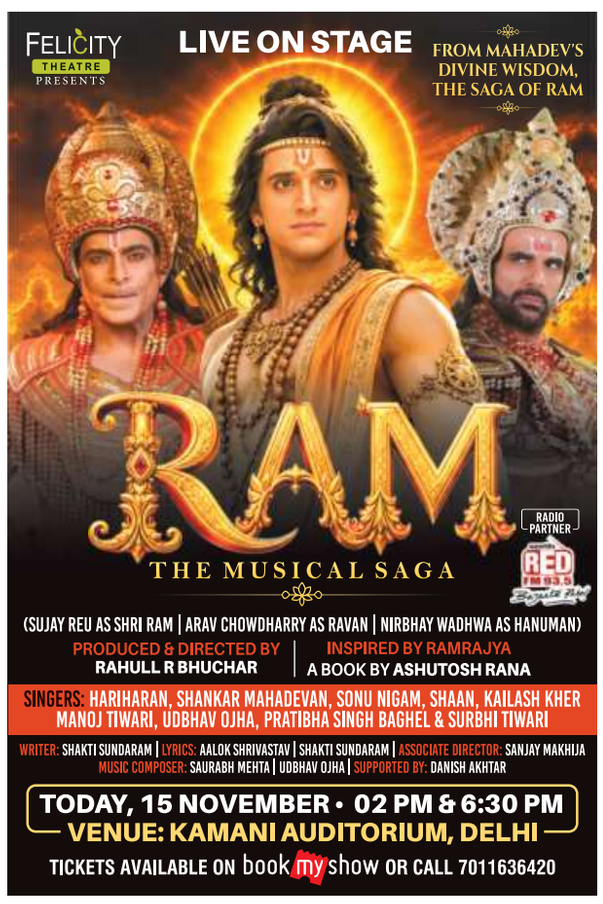
**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation Ltd. (NCRTC) has announced additional Namo Bharat train services during morning and evening peak hours, reducing travel time between Anand Vihar and Ghaziabad to just eight minutes, according to an official statement issued on Saturday.

The services will begin on Monday. Limited-stop trains will cover Ghaziabad-Begumpul in 28 minutes and Anand Vihar-Begumpul in 36 minutes, completing the corridor in under 50 minutes. They will stop at only five stations: Sarai Kale Khan, Anand Vihar, Ghaziabad, Begumpul and Modipuram, the NCRTC stated.

"During morning peak hours, fast trains will depart from both terminal stations at 8 a.m. and 8.30 a.m., and at 6 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. during evening peak hours. These services will operate alongside regular trains, which will run at 10-minute intervals," it stated in a post on X.

Jawahar / Modi Style
JACKETS
SUITS • BLAZERS
FESTIVE & WEDDING COLLECTION
upto 60% off
Gurpurab Offer Till 25th Nov.
Formal • Casual • Party wear
By Economy Sales: 9212758425
ARROW | Raymond | PARK AVENUE
• PUNCHKUIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
• WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
• JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing




कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम सतना (म.प्र.)
N.I.T. क्र. 19(E.T.)/निर्माण/न.पा.नि./2026-27 सतना, दिनांक 13.11.2026
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
नगर पालिक निगम सतना द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण बेवसाईट https://www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

| क्र. | निविदा क्र.व जारी दिनांक | टेण्डर क्रमांक | कार्य का नाम | अनुमानित लागत | अमानत राशि | निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य | कार्य की समयावधि |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | 19 13.11.2026 | 2026_UAD _549279_1 | आर.सी.सी. नाला निर्माण सिटी कोतवाली के पास एवं रोड क्रासिंग पुलिया निर्माण रीवा रोड सिंधु स्कूल के सामने | 1,32,56,454/- | 1,32,600/- | 12,500/- | 06 माह |

शर्तें: 1. निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाईट https://www.mptenders.gov.in पर दिनांक 14.11.2026 समय 15:30 से दिनांक 14.12.2026 समय 17:30 बजे तक ऑनलाइन भुगतान करने पर प्राप्त हो सकेगा। 2. निविदा से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन का प्रकाशन ऑनलाईन https://www.mptenders.gov.in की वेबसाईड पर ही किया जावेगा, पृथक से समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।
कार्यपालन यंत्री
नगर पालिक निगम, सतना (म.प्र.), सतना (म.प्र.), दिनांक 13.11.2026
स्वच्छ सतना - लक्ष्य अपना

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004
Bid no. IREPS-AT/E-31/2026-2027 Date:14.11.2026
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India, E-tender for supply of following items. Only e-offers will be acceptable for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registrations on IREPS. The details of tenders are I the following sequence- S.No.- Tender No.(Due Date) Description and Quantity. S.N. 1, 08261193, Open Tender, (30.11.2026), **Kit For Radiator Assembly One Set Consist of Radiator Assembly (RH) to DLW Part No. 17450408 & Radiator Assembly (LH) to DLW Part No. 17450410 as per Drg.No. 17455017 ALT C specn: RDSO Specification No. MP.0.0500.01 (Rev-03) may 2009 SPECIFICATION For Cleaning, Marking and Packing Conditions Misc:461 (PL No. 17455017, Qty-55 set. Note:** The details of above Tenders are available on website www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in and www.ireps.gov.in. **Corrigendum:-** S.N.: 1, Bid No. E-28/2026-27, Tender No. 04261603, Due date:13.11.2026, Revision: 01, Details of Correction: Due date: To be read as 19.11.2026 instead of 13.11.2026, **Corrigendum:-** S.N.: 2, Bid No.: E-28/2026-27, Tender No.: 03261009A, Revision: 01, Existing Due Date: 13.11.2026, Revise Due Date: 18.11.2026, **Corrigendum Notice: Tender Opening Date Extension: -** S.N.: 3, Tender Reference No.: 06261174, This is to inform all concerned bidders that the tender opening date for the above-mentioned tender has been revised as follows: Bid No.: E-27/2026-27, dtd: 09.10.2026, **Original Tender Opening Date: 12.11.2026, Revised Tender Opening Date: 18.11.2026**. **Note:** All other terms and conditions of the original tender shall remain unchanged.
PRO/BLW/S-33 SMM/Engine
/blwvaranasi Website- blw.indianrailways.gov.in

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder
Call our toll-free number 1800 102 1878
Or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in
Scan the QR code to register your feedback
THE HINDU | thehindu businessline. | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young World | THE HINDU

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT
Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 9820350726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in
THE HINDU
India's National Newspaper

## Himachal BJP corners govt. over stamp duty hike

**Press Trust of India**
SHIMLA

The Himachal Pradesh unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday cornered Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu over the stamp duty hike in the State, saying the Congress government's "misplaced" economic policies are burdening the general public.

In a statement, State BJP spokesperson Ajay Rana said that certain documents and legal procedures that previously required a stamp duty of ₹100 now cost as much as ₹1,000.

He claimed that this tenfold increase will impact people who need to execute affidavits, agreements, property-related documents, and other legal formalities.

Mr. Rana said the Congress government is attempting to generate revenue by increasing government fees, effectively "picking the pockets of the public".

# Jharkhand police book 2 over 'false' rape charge against Congress MLA

Hours after FIR registered against Bhushan Bara, two persons booked for allegedly abducting and coercing the girl into making a statement against legislator; LoP criticises Hemant Soren govt.

**The Hindu Bureau**
PATNA


Simdega Congress MLA Bhushan Bara (right) at his residence in Ranchi on Saturday. PTI

Hours after an FIR was registered against Congress MLA Bhushan Bara on the charge of raping his minor domestic help, police said on Saturday that they booked two persons for allegedly abducting and coercing the girl into making a "false" statement against the legislator.

The Congress is a constituent of the State's ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led coalition.

The girl's grandfather lodged a complaint at Patratanr police station in Simdega district on Friday, naming two men who allegedly abducted the 15-year-old girl three days ago and pressured her into making a false statement of rape against the two-time MLA, Simdega Superintendent of Police Shrikant S. Khotre said.

"We have booked both the accused under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the POCSO Act," he said.

One of the two men is a content creator associated with a YouTube channel.

**'Flexing his muscle'**

Babulal Marandi, the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Assembly, said, "Reports have emerged that a case has been filed against a journalist who exposed the incident. It is a direct attack on democracy and independent journalism. The accused MLA is openly flexing his muscle."

Mr. Marandi on Saturday cornered the Hemant Soren-led government over a series of incidents of crime, saying law and order has collapsed in the State. He cited the Simdega incident, the sexual assault of a youth in Hotwar jail, and the alleged rape of a woman who had gone to the Gamharia police station seeking justice. Fifteen police officers were suspended in connection with Gamharia incident on November 1. Addressing a press conference at the State Bharatiya Janata Party office in Ranchi, Mr. Marandi said such incidents are continuously coming to light.

*(With inputs from PTI)*

## From policy to talent: Amaravati QV's innovation blueprint

**Sambasiva Rao M.**
AMARAVATI


Researchers working on the development of the quantum technology at a lab near Vijayawada. K.V.S. GIRI

A quantum processor cooled to near absolute zero draws headlines, yet hardware alone does not build an industry. Its real value depends on the researchers, institutions, and policies surrounding it.

When Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu outlined his vision for the Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV), a project backed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the goal extended well past installing isolated machines. C.V. Sridhar, Mission Director of Andhra Pradesh State Quantum Mission, highlighted that buying a quantum computer will not trigger an innovation wave on its own. Long-term leadership requires linking basic research, commercial applications, policy incentives, and specialised talent under one roof.

To put Amaravati among the top five global quantum hubs by 2030, competing alongside established centres in Chicago, Munich, Singapore, and Australia, Andhra Pradesh started with regulation.

**First Indian State**

It became the first Indian State to introduce a dedicated Quantum Policy, reinforced by the cabinet-ratified Amaravati Quantum Valley Declaration. Instead of falling back on traditional IT service delivery models, the policy pushes for original R&D and homegrown intellectual property.

Last year, the mission brought together nearly 95% of India's leading quantum researchers, including more than 300 senior scientists, and national mission leaders to draft its roadmap.

While National Quantum Mission hubs at IIT Madras, IISc Bengaluru, IIT Bombay, and IIT Delhi focus on foundational science, Amaravati is designed to act as the commercial engine that turns lab discoveries into deployable products.

That blueprint is already drawing major institutions to the region.

National research agencies, including DRDO, C DAC, C DOT, and CSIR (which has mapped out 15 specialised quantum laboratories), are establishing local operations. Global corporations, international organisations, and Indian startups have also signed on. Financial institutions are already testing practical use cases nearby.

## Assault: panel seeks review of child safety systems

**Press Trust of India**
CHANDIGARH

Taking serious cognisance of the assault on a six-year-old girl at a government school in Panchkula last month, the Haryana Human Rights Commission has stressed the need for a comprehensive review of child-safety arrangements in schools across the State. The commission has asked the State government to consider conducting a time-bound safety audit of all schools and preparing a concrete action plan to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

A six-year-old girl was injured in an alleged assault by an eight-year-old boy inside a classroom at a government school in Panchkula last month.

Upon receiving information about the incident, commission Chairperson Justice Lalit Batra, accompanied by Assistant Registrar Puneet Arora, visited the school on October 31 and examined arrangements relating to school safety and supervision of children.

In its November 13 order passed in a *suo motu* case, the commission observed that ensuring the safety of every child within school premises was a fundamental responsibility of the institution concerned and the administration. The alleged assault on the girl was not merely a matter of negligence at an individual school but raised several serious questions concerning the supervision of children, availability of teachers, classroom arrangements, monitoring of CCTV cameras and emergency response mechanisms, it said.

The commission emphasised the need to examine how many teachers and staff members were deployed for supervising students at the time of the incident.

## Karnataka mandates check-ups for girl students

**Jayanth R.**
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government will introduce mandatory gynaecological check-ups, sex education, and counselling in all schools, colleges, hostels, residential schools, and training institutions.

It recently issued a circular listing the measures. These include mandatory check-ups for all girls in schools by a gynaecologist, the provision of sex education, and the creation of awareness regarding teenage pregnancies, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and child marriage.

CCTV cameras have been made mandatory in all schools and colleges.

Failure to prevent – or negligence in addressing – cases of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, or POCSO cases will result in legal action against the officials concerned, it said.

The circular is a culmination of a series of measures initiated in 2025 following the rise in cases of child marriages and teenage pregnancies.

It said that counsellors should be appointed in all schools and pre-university colleges to tackle challenges faced by students. Teachers must persuade parents to re-enrol girls who have dropped out of school and ensure that they continue their education.

"If a girl student in a school or residential school remains absent for more than three days without providing any notification, the principal must inform the gram panchayat and the child helpline (1098). The Health Department has recommended action against shops selling abortion pills without doctor's prescription," the circular said.



## INBRIEF



### Vijay expected to take part in Sonia's book launch in Delhi

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay is expected to take part in top Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's memoir launch in Delhi on November 16, sources in the grand old party said on Saturday. Mr. Vijay's presence is anticipated in the formal launch of Ms. Gandhi's memoir 'Belonging: A journey of love', sources said. In June, the CM visited Delhi and took part in the NITI Aayog meeting and also called on Ms. Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. The CM's expected visit to the national capital also comes against the backdrop of the Mekedatu issue. PTI

### Lioness killed after being hit by train in Gujarat's Junagadh

A lioness, estimated to be between five and nine years old, was killed after being hit by a train in Gujarat's Junagadh district on Saturday, a forest official said. The incident occurred around 12.30 p.m. near a bridge on the Ozat river near Khambhalia village, said Range Forest Officer D.R. Dambhala. The lioness was trying to cross the tracks when she was struck by the Junagadh-Chalala passenger train, he said, adding that the animal died on the spot. PTI

# 'Talks over seat sharing under way between BJP and Akali Dal in Punjab'

As speculation mounts on a formal announcement this month, BJP leader Harjit Singh Grewal says party's central leadership will take a call but core State team in favour of going it alone

**Press Trust of India**
CHANDIGARH



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal in Punjab's Gurdaspur. FILE PHOTO

Negotiations on seat sharing between the BJP and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) for the 2027 Punjab Assembly poll are under way, sources said on Saturday amid speculation that the two parties may join hands again. After the finalisation of seats, a formal announcement on the alliance is expected this month, according to sources in both the SAD and BJP. The SAD had snapped its 24-year-old alliance with the BJP in September 2020 over the now-scrapped three farm laws.

Senior Punjab BJP leader Harjit Singh Grewal on Saturday said that the party's central leadership will take a call on any alliance. Mr. Grewal, who is the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities, said common people and some BJP leaders who came from other political parties have a view that elections could be won if an alliance takes place. "But BJP's core team, comprising workers who have been working for the last 40-50 years, does not want an alliance," he told reporters.

These two views are doing the rounds, he said. "I believe that governments come and go. But the ideology of nationalism must certainly thrive in Punjab," said Mr. Grewal.

**Visits, meetings**

In another development, Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil, who is also the BJP's Punjab election incharge, is expected to visit Punjab on November 17. He will be meeting State BJP leaders in Chandigarh, sources said. The visit assumes significance as talk about a possible reunion between the former allies gathers momentum.

Former Punjab CM and BJP leader Amarinder Singh had also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi a few days ago, sources said. He is learnt to have discussed State issues, including drug abuse, with the PM, they said.

Last month in Delhi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah predicted a National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in Punjab in 2027. When he came to Chandigarh on November 1, he again said an NDA government will be formed in the border State. The statement reignited the buzz about a possible SAD-BJP alliance.

On November 2, when SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal was asked about the possibility of a realliance, he gave a guarded response to speculation, saying, "You will come to know in a few days as to what will happen."

# Veeramani case: SIT launches search for remains of minor

**S. Vijay Kumar**
CHENNAI



Investigators start digging open spaces at his residential premises using excavators SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted to probe allegations of child sexual abuse against Gem Granites owner R. Veeramani launched a search operation to look for the remains of a victim allegedly buried at his residential premises in Royapettah in Chennai, police sources said on Saturday.

Amid tight security arrangements, investigators used excavators to dig open spaces within the compound wall of the house.

The search was based on a statement given by one of the survivors in court, alleging that a minor girl was buried in the house of Veeramani a few years ago, the sources said.

The octogenarian businessman is facing seven cases of child sexual abuse booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and one abetment of suicide case involving a minor in 2004.

"One of the survivors gave a statement in the special court for POCSO Act cases that a girl was buried in the house of Veeramani. We have started the process of verifying the information," a police officer said.

A special team was trying to gather more details on the identity of the victim who is alleged to have been buried.

The survivor, who gave the statement, could not recall the name, address, and any other information that could lead to the identification of the victim or her family.

*(Those in distress can contact Tele MANAS at 14416 to seek help)*

# Over 70% turnout recorded in final phase of Rajasthan panchayat polls

**Mohammed Iqbal**
JAIPUR



The highest polling at 77% was reported from Baseri in Dholpur district. FILE PHOTO

Villagers in 25 districts of Rajasthan cast their votes for the fourth and final phase of polling on Saturday to elect the zila parishad and panchayat samiti members for a total of 2,524 seats.

An estimated 72% turnout of voters at 11,905 polling stations was recorded by the end of the day.

The polling for first, second and third phases of panchayati raj elections was held on October 22, October 28 and November 3, respectively. Counting of votes for zila parishad and panchayat samiti elections across all four phases will be held on November 20, followed by elections for zila pramukhs and panchayat samiti pradhans.

There were delays in polling at several places due to glitches in electronic voting machines (EVMs), while the voters at some villages in Baran and Jaisalmer districts boycotted the polling to press for their demands.

The villagers at Mundakya and Mundki in Baran boycotted the voting in protest against an irrigation project adversely affecting their lands. They have been demanding fair compensation for land acquisition for the project. The villagers at Bhojraj Ki Dhani in Jaisalmer did not cast their votes in protest against alleged anomalies in the reservation for Other Backward Classes.

Police took two persons into custody at a polling station in Sikar district's Hapas village when they created a commotion while insisting on carrying their mobile phones inside the booth. The situation escalated when they began arguing with the polling officials and the policemen, leading to their detention on charges of disturbing peace.

The highest polling at 77% was reported from Baseri in Dholpur district. A total of 8,843 candidates are contesting 2,524 seats in the fourth phase, including 382 zila parishad seats and 7,521 for panchayat samiti wards.

# Chirag, Prashant Kishor criticise Raj Thackeray's remarks on Chhath songs

**Press Trust of India**
PATNA



MNS chief Raj Thackeray

Union Minister Chirag Paswan and Jan Suraaj Party founder Prashant Kishor on Saturday criticised Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray's remarks on Chhath, the most popular festival of Bihar, accusing him of spewing venom against people of the Hindi heartland for political gains.

The criticism came after Mr. Thackeray accused the BJP-led government in Maharashtra of making desperate attempts to incite conflict in Mumbai, which has a sizeable North Indian population, by exploiting the Chhath Puja issue ahead of the upcoming election in Uttar Pradesh.

His remarks came days after a controversy erupted over playing Bhojpuri songs at some Mumbai railway stations ahead of the festival.

Mr. Paswan, a BJP ally, and Mr. Kishor were approached separately here by journalists with queries on the MNS chief's objections to the playing of Chhath songs at railway stations in Mumbai.

Charging the Maharashtra leader with "persistently promoting regionalism" in politics, Mr. Paswan said that "people of Thackeray's own State have rejected his party for decades" due to such an approach.

"It is inappropriate to suggest that only Marathi traditions should be respected in Maharashtra, while North Indian traditions and songs should not be given due respect. Their [MNS's] approach is precisely why the people of their own State have rejected their party for decades," he said.

Mr. Kishor, too, lashed out at the MNS chief with derision, saying he makes such statements occasionally to somehow remain in the media when nobody notices him. "It is unnecessary to give importance to elements like Raj Thackeray. When nobody asks about him for months, he speaks against the people of U.P. and Bihar to get some media space," he said.

SPOTLIGHT

# Land of parched fields and broken promises

Drought has devastated Maharashtra's Beed district, pushing women farmers and labourers towards distress migration. Despite repeated pleas for employment, villagers say government job guarantees have failed them, even as the State announces a ₹6,728-crore package

**Vinaya Deshpande Pandit**



Women of Takarwan village in Beed have been fighting for work under employment guarantee schemes for the last two years. VINAYA DESHPANDE PANDIT

The cotton plants are green, but the bolls are missing. Across the Chauhan family's four-acre field in Majalgaon in Maharashtra's Beed district, the plants stand stunted, their promise of a harvest withered by the absence of rain. What should have been a season of cotton picking has become a search for the few bolls the drought has spared.

Under the relentless October sun, Vanita Chauhan bends over the plants, picking the little cotton she can find. A tattered towel covers her head, shielding her from the scorching heat. Her full-sleeved shirt is buttoned up to her neck, while the red *pallu* of her sari is tied around her arm and neck, fashioned into an improvised pouch. She drops each cotton boll into it before moving hurriedly to the next plant.

At the other end of the field, her daughter-in-law works through the same sparse crop. The two women move from plant to plant, gathering what little the four acres have yielded.

Maharashtra is reeling under one of its worst droughts in recent history, with the State government declaring drought in 304 of the 358 talukas (tehsils). It has announced drought-relief measures for 85% of the State. But women farmers and landless labourers in one of the worst affected districts, Beed, face parched fields, early migration, empty water cans in their homes and mounting medical expenses. They claim that the government's employment guarantee schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme have been a sham.

In October, the Maharashtra government announced the allocation of ₹6,728 crore for the employment guarantee schemes.

Holding up documents showing repeated denials of work over the past two years under many relief schemes, the women of the drought-prone region hope that the State turns its promises into employment during this brutal season when they need it the most.

**No rain, no gain**

Vanita, who does not know her age, shows the contents of her red sari's *pallu*. She spends five hours a day out collecting cotton bolls. In a usual year, the heaps of harvested cotton would be tall enough to hide the women and men working in the field, she says.

The family would typically hire labourers from the village to help them with the picking. This year, the harvest is so scant that the women of the family have been doing all the plucking themselves. "Every year, we have 40-50 quintals. This year, we ourselves have to go to sugarcane fields for cutting. There is no work," she says.

This year, what would have been the monsoon season in Beed district suffered a severe rainfall deficit of 59.3% compared to historical averages, according to the government, placing it among the most drought-affected pockets in Maharashtra. Beed witnesses severe seasonal migration every year, where hundreds of thousands of people migrate to western Maharashtra or Karnataka or Tamil Nadu to work in sugarcane fields from early October onwards. This year, distress migration has been earlier than usual.

In Takarwan village in Majalgaon taluka of Beed, a dozen feisty women gear up to take on the sarpanch of the gram panchayat for the third time in the last two years. On a hot October afternoon, they gather in a field after finishing their household chores. Sitting in the shade of a large tree, on the outskirts of the village, the women speak up about their struggles.

The drought has burnt their crop. They do not wish to migrate as sugarcane cutters. Though the system has disappointed them the last two years, this time they are determined to fight for employment guarantee schemes in the village, they say.

"At the beginning of this year, we had filed 175 applications under MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005). We had sought work from the gram panchayat. Only eight women got work. The rest were not even informed. We have been following up with the sarpanch for a long time now," says 35-year-old Gayatri Banduram Garad. She, along with a few other women, has been instrumental in gathering the women to send collective applications for work under MGNREGA, which has now been replaced by VB-G RAM G (Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission).

Both MGNREGA and its successor VB-G RAM G have been formed to mitigate rural poverty and ensure livelihood security by offering legal, guaranteed wage employment to rural households. According to the Government of India, ₹300 per day is the new national benchmark for rural wages under VB- G RAM G.

**Office politics**

Some women claim that those who were given work under MGNREGA were given jobs like breaking big boulders and transferring them. "Generally, women are given lighter work like transferring sand, digging pits. But after we fought for work, some women were purposely given this kind of work. Whatever be the nature of work now, we will do it. We need the money to survive in this drought," says Gayatri.

At 3 p.m., the gram panchayat office in the village is shut. While the sarpanch claims that the office remains open from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. daily, the villagers allege it is shut most of the time. A few notices are pasted on the outer wall of the office. An old notice from June 2026 is about a gram sabha meeting announcement. One of the points on agenda is work allocation under VB-G RAM G. But there is no information thereafter. Villagers gather outside the locked office to complain about the lack of work under the employment guarantee scheme. In a village of 15,000 people, access to employment under the scheme could provide much-needed relief. "I can show you the acknowledgement letter of my application. They just tell us there is no work," says one villager.

The sarpanch, Sunil Balasaheb Tour, says he did not have instructions from the district administration to provide work. "I had received 40 applications under VB-G RAM G," he says. The villagers, however, maintain that hundreds of applications for work remain pending with the gram panchayat. "The proposals are pending with our panchayat department, not with me. We are reviewing the situation," Sunil says.

He also speaks about work for four wells. "The work for one of them had been going on for six months, and 18 had been employed for it. We were told to stop work, as there was no approval for work under VB-G RAM G. A few days ago, when Maharashtra Chief Minister [Devendra Fadnavis] announced drought in this region, we have been told to hold a special gram sabha to take stock of the drought situation here," he says.

Sunil belongs to the Nationalist Congress Party faction earlier led by the late Ajit Pawar, which is part of the ruling coalition in Maharashtra. The district's Guardian Minister is Sunetra Pawar, who is also the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Despite repeated attempts, the District Collector of Beed did not respond to *The Hindu*'s queries on the implementation of the employment guarantee schemes and the pending applications for work.

*vinaya.deshpande@thehindu.co.in*

Published by Nirmala Lakshman and Printed by Praveen Someshwar 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 (Editor responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

# Rahul promises insurance, accident cover for gig workers

**R. Ravikanth Reddy**
HYDERABAD

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi announced a series of social security measures for gig workers in Telangana, including accident insurance of ₹5 lakh, health cover of ₹10 lakh, and a mechanism to ensure that 1% of every transaction is credited towards their social security.

Addressing gig workers, Mr. Gandhi said the Congress government in Telangana was fulfilling its promise to protect workers engaged in the platform-based economy.

Under the proposed legislation, workers would be able to access details of their transactions, deliveries, working hours, and payments through their mobile phones. "The data belong to you, the labour is yours, but you were not even allowed to see your own data," he said.

He said the government would also establish dedicated, Wi-Fi-enabled rest zones in Hyderabad and other cities for delivery personnel and other gig workers.

Mr. Gandhi said every gig worker would receive ₹5 lakh in accident insurance and ₹10 lakh in health insurance. A social security contribution mechanism under which 1% of every transaction, including deliveries and cab rides, would be contributed towards the workers' future security.

The amount would be collected from companies and routed through the Gig Workers' Board before being transferred directly to the workers' bank accounts, he said.

# Karnataka govt. urges Centre to protect SC, ST quota law

Chief Minister, Deputy CM write to the Prime Minister on including State's enhanced quota law in the Constitution; legislation provides 17% quota for SCs and 7% for STs in educational institutions

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU


Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara cited Tamil Nadu's case in their letter. FILE PHOTO

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara have urged the Union government to initiate a Constitutional amendment to include the State's law providing enhanced reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

Laws included in the Ninth Schedule cannot be challenged in courts.

In separate communications to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Parameshwara sought the Centre's urgent intervention to protect the State's legislation providing for 17% reservation for SCs and 7% for STs in educational institutions and public employment.

In letters dated November 12 to the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar, Mr. Parameshwara sought a time-bound decision on Karnataka's proposal.

The appeal follows the Karnataka High Court's October 12 judgment striking down the enhanced reservation, which took the total quota to 56%, exceeding the 50% ceiling mandated by the Supreme Court.

**Tamil Nadu precedent**

Both leaders cited Tamil Nadu's 69% reservation framework, which was included in the Ninth Schedule through the 76th Constitutional Amendment in 1994, as a precedent for Karnataka's demand.

"If Parliament could act to protect a reservation framework of 69% in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka's considered request for 56% reservation, founded upon the recommendations of a judicial commission, deserves no less Constitutional attention," Mr. Shivakumar noted in his letter.

# Wangchuk being targeted for raising Ladakh's issues: KDA

**Press Trust of India**
LEH

Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of double standards, Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) co-chairman Sajjad Kargili on Saturday alleged that climate activist Sonam Wangchuk was being targeted for raising issues concerning Ladakh's democratic rights, constitutional safeguards and political representation.

Mr. Kargili was addressing protesters gathered under the banner of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) in Leh for the past three days, expressing solidarity with them and Mr. Wangchuk, who was escorted home by police on Wednesday evening in view of prohibitory orders imposed ahead of the panchayat and municipal polls on November 21 and hill council polls.

LAB chairman Chering Dorjay Lakruk, who is leading a sit-in protest in Leh, on Friday clarified that the agitation was unrelated to the upcoming elections, saying it had been planned well in advance to press the government to resume dialogue on constitutional safeguards and the demand for a Union Territory (U.T.)-level elected government headed by a Chief Minister.

Referring to Mr. Wangchuk's earlier call for a boycott of Chinese goods and the creation of the U.T., Mr. Kargili said those who hailed the activist as a hero are now criticising him. He alleged that Mr. Wangchuk was being targeted for standing with his homeland and raising his voice for the protection of Ladakh's land and identity.

# After Arnab and Murasu, A.P. braces for another cyclone

**The Hindu Bureau**
VIJAYAWADA

After bearing the brunt of Cyclones Arnab and Murasu, Andhra Pradesh is bracing for another cyclonic storm within a week.

According to the latest information from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Amaravati, the current weather system over the Bay of Bengal may intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by November 18, and move towards the A.P. coast. The current weather models indicate the probability of landfall along the North Coastal Andhra Pradesh on November 19 or 20.

The low-pressure area, formed over the south-east Bay of Bengal on November 13, intensified into a well-marked low-pressure area on Saturday. It may intensify into a depression by November 15.

The IMD has issued a heavy rainfall alert for coastal A.P., saying that the forecast may be updated as more clarity emerges. Wind speeds near the coast may increase from November 15, rising from 40 kmph to 50 kmph and reaching 105 kmph around November 18.

| Delhi Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Delhi City | 30 | 16 |
| Safdarjang | 30 | 16 |
| Palam | 28 | 17 |

**Delhi Palam Today**
**30°C** Shallow fog and mist in cool morning. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool. Weather will be dry with severe pollution level.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**
**29°C** Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy. Pollution level will be severe. Fall in night temperature. The dry weather to continue.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2026
All rights reserved.

**Timings**
**DELHI**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **SUNDAY, NOV. 15** | | |
| RISE | 06:43 | SET 17:28 |
| RISE | 11:42 | SET 22:18 |
| **MONDAY, NOV. 16** | | |
| RISE | 06:44 | SET 17:28 |
| RISE | 12:17 | SET 23:15 |
| **TUESDAY, NOV. 17** | | |
| RISE | 06:45 | SET 17:27 |
| RISE | 12:49 | SET 00:00 |

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

**INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India)
A-13, Sector -1, Noida – 201301 (U.P.)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**
**Tender No: IWAI/NW-4/Floating Pontoon/Godavari/2024-25**
Online bids are invited from the Reputed contractors/firms for "Design, construction, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of floating steel pontoons (06 nos) along with steel gangways for providing floating terminal facilities in the river Godavari in NW-4, Andhra Pradesh". Start date for download of Tender: 16.11.2026, 1100 hrs. Pre-bid meeting on 20.11.2026, 1500 hrs. Last date of bid submission: 09.12.2026, 1500 hrs. for other terms & conditions please refer to IWAI **website www.iwai.nic.in.** and **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**
**Sd/-**
**Member (Technical)**

**Bharat Coking Coal Limited**
(A Mini Ratna Comnany)
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

**NOTICE**
All the tenders issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (B.C.C.L.) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of **B.C.C.L. "www.bcclweb.in"** Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal **"https://coalindiatenders.nic.in"** and Central Public Procurement Portal **"https://eprocure.gov.in"** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **"https://gem.gov.in".** This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.
**This information is also available on BCCL website www.bcclweb.in**

**UJVN LIMITED**
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H. O. "UJJAWAL" MAHARANI BAGH, GMS ROAD, DEHRADUN - 248006, CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866
Tele.: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508, website: www.ujvnl.com

RO No. 1074 Date : 13.11.2026

**Date Extension Notice-09**
**Due to unavoidable circumstances, due dates in respect of online Bid Identification No.T-01/EE(Solar)/2026-27 are revised as follows:**
**Last Date /Time of Receipt of bid :** 25.11.2026 upto 16:00 Hrs. **on the portal**
**Last Date /Time of submission of bid :** 27.11.2026 upto 12:00 Hrs. **in Office**
**Date of opening of the bid on website:**27.11.2026 from 13:00 Hrs.
All other details and terms &conditions shall remain same. Detail of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancelation etc. may be obtained from the website.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **http://uktenders.gov.in.**
**Executive Engineer (Solar)**
**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**



# Classifieds

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

# Matrimonial

THE HINDU

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

## BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

**INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL**


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


### BENGALI

**WANTED AN** affluent and genial SouthIndia based Probashi Bengali groom (37–43)(prof/ doc/officer/ Business owners) for a Banerjee faculty, 38 working in an eminent institute in Coimbatore. 9495536431, 9600250109

### DIVORCEE

**BEAUTIFUL, SINCERE** 30, well–educated professional (MNC). Loving, cultured family. Seeks compatible groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365

### DOCTOR

**NAIDU, GAVARA,** 33 yrs/165 cms, MBBS.,MS(ongoing), pooram, simmam, good looking, slim, upper middle class, divorced without issues, seeks suitable groom, preferably Doctor. any Naidu sub caste. Ct: 63812 39087

**SUPER Superspecialist** M.D, DM doctor working in Bangalore 40 lakhs PA upper middle class Hindu 34 years /155 cm, fair, slim, seeks suitable groom with good habit preferable doctor, caste no bar. Contact 9845522122.

**HINDU -** PALLAN Bride Doctor 29 Aswini Mesham . Father Mother Doctor Seeks Doctor Bridegroom. Pallan Caste Only. P.No. 9443151045-w.up 9442924441-w.up

**MBBS MD** General Medicine DM Nephrology, 156/92, seeks suitable groom. 9497 168001, 9447 493034.

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

### DOCTOR

**AN OBSTETRICS** & Gynaecologist 29, 156, Fair, from a respected, education – oriented, Tamil (Udayar Hindu) Chennai based family, seeks a Doctor groom with matching calibre . Family enqs. only. 98410 78080

**WANTED DOCTOR GROOM**
**ROMAN CATHOLIC, MD, DNB, (Anesthesiology), 27 Yrs, 5′ 7″, SLIM, FAIR, REPUTED SCHOOL, COLLEGE, WELL - SETTLED, CHENNAI.**
CONTACT No: WhatsApp Profile
**75500 65082**

**Wanted Hindu** Doctor or Well Educated Groom in good position for well Looking Fair Doctor Bride, 34years, Working as Peadiatrics in Reputed Hospital Chennai, Star - Maham - Simham Cast No Bar. Ct: 80722 14843.

**✔ Doctor, MD Paediatric, 28 Years/ 175 Practicing in Corporate Hospital Simham/Maham from Chennai seeking alliance Doctor/ CA/ Professional Cont : 9791053568/9789056263**

### MALAYALAM

**PARENTS OF** 29Y Malayalee C.S.I. Syrian Christian girl (PhD) settled in Chennai, seek alliance from equally qualified C.S.I. Malayalee groom settled in Chennai. Ct: 9003281072.

**A FAIR** looking Christian Girl (28), post graduated in UK, working as HR in Mumbai looking for a US, UK based groom. Contact number : 7907368833.

**HINDU VELAN–**DHEEVARA Girl, Feb 1995/167cm, Makairyam, B.Tech, MBA, Entrepreneur, Bangalore, Seeking Malayalee Match. Ph:9496089009

**VISWAKARMA GOLDSMITH** girl, 36/155, Visakham, M.Phil seeks alliance from parents of professionals. Contact: 9188198390.

**ARISTOCRATIC NAIR** girl, aged 27/167, Anizham, B.Tech., MS (UK), working in Scotland seeks alliance from UK Nair boys. Contact: 9349487100 / hari.vakkeel@gmail.com

**SEEKING ALLIANCE** for a Hindu Malayali lady (68 yrs, Slim, M.A.) from an unmarried Hindu Malayali Allopathy Doctor. 9495621351

**GROOM WANTED** 35, Rohini, MA/MS NRI divorcee no encumbrances; cancer survivor; liberal interfaith family. Seeking Educated Groom. Cont Email magiquelantern1967@gmail.com, Phone: 8848079769

### NRI

**SEEKING A** well placed practising muslim for an Islamic 32 yrs Phd, NRI girl. 9940014700

**VANNAR GOOD** looking bride Aged 31 working as software developer in Florida USA Under L1 visa needs suitable groom. Ph 9488243347, 9488243348

### TAMIL

**CHRISTIAN 36, ENG working – MNC chennai wanted ENG groom – Christian family cont: 9444325317**

**CSI NADAR,** MD Pursuing, looking for a groom from 31-38 from any location and subcaste from Medical professional, 8137001247

**CSI, M.TECH,** MNC, looking for a groom from same caste and well settled from 28-33 in Tamilnadu, 8137003550

**CATHOLIC, UPPER** Middle Class, MD, Doctor, looking for a groom from 27-31 from equal subcaste and occupation in Chennai circle, 8138900487

**CHRISTIAN, FC,** 37, M.Sc., M Phil., Asst. Prof. Pondy, Seeks Groom FC/BC, below 39 yrs. Ct: 98946-77892

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

**CSI TAMIL,** God Fearing, Fair, Homely, B.E., M.Tech., 28 Years, MNC, Parents seek alliance from suitable God Fearing, Well qualified and employed Grooms with clean habits Mobile/WhatsApp: 7200309111 / 9444002036

**BORN AGAIN** Christian, 45yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

**RC CHRISTIAN,** Rich/affluent, NRI, MS, looking for a groom from 27-30 from any countries, 8137001247.

**CATHOLIC, MD,** looking for a groom from 28-34, doctor profile in equal subcaste in Tamilnadu and Bangalore, 8138 900575.

**MUSLIM, MD,** Doctor, looking for a business, lawyers and doctor grooms from 33-38 with Chennai circle locations, 8138900498.

**SC/ADIDRAVIDAR/**MSC DOB 1983 bride seeks suitable qualified employeed bridegroom 8754354205

**SUITABLE, QUALIFIED** Alliance invited for a fair and slim 33year Doctor (Dentist) MDS Vanniakula Kshatriya Girl working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai. Dhanusu rasi, star Moolam (4padam) Ct: 9382167197/9962781009

### TAMIL

**SEEKING EMPLOYED** Bridegroom below 37y for Hindu SC fair, educated, divorced, homely & employed 34y Bride from Elite Family. CNBar 7303518877

**ALLIANCE INVITES** My Daughter Hindu Mudaliar 43yrs,+2 Diverse No Child caste No bar 9444274968/ 8144741234

**GROOM WANTED** Mudaliyar, 29 yrs, BE, Rich and Affluent business family in Chennai 7200187009

**GROOM WANTED** Rich Mudaliyar,28yrs, Bcom, MBA, Elite Business family 7338877275

**GROOM WANTED** CNB,41yrs, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai 6385293227

**ADI DRAVIDAR,** Krithigai 37 Doctor, working in Govt organization, Chennai seeks suitable groom. 9159558588

**MUDALIYAR, 44,** divorced, rich/affluent, looking for a groom from equal caste and status from 1st or 2nd marriage, 8138900412

**VANNIYAR, DIVORCED,** MD, Doctor, looking for a 2nd marriage profile from any caste with well educated and settled, 8137001255

**YADAVA, MBBS,** looking for Doctor profile from equal caste in Tamilnadu from 24-30, 8138900575

**REDDIAR, RICH/AFFLUENT,** MS, looking for a groom from same caste from 26-33 in Kongu districts, 8138900523

**HINDU NADAR** 1993 Born Fair, divorcee B.E (MIB) Employed seeks suitable alliance (CNB). CT: 9944960343

**✔ SENGUNTHAR MUDHALIYAR Girl 25 / 155 wheatish Medical Biochemistry required well settled medical profession / doctor Contact +917904182532**

**GROOM WANTED** Mudaliyar,28yrs,M.Tech, Elite Business Family in Chennai.Ph: 7550025241

**MUDALIAR 23** MBBS 163Cm Good Look well Settled Family Seeks Drs/Engrs/Business CNB 8778514465/ 7200866346

**GROOM WANTED** Hindu Nadar 29yrs, MBBS, MS, rich and affluent family. Ph: 9841329471,9380791999

**GROOM WANTED** SC (Ad),26yrs,BE, Well Educated Family in Chennai . Ph:9176718886

**GROOM WANTED** SC (Ad), MBBS, MD, well Educated Family.Ph: 6385293227

**✔ ALLIANCE INVITEDA well–educated, well–settled Chennai family invites alliance for their 26–year–old, 169 cm, fair–complexioned, SC Tamil daughter, working as a Securities & Capital Markets Associate with a top–tier corporate law firm. BBA, LL.B. (Hons.), LL.M. Family–oriented, grounded in strong values. Father retired as Executive Director of a leading PSU. Seeking a highly qualified, professionally accomplished groom from a respectable family, employed in Government/PSU/Private sector, preferably based in Chennai, Mumbai or Bangalore.Contact: 9444415358**

**35 YEARS** fair B Tech NIT MBA IIT working in MNC Chennai, CNB Seeking suitable Bridegroom. Ct:9940507235.

**VANNIYA KULA** Kshatriya, (27/164cm) , LLM, Working in a Pvt. Company as Deputy Manager, Good Looking Seeks Suitable Groom. Ct. 99406 55572.

**HINDU NADAR** 29, B.E, MBA Software Engineer, Salary 12L/PA, Kanni Rasi Hastam Natchathiram, Own House & Land in Chennai & Native. Seeks suitable Groom Ct 9444780965, 9444716255

**KIND, ATTRACTIVE** 41, well–read, health–care professional. Cultured family. Seeks compatible groom. Religion/caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365

**VANNIYAKULA SHATRIYAR** Girl 28Years B.E Kettai, Asst Manager,Govt Bank. Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:9894128789

**PILLAI BRIDE** 26 Yrs/157cm, Fair, Pooja, BE (Hospital Management) Seeks a suitable groom from CANADA ONLY. CT: 9894107825, 9500595339.

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

### TAMIL

**ALLIANCE INVITED FOR ACCOMPLISHED IYER BRIDE**

Iyer Koushika parents invite alliance for US educated daughter (29/170cm, Anusham, Never Married). Global upbringing; currently working in Europe and processing US permanent residency. She is creative, artistic, family oriented and spiritual. Father, MNC CEO and mother are from Kerala. Seeks empathetic, well-read Brahmin partner (MBA, Doctor, CA, Technologist) with strong values, keen on professional/ entrepreneurial career in the US, Europe or India.

**Please contact : india.mkss1997@gmail.com**

**REDDIYAR TALL Slim Fair 29yrs CA Well Employed Seeks Suitable Professionally Qualified Groom : 9025273636**

**PILLAI, Msc,** looking for a groom from 24-29 from pillai or mudaliyar, upper middle class and rich profile, 8138900412

**GROOM WANTED** CNB,27yrs, MBBS, MD, Well Educated family in Chennai. Ph: 7550025241

**GROOM WANTED** Naidu,26 yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Well Educated Family.Ph: 6385293227

**ARCOT MUDALIAR** girl 28/ Thiruvoonam/ fair/158/ M.Tech MSc, highly paid, seeksProfessional groom of well educated & respected family Ct.9042666230

**HINDU NADAR** 29/165 cm, B.Tech Biotech, PG (UK), Chennai (open to relocate), affluent, progressive family seeks broad–minded, well–settled professional/business class Groom in India / Abroad from a respectable Hindu Nadar family. Ct: 8939968399

**GROOM WANTED** Hindu Nadar 29yrs, MBBS, MS, rich and affluent family. Ph: 9841329471,9380791999

**MDS, CASTENOBAR,** Rich/affluent, looking for a groom from 35-40 from chennai circle ,High profiles in any caste, 8138900312.

**PILLAI, RICH/AFFLUENT,** MBBS, looking for a groom from 41-46 from any caste in European countries or UK. USA business or medical profile, 8138900553.

**ADIDRAVIDER REMARRIAGE** 26 168cm BPharm Chennai seeks Groom from wellsettled family CNB Geetham 9884858014

**GROOM WANTED**
**HINDU NADAR**
**Age 27, Entrepreneur, B.Tech, MBA, Ph.D seeks suitable Groom from a well educated family**
**Ct.98401 10602 / 94881 92070**

**NAIDU, DIVORCED,** MS, looking for a groom from 31-36 doctor profile from same caste in TN and Pondi, 8138900523

**FASHION DESIGNER** Saiva MudaliarAnusham 33 Very Fair Propertied NeedVeg IT/ Govt Employed Groom 9566268349

**BRAHMIN, LOOKING** for a groom from 28-31, matching stars Mirugasiridam, punarpoosam, pooram, upper middle class and good looking brahmins, 8137001387

**Wanted CSI Groom in same age group (Preferably Nadar)**
for **CSI Christian girl** with **Ph.D in Media & Communication**, Working as **Associate Manager** in a corporate company, **30 Yrs, 163 cm Slim, *Vitiligo Skin*,Hosur**
**Contact No. 9443265595, 9442431777**

**An Australia** Graduated Professional Girl (Mudaliar) Employed in Australia looking for a suitable Bride Groom like Dentist, Doctor, Software Professional Contact for more details contact 9385437079

### TELUGU

**GROOM WANTED** Naidu,28yrs, MBBS, MD, Divorce, well educated family 6385293227

**NAIDU 29/**162 Telugu/Chennai B.E. MNC Bank 15LPA seeks elite/educated professional groom Father– 9445908221

**NAIDU 29/**173CM Bcom CA inter Chennai Seeks Professional Naidu Groom Geetham 9884858014

### URDU

**SUNNI MUSLIM Slim Fair Good Looking B.Tech.IT 26/ 5.4 Working MNC. Seeks Compatible Religious Match from Educated Family 9840037042**

## BRIDES WANTED

### COSMOPOLITAN

**OPEN–MINDED** SUCCESSFUL 36, 6ft, well–educated (BE, MBA London) IT professional. Works in Chennai. Belongs to professional/business family with progressive values. Seeks a well–educated bride, based in metro city, with similar values. 7200405912

**NELLORE, Yadava,** 55/178, Bachelor, Personable, Cultured, BE, Technocrat, Clean Habits, owns Houses, Bangalore. Seeks Bride with similar background. Contact :9880162162.

**DIVORCEE MALE** 48 Tamil Engineering Graduate well settled in Bangalore seeks suitable girl 8310509368

**NAIDU.27/09/99.BE.BMS.STUDIED–SETTLED IN** Dubai.Bride relocate to Dubai. CNB. +918248966362/9444329693

**G. GOWRISHANKAR** 37 / 173cm B.Com DAE Working in London PR holder 83, 000 Pound/PA.Hindu Intercaste Parents Seeking Working Bride. 9677090227

### DIVORCEE

**SINCERE, UNDERSTANDING** 43, 173cm, positive, well–educated, well–settled professional. Seeks compatible S Indian bride. Call/WA 9345 634 365.

**HINDU BRAHMIN** boy 52 Seeking remarriage well settled IT professional seeks an affectionate caring life partner.both parents no more caste no bar. Ct: 9841672014

### DOCTOR

**CHRISTIAN, CAST** No Bar, 29yrs, PG Doctor, Expect MBBS Doctor, Chennai, Any District Ok. 73977 76595.

### ENGINEER

**Railway Engineer** Bangalaore 34 Thiyya (Kerala) Seeks Bride. Contact: 8113832105

### ENGLISH

**WELL–ESTABLISHED** NILGIRIS FAMILY Alliance invited for a Professionally Established Gentleman,born 1991/511,Non–Manglik, BSc,Media Independent Wildlife Cinematographer, Filmmaker & Visual Storyteller,operating a registered MSME.Third–Generation Nilgiris Resident,based in Wellington/Coonoor,belonging to a Well–Established Entrepreneurial family.Seeking a well–educated, kind,understanding and compatible bride,preferably from Tamil Nadu/ South India.W'ap/call# 09319790680, Email id– lifeinnilgiris@gmail.com

**Vanniyakula** Kshatriya, Chitirai, B.E, M.S(USA) July 95, 176cm, Texas, USA work permit, well settled family at Chennai, Looking for Brides working at USA. Ct: 98846 04233 / 81220 72363.

### HINDI

**BRAHMIN,BE/**MBA TOP Univ,FinTech, Veg,39/172cm,smart Canada citizen. Seeks edu,nev–married,elegant girl, similar community.I'm open to any City/Language.WatsApp bio& pic:9911237600

### KANNADA

**HINDU, NEVER** Married. Age 45, height 5 ft 7 inch. IIT, Ph.D. University Professor in US, Green Card. Non–smoker, Non– drinker, vegetarian. Seeking Veg bride below 37 yrs. No caste bar. Contact: 8600315420

### MALAYALAM

**HINDU NAIR** boy, 31 years, fair 181cm tall, software developer in an MNC seeking alliance from working professionals preferably engineers, doctors. Family – retired defence officer settled in Chennai. Contact: +917904635440

**ALLIANCE INVITED** for a Nair community boy, 36 yrs, Engineer, settled in USA for the last 15 yrs for his 2nd marriage. The girl should be from USA itself. For details contact 9995007328

**AYUSH MED** Graduate(divorcee) seek partner from charming Professional Graduate/Gazetted Officer/+2 Teacher aged 52-58. Contact: 9496191756.

**COIMBATORE NAIR** Boy 36/170 cm Atham B.Tech., MBA Dy. General Manager Schneider Electric (L&T) seeking alliance, Father CT: 8281253956.

**Intercaste N'biar / Nambisan Boy 31 Yrs, 180 cm, Never Married, Tech-Lead-MNC, seeks match working / willing to work in B'lore, Caste-L'uage-no bar. Phone: 9886210028 / 9845203970**

### NRI

**NAIDU,32/**180CM,POORATATHI,BTECH, MS, SR Research Engineer working in Sweden,UMC Call Father 9566682220

**BRITISH CITIZEN,** 59y/105cm, ME MPhil(UK), Naidu, Handsome, Well–settled, Disability in Legs, Divorced. Seeks Broad–minded Hindu Bride. WA:+44 7345 409750

### TAMIL

**CHRISTIAN NADAR,** Doctor, MBBS, PGDCC-P(NI), Cardio - Physician, Divorcee, no kids. 38yrs/178cm, lives in Nagercoil. seeks qualified / divorced bride. Ct: 90039 83230

**RC 1973** born divorce manager State govt PSU 1.25 lkpm MBA Chennai seeks suitable bride Ct: 9444015276

**CSI TAMIL,** God Fearing, Handsome, Clean habits, B.Tech., PGDM, 30 Years, MNC, Parents seek alliance from suitable God Fearing, Homely, Well qualified and employed Brides from good families Mobile/WhatsApp: 7200309111 / 9444002036

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

**VELLALA PILLAI** M.Com 27/165 Uthiram Kanni, Leading Brand Pump Showroom @ Tanjore Dt, Dad–Business, Mom–ADS @ Secretariat Chennai. 9940105669

**HINDU ADI** Dravidar / Gramani 180/ 30 Magam / Simmam Asst Engr / MNC in Chennai 4–5LPA seeks Graduate bride from decent family employed / Ready to go job. 9344486122, 9443286122

**HINDU GAVARA** Naidu, age 41 / Ht. 170 cm working in 5 star hotel, Manager (abroad) Salary 1 lakh / month. Seeks Suitable Bride. 9003194290.

**DIVORCEE HINDU, 35yrs No issues, M.Tech, well settled Software Engineer, seeking bride with no issues. Caste no bar. 9841862535, 9941962421**

**MUDHALIYAR, CA,** 24L pa, Age–40, Kettai, Never married, Own House, 6 Acre land, Sub Caste ok. 7305460763

**TAMIL/ TELUGU** Naidu Groom 1981 Aug/ BDS Surgeon & London MBA seeks Bride from good family background. Ready to work or relocate Abroad. Contact V.J.Naidu 98867 82390/ 99622 46305

### TAMIL

**MUDALIYAR, KETTAI,** 40/165, M. Tech.,Ph.D.,HOD,Pvt. Engg.College, Pondy. Seeks Bride 31 to 37yr. 8807281316

**THEVAR-AGAMUDAIYAR,RICH/AFFLUENT, Business,** looking for a bride in same caste from 24-28 in anywhere in Tamilnadu, 8138900312

**PILLAI 45** Divorcee M.Com Central Govt service Rs.14 lakhs PA seeks Graduate bride caste no bar 9094020665

**BRIDE WANTED:** BE,SWE/34lpa/35yrs/172cm.Well–Settled in Bangalore and educated family. Seeking a suitable ,educated bride from a good family background. Contact No: 9845401461.

**SMART, AMBITIOUS** 38, 173cm, loyal, open–minded, intelligent professional. Seeks compatible S Indian bride. Caste no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365

**HINDU 46** BE 9994351766 Carleton IISc https://ingeniousdesigntech.com https://tamilfilmmakerspro.com

**HINDU, SC** (AD), 42 yrs, 165 cm, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. (C), State University (Chennai), seeks a suitable bride (caste/religion: no bar) ; Ph: 8863837344.

**INTERCASTE, 29** yrs/171 cm, M.Sc., IT professional, Chennai, veg, CNB, warmly welcoming an educated and understandable bride. Ph: 9962789557

**WELL SETTLED** Navigation Officer, 40 years, Divorce, 18L/ annum. Belongs to Vanniya Kula Sathriya Looking for Genuinely Interested Bride may Contact: 63690 04108

**ALLIANCE FROM** professionally qualified cultured Brahmin bride for Bharadwajam Magam 178 CM , Nov'94, LLM(Paris) Senior International Case Counsel, Malaysia.Contact 9891687899

**HINDU NADAR/30/B.E./WHEATISH/** Self Employed/ animation artist/50000 p.m/good habits/ Ph:9942594355/ 9790094364

**SC PR** 41/178 Aswini M.Sc., M.Phil., Professor 4 LPA 1st Marriage, Teetotaller Seeks Girl. 9944849049.

**38, FAIR,** Tall, Nagarathar, Double PG in Accounts, working @ Capgemini, Chennai. Second marriage. Seeking a suitable Hindu Bride from a Good Family. 98841 10897/98845 11004

**BRIDE WANTED** Pillai, 30yrs,M.Tech, Well Educated family back ground in Chennai.Ph: 7200187009

**BRIDE WANTED** Mudaliyar,27yrs, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai. Ph: 6385293227

**NAIDU 30/**165 M.E.,Design Engr L&T, own business & rental income affluent family,Star:Thiruvonam Rasi:Magaram.Seeks suitable bride. Similar level caste also acceptable.9841097110

**BRIDE WANTED** Chettiyar CNB 36 yrs,B.Tech, working in Germany, elite family Ph: 9047192999

**BRIDE WANTED** Rich Naidu 35yrs,BE, SWE,34 L P/A, Elite family.Ph: 9962791888

**MUDALIAR 32** B.Tech MBA 176cm Smart 30Lacs PA Well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB 8778514465/ 7200866346

**VANNIER 33/**178CM BE MS Eng UK Seeks Professional at UK /willing to go CNB Geetham 9884858014

**Hindu, OBC,** 37 Years, B.E. (ECE), Software Engineer, Never Married, Well-Settled, Monthly Income 1Lakh +. Bridegroom Seeking a Suitable Bride. Caste No Bar. Alliances Invited from Never-Married, Widowed or Divorced Brides. Ct: 9865195031 / 97890 77967

**NADAR, MABL,** 36Lp/a, Age–44, Sathayam, Never married, 20cr Property, Sub Caste ok. Chennai. 8754756329

**TAMIL YADAVA** Boy, B.Com, M.B.A., 38, Ayilyam, System Er, TCS, Chennai. Seeks Yadava bride within TN. Horoscope not necessary. Speak through Tamil. W.App: 99656 73354 / Ct : 73733 86474

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

### TAMIL

**ALLIANCE INVITED** for Shatamarshana/ Rohini/29/5'6" Vadakalai Iyengar MS (Engg) USA H1b Visa from educated brides employed in USA. Indian citizens preferred. Contact 9566263388

**32 Years,** Groom, Prof. PhD, Christ Nadar (Nobar), 2nd-Marriage, seeks Tamil Bride Contact: 7299565821.

**Hindu Brahmin,** 32 years, Manager Nationalised Bank seeks Veg Bride Caste no bar, Contact: 9486634137

**MUDALIAR Aged** 32years perfect sports person no bad habits Annual income 24Lakhs Income Tax Assessee Divorcee Expects decent women with qualities of acceptance and understanding of the same age or younger by 2 to 3 years Ct: 98849 59632.

**SC-AD Legally** Divorced 37yrs Doctor cleared UPSC IDAS no child well to do educated family. Looking for suitable Bride. CNB.9444010868 / 9444468266

### TELUGU

**Looking for** a Naidu girl below 29 yrs working in USA or in CANADA with PR status for a Balija/Gavara boy, 29/176 cm working in USA with H1B VISA. Please contact +91-9443724981

**BRIDE WANTED**
**38 years, 173 cm, Divorced (previous marriage lasted only one week and was not consummated), holding a Double Master's Degree,Employed in Singapore. Seeking a suitable Bride aged 28-35 yrs from a Good Brahmin Family, preferably Employed and willing to relocate to Singapore.**
**Contact: 9949579697**

### TELUGU

**WANTED BRIDE**
**Naidu,37Yrs, 180cm, B.E., COE, Anna University, Guindy. Working professional from a respected family. Seeks any Telugu/Tamil caste.**
**73977 64771**

### URDU

**URDU KHAN** 40/180 Fair Handsome BE Sr. Manager Abu Dhabi well placed Divorced No child, seeks Muslim Girl PG around 35 Fair Good looking Upper Middle Class fly preferably Chennai. Ct: 9884155405/ 9962303700

**31 Yrs** Sunni Muslim Groom, MS in Engineering, working in London. Only Son affluent family. Ct: (8122062114)

**Sunni Muslim** Boy, born 1996, Doctor (MBBS, MD-General Medicine).Looking Educated Girl. Ct:(080-69103008)

**Sunni Muslim** Boy, born 1990, MS Graduate USA,currently working Dubai attractive salary. Ct: (080-69144019)

### MARRIAGE BUREAU

**US UK** Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

## REGIONAL

## EDUCATIONAL

### COACHING CLASSES

**AMBITION LAW INSTITUTE**
Offline/Online Mode
हिन्दी / Eng. Exclusive Batch

**JUDICIARY** 8800-66-0301 — 17 NOV.

**न्यायिक सेवा** 95992-93900 — 17 NOV.

**CLAT/LL.B./CUET LL.M./OLET'S (UG/PG)** 8800-66-0380 — 17 NOV.

**IAS-LAW** (OPTIONAL) ▶ VIDEO COURSE 8800-66-2140

OUR BRANCHES
PATNA 9599293901 KOLKATA 9903494980
ambitionlawinstitute.com

## GENERAL

## PERSONAL

### OLD AGE HOME

**JAIN FARMS** pure Veg Sukhshanthi Retirement Home near Bangalore. All meals, Nurse facilities Rs.22,580 pm Mbl 93412 89357

## AUTOMOTIVE

## FOUR WHEELERS

### SELLING

### HEAVY VEHICLES

**36MTR &** 46MTR BOOM PUMP, Ashok Leyland, Schwing Stetter, 2019 Model, Good Condition. Ct: 9840055003

## REAL ESTATE

### SELLING

**RESIDENTIAL FLAT – NEW**

**4 BHK FOR SALE – CHENNAI**
Never-occupied, 1809 sq.ft.,
Kendriya Vihar Phase 3,
Avadi. North-facing,
2nd floor, covered parking.
**₹1.50 Cr (Negotiable).**
**Direct Owner: 9443208140.**


THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.



**FIND MATCHES. NOT COMPROMISES.**

*The Hindu Classifieds bring authenticity to the table, making your search for the right partner effortless and efficient.*

*Advertise with us today to find your perfect match.*

**18001024161**
**(Between 10.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m.)**
**Website: www.thehinduads.com**



THE HINDU GROUP

Classifieds thehinduads.com
LIFE MADE SIMPLE THE HINDU

From Page One

## Pak. to send Minister to India for SCO dialogue

On World Heritage Day on April 18, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had referred to the Indus Valley civilisation in his remarks, saying, "Pakistan's cultural heritage is enriched with a multifaceted civilisation. Our homeland carries the legacy of some of the world's oldest civilisations, reflecting a vibrant tapestry of human creativity and diversity."

**'Shared civilisational past'**

On Friday, Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said India and Pakistan have a shared "civilisational and cultural" past, adding that New Delhi hopes that Pakistan will attend the upcoming SCO Civilisational Dialogue.

"I believe that Pakistan's civilisational and cultural progress is no different from ours," Mr. Shekhawat said, in response to a question about the invitation, given the tensions with Pakistan. "They [Pakistan] separated from us less than 100 years ago, but prior to that, we [India and Pakistan] have evolved together. So we should not have any differences over these issues," he added.

Mr. Shekhawat said that the purpose of the SCO Civilisational Dialogue, first proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was to see how the SCO could "go a step beyond geopolitical, strategic and bilateral relations and strengthen our cultural ties so that in the future we can have better relations and communications between the people of our countries."

Soon after Mr. Shekhawat's comments, however, the Ministry of External Affairs said that India would follow "national policy" regarding Pakistan in view of the Pahalgam terror attacks, indicating that it may not grant Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann clearance to attend an international Punjabi cultural conference in Lahore at the end of the month.

## Democratic system destroyed in 2014: Rahul

Citing the Maharashtra elections, he alleged that the Opposition had secured almost the same number of votes in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, but the results were markedly different. He claimed that nearly seven million new voters were added to the electoral rolls in the three months preceding the Assembly election and alleged that all of them had voted for the BJP.

The Opposition's analysis, he said, indicated that similar patterns were visible in several other States as well. These findings had reinforced his belief that India was no longer functioning as a democracy, he said.

The Leader of the Opposition also apologised to international delegates who were invited to the Bharat Summit but were allegedly denied visas or permission to enter India. "I would like to apologise to the many delegates and leaders who were scheduled to attend but were not allowed to come by the Government of India," he said.

## Mekedatu project is Karnataka's right: CM

Describing the opposition to the project as politically motivated, Mr. Shivakumar said the issue should be viewed in the context of the law and the Supreme Court's directions rather than political rivalry.

"This is not a political matter. Everyone must respect the law of the land and abide by the Supreme Court's order. Receiving 177 tmcft of water is Tamil Nadu's right, and we will honour it," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar said the State had sought the necessary forest and environmental clearances from the Centre and was preparing the required documents. All political parties in Karnataka had supported the project, he said, pointing out that the government was ready to take it forward once the clearances were obtained. The Centre's requirement to provide compensatory land for the forest area that would be submerged was among the issues to be addressed.

**Centre's support**

In his interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the latter's visit to Karnataka on Friday, Mr. Shivakumar said political differences should not come in the way of development.

"Let us compete in politics, but cooperate on development. Securing the Centre's support for the State's growth is our responsibility," he said.

He said he had also urged the Centre to reject the Kasturirangan report and sought equal participation by the Centre and the State in funding Bengaluru metro projects. He had proposed the formation of a technical committee to oversee the projects and sought faster clearances for pending proposals. The State aimed to expand the metro network to 500 km in future phases, he said.

**Farmers' power subsidy burden**

On the pending power dues raised during the Suvarna Soudha session, Mr. Shivakumar said the government's subsidy burden towards electricity supplied to farmers' irrigation pumpsets had increased from about ₹20,000 crore to ₹30,000 crore.

He attributed the increase to higher power consumption during drought conditions and the use of lift irrigation schemes to fill tanks, among other factors. The government would address the issue and resolve the pending matters, he said.

# Quad summit likely to be held in Manila on Nov. 17

It is for the first time that the summit will be held in a non-member country; supply chains for critical minerals, securing commercial shipping lanes for energy supplies likely on the agenda

**Suhasini Haidar**
NEW DELHI



**Leadership meet:** The confirmation of the summit is significant for the Indo-Pacific grouping. REUTERS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet U.S. President Donald Trump, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at the first Quad summit since 2024, on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Manila, Philippines, next week, sources said.

According to the sources, the meeting is expected to take place on the evening of November 17.

While the confirmation of the Quad summit is significant for the Indo-Pacific grouping, much of the attention will be taken by Mr. Trump's pronouncements at his next stop in Shenzhen, China, where he will hold the first-ever three-way summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin on November 19, to discuss global issues including nuclear arms control.

In Washington, U.S. officials briefing the media on Mr. Trump's travels also confirmed that he would travel to Manila and take part in, among other meetings, a "multilateral meeting" with the leaders of the Quad countries, news agency Reuters reported.

**On the agenda**

The agency quoted briefing by unnamed officials, who said that supply chains for critical minerals and securing commercial shipping lanes for energy supplies would be a key part of the agenda. "The issue of attacks on commercial ships is very likely to be taken up," the unnamed official quoted by Reuters said. The safety of ships and seafarers has been a particularly important issue for India, as at least 30 Indian seafarers aboard ships in the Strait of Hormuz, the Sea of Oman, and the Black Sea have been killed in attacks during the conflicts in Iran and Ukraine, respectively. Earlier, reports had indicated that a Quad Business Forum mechanism would also be announced during the summit.

The Manila meeting will be the first Quad summit being held in a non-Quad country and indicates the challenges that India has faced as the chair of the summit of the four-country grouping that revived its cooperation in the Indo-Pacific in 2017 and upgraded it during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 to leader-level meetings. Since then, the government has been unable to host the Quad summit in India even once, mainly due to the U.S. President's unavailability. New Delhi is unwilling to hand over the chairship of the summit without hosting it in the Indian capital, which may yet happen next year, sources said.

Officials did not clarify who would act as the official host of the meeting in Manila, which has been discussed for weeks, including during U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visits to India this year. The U.S. midterm election results had delayed the confirmation of Mr. Trump's travels to the Philippines for the East Asia Summit and to China for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on Friday told presspersons only that the Ministry would "keep [them] updated with developments in Manila pertaining to the Quad".

# All legal steps for Hasina's return are taken, says Dhaka

**Press Trust of India**
DHAKA



Sheikh Hasina

Bangladesh has completed all legal procedures required to secure the return of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from India, and the next step rests with New Delhi, Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of Bangladesh Md. Asaduzzaman said on Saturday, according to local media reports.

"We have completed everything required from our side as part of the legal process. What they [India] will do is up to them," Mr. Asaduzzaman told presspersons after an event at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka, according to *Prothom Alo*.

The Minister said Ms. Hasina would return through legal means and her extradition under the bilateral treaty would itself constitute a legal process.

Regarding whether she would be entitled to appeal her death sentence, Mr. Asaduzzaman said she would not have that opportunity under the relevant law, *Dhaka Tribune* reported.

India has acknowledged receiving Bangladesh's extradition requests but has not announced a decision on handing her over.

On Friday, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in New Delhi that Ms. Hasina's extradition was a legal matter and would be dealt with accordingly.

Ms. Hasina has said she intends to return to Bangladesh in December. She made the announcement during an audio-only virtual press conference with journalists organised in New Delhi on August 5.

The event drew a sharp reaction from Dhaka; Bangladesh's Foreign Ministry said it was "outraged" that Ms. Hasina had been allowed to interact with the media in New Delhi despite Dhaka conveying its concerns to the Indian government in advance.

## Assam bus accident death toll rises to 26

**The Hindu Bureau**
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said the driver of the minibus involved in a collision with a container truck near Kaziranga National Park on Friday may have had a health issue that resulted in the accident.

The death toll in the collision rose to 26 on Saturday after another passenger died due to injuries.

Seventeen injured passengers are undergoing treatment at the Jorhat Medical College and Hospital, Jorhat, Assam.

The families of the deceased will receive ₹9 lakh each. This includes ₹5 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, ₹2 lakh from the State Disaster Management Authority, and ₹2 lakh announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

# ECI assures SC of measures in place to enrol voters deleted by mistake

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI



The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday filed a supplementary affidavit in the Supreme Court detailing "further measures" in place to ensure that voters who have been wrongly left out as "absent, shifted, dead or duplicate" from the draft electoral rolls are brought back in.

"The Commission remains alive to the need to ensure that all those who are eligible to vote find their name in the voters' lists," the ECI assured the public.

It said directions have been issued on November 6 to the Chief Electoral Officers of States and Union Territories where the special intensive revision (SIR) was under way to allow such voters to submit the duly-filled Enumeration Form (Annexure A) to the ERO or AERO communicating their current ordinary residence.

"Electors who have not shifted may submit the signed Enumeration Form (Annexure A) with the Annexure-B statement giving the reason for the earlier non-submission of the Enumeration Form. They can submit it to the ERO/ AERO/ BLO in person or through family members. Online submission option with e-sign will be available on the ECINET," the affidavit said.

For electors who have shifted within the State, and were found to be excluded from the draft roll, Form 8 (for shifting) is not required. "They can submit the Enumeration Form (Annexure A) with the Annexure-C statement (giving their new address and Assembly Constituency) and address proof to the ERO / AERO of the new constituency. They can also use the 'Book a call with BLO' facility, among others which are self-explanatory," the ECI noted.

The poll body informed the court that instructions have been given out to provide booth-wise lists of left-out electors (voters marked as absent, shifted, dead or duplicate or ASDD) to be displayed afresh along with the "probable reasons" for non-inclusion.

"The Enumeration Forms submitted by such electors shall be processed by the EROs in accordance with Rule 21(1) of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 [for inclusion of names inadvertently omitted from the electoral roll] and the same EPIC number shall be re-assigned to them," the affidavit clarified.

However, any previously-registered elector, who was deleted from the draft roll, but had already submitted Form 6 [application for new voters], need not submit the Enumeration Form afresh. Their applications would be processed in accordance with the November 3 clarification on re-inclusion into the electoral roll without the fear of facing any criminal prosecution.

"A mechanism has also been directed to be put in place to ensure that no elector is deprived of the opportunity to get his/her name included in the final electoral roll, subject to fulfilment of the prescribed eligibility conditions, while taking due care to avoid duplication in enrolment," the EC submitted.

## CBI searches 33 locations in Mahadev app scam probe

**The Hindu Bureau**
RAIPUR

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday said it conducted fresh searches in connection with the Mahadev app scam case at 33 locations across six States based on disclosures made by key accused Saurabh Chandrakar, who was recently extradited from Oman.

Describing Mr. Chandrakar as one of the principal promoters of the platform, a CBI official said the searches led to the recovery and seizure of digital devices, mobile phones, and incriminating documents showing the involvement of a hawala network and mule accounts.

The searches were conducted in Raipur and Durg in Chhattisgarh; Delhi; Amritsar, Nagaur, and Dholpur in Rajasthan; Bhopal and Indore in Madhya Pradesh; Ahmedabad, Vadodara, and Surat in Gujarat; and Mumbai and Nagpur in Maharashtra.

**Operator network**

"His interrogation revealed details about the working of the platform and its network of panel operators in India," the official said.

Mr. Chandrakar was arrested by the CBI on November 11 and produced before a Special Judge (CBI Cases) in Raipur, who granted eight days of police custody to the agency.

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), which is probing the money laundering angle of the alleged scam, arrested him on Friday.

A Special PMLA court on November 12 allowed the ED to keep him in custody until November 19. Mr. Chandrakar is currently being questioned by the ED.

The CBI has registered two FIRs after the case was transferred from the Chhattisgarh government.

Steps to extradite the absconding accused are currently underway, CBI official said.

# India-Nepal train to connect Janakpur Dham and Ayodhya

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Indian Railways is going to operate a new weekly train service between Janakpur Dham in Nepal and Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh.

The route will cover approximately 604 kilometres, connecting Janakpur Dham with Ayodhya Cantt.

The train will have stoppages at Jaynagar, Madhubani, Shisho, Sitamarhi, Raxaul, Narkatiaganj, Gorakhpur, Basti, Mankapur, and Ayodhya Dham, besides its terminal stations.

The Railway Ministry said the service would operate once a week, with its originating days being Saturday from Janakpur Dham and Monday from Ayodhya Cantt.

Citing the role of railway connectivity on bilateral cooperation, the Ministry said in a statement, "India and Nepal share centuries-old cultural, historical and social bonds, with religious traditions and cross-border community relationships forming an integral part of this partnership. The new train service will add another dimension to bilateral cooperation by using railway connectivity to bring communities closer."

India and Nepal have held discussions on cross-border railway links, including passenger train services on the Janakpur-Ayodhya section, and bilateral cooperation in the sector in June this year.

# India backs UN resolution on rights of Palestinians

**Press Trust of India**
UNITED NATIONS



The UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly in favour of the resolution.

India has voted in favour of a UN General Assembly draft resolution that reaffirms the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources and demands that Israel cease the exploitation and damage of these resources.

The 193-Member UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly on Wednesday in favour of the resolution 'Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources' proposed by Uruguay. India voted in favour of the resolution along with 150 other UN Member States, while Israel and the U.S. were among the seven nations that voted against the draft, which got 11 abstentions.

The resolution reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources. It demanded that Israel "cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan.

It stressed that the wall and settlements being constructed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, are contrary to international law and seriously deprive the Palestinian people of their natural resources.

The resolution called upon Israel to comply strictly with its obligations under international law and immediately and completely cease all policies and measures aimed at altering the character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

# Nehru is principal architect of modern India: Congress

Leaders pay tribute to India's first Prime Minister; Kharge recalls Nehru's commitment to scientific thinking, secularism, and equality, and his faith in providing every citizen with equal opportunities

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Calling Jawaharlal Nehru the principal architect of modern India, the Congress on Saturday invoked the legacy of the country's first Prime Minister, highlighting his commitment to democracy, secularism, and scientific temper on his 137th birth anniversary.

Party president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi recalled his contributions in building a progressive nation.

Mr. Kharge and Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi visited Shanti Van, Nehru's memorial, to pay their respects. Several Congress leaders, including former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, were present.

They later paid floral tributes to Nehru's portrait in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, the old Parliament building. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Congress chief whip Kodikunnil Suresh, and other leaders were also present.



Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, and others pay tribute to Jawaharlal Nehru on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

However, Mamata All India Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien pointed to the absence of Union Ministers at the tribute ceremony. "We paid floral tributes this morning in Central Hall, Parliament, to India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru. Not even one of the current PM's 29 Cabinet Ministers was present. Decency? Common courtesy?" he asked in a post on X.

**'Jewel of Hind'**

Mr. Gandhi, in a post on X, described Nehru as the "Jewel of Hind" and said freedom was not his destination but a milestone in the country's new journey. "India was a quest, an idea for him – diversity as its strength, democracy as its faith, and equality as its foundation," he said.

Mr. Kharge said Nehru understood that a country as diverse as India could remain united only through democracy that accommodated different cultures, beliefs, political voices, and aspirations.

"As we pay our solemn tributes to him at Shanti Van today, we must reaffirm our resolve to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution, our democratic institutions, and the values that bind us together," he said.

Mr. Kharge also recalled Nehru's commitment to scientific thinking, secularism, and equality, and his faith in providing every citizen with equal opportunities. Nehru's affection for children and his emphasis on their education, he said, remained a reminder that the country's future rested with the coming generations.

Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh shared a post on X highlighting the interest generated by the digital archive of Nehru's works. "Over the past year, this digital repository of the 100 volumes of the Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru covering the period 1903-1964 has had well over 1 million unique visitors and has had 4 million+ page views...," Mr. Ramesh said.

"They are essential to understanding 20th century India through the eyes of someone who so very profoundly shaped it," he added.

# BJP targets Congress over 'silence' on misconduct charges against its leaders

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday accused the Congress of following a double standard on the issue of women's dignity, safety, and empowerment by publicly advocating women's rights while "remaining silent" on accusations of misconduct against its own leaders.

At a press conference, BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj referred to Jharkhand Congress MLA Bhushan Bara, who has been accused of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old tribal girl; MP Bimol Akoijam, who faces allegations of sexual harassment in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU); and Uttarakhand party leader Harak Singh Rawat, who was earlier accused of raping a woman from Assam. The woman, who claimed that she became pregnant after the abuse, has now demanded a DNA test on her son. The three Congress leaders have denied the accusations.

> It is surprising that the Congress, which raises hollow slogans such as 'smash the patriarchy', along with its Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, has once again chosen to maintain silence on this matter
> **BANSURI SWARAJ**
> BJP MP



**'Only slogans'**

Ms. Swaraj questioned the "silence" of senior Congress leaders, stating that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP government was empowering women to become self-reliant and nation-builders, while the Congress was limited to raising slogans.

**'Serious allegations'**

She alleged that the Congress continued to "repeatedly insult women". "Tomorrow also marks the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda *ji* and Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas. On such an occasion, it is deeply shameful that Jharkhand Congress MLA Bhushan Bara is facing serious allegations of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old tribal girl," she said.

"It is surprising that the Congress, which raises hollow slogans such as 'Smash the Patriarchy', along with its Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, has once again chosen to maintain silence on this matter," she alleged.

"All these cases are distinct from one another, whether it is the rape of a tribal girl, the appointment of Bimol Akoijam as co-chairman of manifesto committee, or the appointment of Harak Singh Rawat as chairman of the election management committee in Uttarakhand. However, one thing is common to all these cases: the conspicuous silence of the Congress party and Rahul Gandhi," she said.

# Bengal police question Abhishek over anti-CEC post

**Senjuti Sengupta**
KOLKATA

The West Bengal Police questioned Mamata All India Trinamool Congress (MAITC) general secretary Abhishek Banerjee for over three hours on Saturday in connection with a social media post against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Two days before the State Assembly election result was published, the Diamond Harbour MP had put up a post on his X handle calling the CEC a "puppet of the Gujarati gang".

A first information report was lodged at the Bhawanipore police station on May 27 against him for allegedly hurting the sentiments of the Gujarati community through the post.

On receipt of summons, he reached the Bhawanipore police station around 1.30 p.m. After leaving the police station, Mr. Banerjee said he was not afraid and stood by what he said. "Investigating agencies are doing their job. I have not run away. I respect the law enforcement agencies. But, I stand by what I said in the post. I had quoted a post by BJP leader Amit Malviya and called the BJP 'anti-Bengal'," he said.

# Modi's '400-*paar*' slogan came true for Delhi AQI: Cong.

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his 2024 Lok Sabha election slogan, "*Abki baar,* 400-*paar*", saying it had come true in the national capital, with Delhi's air quality index (AQI) crossing the 400-mark.

In a post in Hindi on X, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said, "*Abki baar*, AQI 400-*paar*. The '*pravachanmantri's*' (preaching minister) slogan is coming true when it comes to AQI!"

Referring to reports of worsening air quality in Delhi, Mr. Ramesh said the city had become the most polluted in the world, with toxic air making breathing difficult. Children and the elderly were bearing the brunt of the pollution, while the number of patients in hospitals was rising, he said.

"Slogans were tossed into the air; now the air itself has turned to poison," he said.

Mr. Modi had used the "*Abki baar,* 400-*paar*" slogan during the 2024 Lok Sabha election campaign, seeking a mandate of more than 400 seats for the National Democratic Alliance.

Several air quality monitoring stations in Delhi have recorded AQI levels in the 'severe' category (400-500) over the past few days.

# PM to inaugurate, lay foundation for 246 tribal projects worth ₹3,000 cr.

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Sunday participate in the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas programme marking the 151st birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda, and inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for 246 development projects worth around ₹3,000 crore.

Mr. Modi will address the programme in Gadchiroli in Maharashtra, through videoconferencing at 11 a.m.

The projects aim to strengthen education, health care, livelihood opportunities and community infrastructure for tribal communities across the country, an official statement said on Saturday.



The PM will address the programme in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, through videoconferencing at 11 a.m. FILE PHOTO

Of the 246 projects, 173 will be inaugurated, including 38 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for tribal students and 100 multi-purpose centres under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate the Tribal Research Institute building in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, and the Ropuiliani Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum in Aizawl, Mizoram.

The museum honours the sacrifices of Mizo tribal freedom fighters and commemorates Ropuiliani, a 19th-century Mizo chieftainess who resisted British colonial rule.

Among the projects for which foundation stones will be laid are 19 new Eklavya Model Residential Schools and 12 Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centres aimed at improving market access for tribal producers. Another 42 projects will be taken up under PM-JANMAN and the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan.

The programme will also mark the culmination of the fortnight-long Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada, observed across the country from November 1 to 15. Activities during the fortnight included interactions with EMRS students, a National Tribal Literary Festival, training programmes for tribal healers, health and nutrition camps for particularly vulnerable tribal groups, and community service initiatives in tribal villages.

# Two denied bail in security breach case

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has dismissed, for the second time, the regular bail pleas of two accused in the December 2023 Parliament security breach case.

In an order passed on Friday, Special Judge Kiran Bansal noted that the accused sought bail citing long incarceration and parity with two co-accused who were granted bail by the Delhi High Court. The judge underlined that the statutory bar on bail under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act applied in the present case.

"There are reasonable grounds to believe that the charges against the accused persons are *prima facie* true. Therefore, the court does not find it fit to grant regular bail to applicants Manoranjan D. and Sagar Sharma...," the judge said.

# Talks on NCP merger ended with Ajit Pawar's death: Sule

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

Putting a "full stop" on the discussion of a potential merger between the two Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) factions, NCP (Sharad Pawar) MP Supriya Sule said on Saturday that the talks ended with the death of her cousin Ajit Pawar, the former national president of the rival faction.

"The merger talks were on till my brother was alive and the date was set. The day he died, the talks were given a full stop. Our spokesperson never made statements on it or gave counters to rival faction," Ms. Sule told the media.

Ajit Pawar, the former Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, died in an aircraft accident on January 28 at the Baramati airport in Pune.

The speculation of a possible reunion between the rival factions have been intensifying over the last few days amid several high-profile meetings, including between senior NCP working president Praful Patel and NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar. Meanwhile, current Deputy Chief Minister and NCP national president Sunetra Pawar met Chief Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday.



Supriya Sule with Sunetra Pawar during the funeral of Ajit Pawar in Baramati on January 29, 2026. FILE PHOTO

NCP MP Sunil Tatkare dismissed any political intention behind Mr. Patel's meeting with Mr. Sharad Pawar and called it a personal visit.

The buzz of merger had intensified after senior NCP leaders met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and it gained further momentum ahead of Mr. Shah's scheduled visit to Pune on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut advised NCP (SP) not to get swept away in the merger game for ministerial posts, saying "there may be a handful of people in Sharad Pawar's party desperate for ministerial posts but it is not right for Sharad Pawar to destroy the principles he has upheld throughout his life for their sake."

The leader of the NCP(SP)'s Opposition ally also highlighted that it does not suit the faction to discuss matters with a group that "licks the BJP's boots" and create an "atmosphere of confusion" in Maharashtra.

**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED**
e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)
TGSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of (a) 7.3KV, 220 KVAR Capacitor Cells, (b) 33KV 3x400 Sq.mm Heat Shrinkable Outdoor End Termination Kits (c) 11KV Indoor switchgear unit with 8 feeders (d) 1-ph (5-30)A DLMS & IRDA port Net Meters with PP Box (e) 11KV and 33KV 800A DB AB Switches (f) MS Angle 50x50x6 mm (g) LT Pin Insulators (h) 11KV Metal Parts (C&T) (i) 11KV Polymer Insulators (C&T) (j) 33KV Metal Parts (B&S) (k) Laptops on e-procurement platform.
For further details of each item above, please visit www.tgsouthernpower.org, www.tender.telangana.gov.in, www.auction.telangana.gov.in.
Phone: 040-23431360, 1033, 1035, 1026
Sd/-CHIEF ENGINEER (P&MM)
DIPR R.O.NO.773-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt:14.11.2026 TGSPDCL, Hyderabad

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
**CYBERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**
O/o the Superintending Engineer (Projects, Designs & Admin.), CMC
Tender Notice No.13/SE(PDA)/CMC/2026-27 Date: 14-11-2026

| Item No. | Name of the Work | Est. Cost |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Construction of Permanent Office Building for Cyberabad Municipal Corporation - Land situated adjoining Kotha Kunta in Sy.No. 5/11 (Part) & 5/12 (Part), Izzath Nagar Village, Serilingampally Mandal, Ranga Reddy District. | Rs. 169.00 Crores |

| S.No. | Events: | Date and Time |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Start Date | 18-11-2026 from 03:00PM |
| 2. | Pre- Bid Meeting | 25-11-2026 at 03:00PM Location: O/o Chief Engineer (PDA), CMC, 2nd Floor, NAC Building, Izzath Nagar, Hyderabad |
| 3. | Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids | 02-12-2026 upto 03:00PM |
| 4. | Opening of Technical bid | 02-12-2026 after 03:00PM |
| 5. | Opening of Price bid | 04-12-2026 after 03:00PM |

Note: The Bidders are advised to visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in to download Bid Document and Tender Drawings. Any Queries can be addressed to sepdacmc@gmail.com Address of the officer concerned Smt. G. Sree Lakshmi, Superintending Engineer (Projects, Design & Admin.), Cyberabad Municipal Corporation, Hyderabad. Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement https://tender.telangana.gov.in. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Projects, Designs & Admin.), CMC
DIPR R.O.No.13754-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Dt. 14.11.2026

**कार्यालय नगर निगम जयपुर**
(साईन्स पार्क के पास, शास्त्री नगर, जयपुर)
क्रमांक :– जसअ / 2026 / 296 दिनांक: 04.11.2026
ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 39 व 61/2026–27
केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार के विभागों में पंजीकृत "ए"''ए" व अन्य उपयुक्त श्रेणी के ठेकेदारों एवं नगर निगम जयपुर के पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से विभिन्न विकास कार्यों की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। कार्यों की अनुमानित लागत, टेण्डर बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की तारीख, टेण्डर शर्त आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण राज्य सरकार के ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.raj.nic.in तथा नगर निगम जयपुर की Web Site www.jaipurmc.org. पर देखी व Download की जा सकती है तथा निर्धारित अवधि तक ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर अपलोड की जा सकेगीं।
SPPP portal UBN No. JMC26-27WSOB00751, व JMC26-27WSOB00754
अधिशाषी अभियन्ता
सिविल लाईन जोन
नगर निगम जयपुर
राज.संवाद / सी / 26 / 13206

Email ID: secretarysdasbp@gmail.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
SAMBALPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SAMBALPUR.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. SDASBP-04/2026-27 Dt.10.11.2026

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01. | Name of the Work | : | 3 Nos. Works |
| 02. | Type of Bid | : | Two Bid System |
| 03. | Estimated Cost | : | Rs.1.72 Crore to Rs.2.78 Crores (Excluding GST) |
| 04. | Period of Completion | : | 5 (Five) Months to 6 (Six) Months. |
| 05 | Class of Contractor | : | 'B' Class / 'A' Class |
| 06. | Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal | : | From 11.00 AM of dt.16.11.2026 to 5.00 PM of 02.12.2026 |
| 07. | Date & time of receipt of Technical Portal | | From 11.00 AM of dt.16.11.2026 to 5.00 PM of 02.12.2026 |
| 08. | Last Date / time of receipt of bids In the portal | : | 5.00 PM of 02.12.2026 |
| 09. | Date & Time of Opening of Technical bids | : | At 11:00 AM of 03.12.2026 |
| 10. | Date & Time of Opening of Financial bids | : | To be intimated in the website |
| 10. | Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid | : | Engineer Member, Sambalpur Development Authority, SMC & SDA Office building, Durgapali, Dist-Sambalpur-768 006. |

Further details can be seen from the Website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in .
Engineer Member, SDA, Sambalpur.
13001/2466/2627 OIPR-13001/13240/1/26-27/0005

MOFPI MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NIFTEM
**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MANAGEMENT, THANJAVUR (NIFTEM-T)**
An Institute of National Importance
Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India,
Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur - 613 005, Tamil Nadu, India
Short Course on **FOOD BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**
(Industry 4.0 Perspectives: Strategies & Solutions)
Date: 9th, 10th & 11th December 2026 Venue: NIFTEM-Thanjavur
COURSE CONTENT
- Innovative Product Strategies
- Branding, Promotion and Marketing Linkages
- Quality Assurance & Accreditation
- Traceability, AI and Blockchain Management
- Automation Platforms and Predictive Maintenance
- Digitalization & IoT
- Financial Regulatory Techniques & Applications
- Food Export Regulations and Certification

Registration is open for:
- Food Business Operators, Budding Entrepreneurs, Academicians, Students or Any Aspiring Individual
- Registration closes on : 30th November 2026
- Participant Fee : Rs.11,800/- (Inclusive of GST) (Includes Course Kit, Working Lunch and Refreshments)

Scan Here
For queries, Please Contact :
+918098881110, +918610644348, +919750968417
hodfbm@iifpt.edu.in
DIRECTOR

## INBRIEF



### Maritime security in focus at India-Belgium naval talks

Commander of the Belgian Navy, Rear Admiral Tanguy Botman, and Indian Navy chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan held talks in New Delhi on a range of issues, including maritime security, operational engagements, and collaboration in naval technology, officials said on Saturday. The bilateral talks was aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation and further deepening navy-to-navy engagements between the two countries. The visit is expected to provide impetus to maritime cooperation through strengthening existing engagements and exploration of new avenues. India and Belgium share longstanding maritime linkages. PTI

### Indian envoy slams USCIRF over Sharjeel Imam remarks

Indian Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra has asked an American advisory body to introspect on its own prejudices and stop lecturing others, after the bipartisan agency flagged arrests in India allegedly on religious grounds. Mr. Kwatra's retort on Friday came after the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) shared Sharjeel Imam's profile on *X*, describing him as "a Muslim man detained in India for his religious freedom advocacy". The former Jawaharlal Nehru University scholar has been booked under the UAPA on allegations of being among the masterminds of the February 2020 riots in Delhi that left 53 people dead. PTI

### Four killed, 18 injured after two buses collide in Punjab

At least four persons were killed and 18 others injured after two pilgrimage buses collided in Punjab's Tarn Taran district on Saturday evening. Tarn Taran Senior Superintendent of Police Surendra Lamba said the accident occurred when the driver of a bus, in an attempt to rescue a motorcycle, crossed over to the wrong side of the road and collided with another bus. "At least 18 persons are severely injured," Mr. Lamba said. A doctor at the Civil Hospital in Tarn Taran said four people were brought dead. The injured were rushed to the Civil Hospital and those critically injured were referred to a hospital in Amritsar for more advanced treatment. PTI

### Ex V-P Jagdeep Dhankhar discharged from AIIMS

Former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar was discharged from AIIMS in New Delhi on Saturday, three days after he was admitted, family sources said. The 75-year-old was admitted to the hospital on November 11 after he collapsed during his morning walk and remained unconscious for a few minutes. He was admitted to the hospital's Cardio-Neuro Centre and was under the care of the Department of Cardiology for medical evaluation and treatment. Security personnel accompanying Mr. Dhankhar had initially taken him home in a PCR vehicle after he collapsed. Later, he was admitted to AIIMS. PTI

## SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No. SS7061 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

# Air passenger traffic takes a hit, down 2.9% in April-Sept.

The decline in passenger traffic has been accompanied by a fall in aircraft movement, with airlines having found it more economical to ground planes than operate them due to costly aviation fuel

**Jagriti Chandra**
NEW DELHI



While domestic passenger traffic fell 1.9%, international traffic was down a sharper 7.1% in the April-September period. FILE PHOTO

Air passenger traffic in India has slipped into contraction, declining 2.9% in the April-September period, with international travel taking a bigger hit than domestic flying. While domestic passenger traffic fell 1.9%, international traffic was down a sharper 7.1%.

The slowdown comes at a time when airlines are grappling with the fallout of the conflict in West Asia. Higher aviation turbine fuel costs, airspace disruptions and longer flight routes have added to operating expenses, forcing airlines to trim capacity or flights and raise fares. The resulting increase in travel costs may also be weighing on passenger demand.

The weakness follows a year of near-stagnant growth. In FY2025-26, passenger traffic grew by just 1.9%, with domestic travel barely inching up and international traffic doing somewhat better. This marked a sharp deceleration from the double-digit growth recorded in the years immediately after the pandemic.

All passenger figures are from Airports Authority of India's monthly passenger traffic data that calculates both arriving and departing passengers across all airports.

**Reduced flights**

The decline in passenger traffic has been accompanied by a fall in aircraft movements, pointing to a reduction in the number of flights operated by airlines.

This reflects not only cancellations of international services but also capacity rationalisation on domestic routes, where some airlines have found it more economical to ground aircraft than operate them amid higher aviation turbine fuel (ATF) costs. Aircraft movements – counting each landing and take-off – fell 3.5% in April-September compared with the corresponding period last year.

According to IndiGo CEO William Walsh in a post-results analyst call last month, the airline is seeking to strike a balance between yield management, or the revenue earned per passenger for every kilometre flown, and load factor, or the proportion of seats occupied on an aircraft, to maximise revenue.

This means airlines are willing to let some seats go unsold if that helps them maintain higher fares and maximise overall revenue. IndiGo's revenue per seat kilometre saw a growth of 34% but seats sold saw 2-percentage point reduction. Across the industry, there were 5% fewer seats in the July-September period.

In October, average airfares were a massive 43% higher compared to the same month last year, according to Consumer Price Index. Of all the 358 goods and services in the CPI basket, airfares saw the largest increase in price (13.36%) from the previous month. In September, airfares were 29.9% higher compared to the same time previous year. "But demand has held up pretty well" even at the inflated airfares, Mr. Walsh said about the months of July-September.

**ATF prices**

India's ATF prices have risen sharply since the escalation of tensions in the Gulf in February 2026. In Delhi, the price for domestic airlines has climbed from approximately ₹91.39 per litre in February to ₹138.50 per litre in November.

From April 1 to June 8, the government had capped the ATF price increase for domestic airlines at 8.5%, limiting the pass-through of an international price shock that would otherwise have more than doubled fuel prices to approximately ₹2.07 lakh per kilolitre.

# India to contribute €7 million to Italian research facility

**Jacob Koshy**
NEW DELHI

**Indian scientists have conducted research at Elettra since 1998 and continue to use its facilities**

India has committed to contribute at least €7 million (approximately ₹73 crore) over the next five years, beginning in the current financial year, towards the Elettra 2.0 programme, Union Science Minister Jitendra Singh said in Italy on Saturday.

Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste is an international research centre in Trieste, Italy, that operates a synchrotron light source – a facility in which electrons are accelerated to nearly the speed of light and made to emit extremely bright X-rays and other forms of electromagnetic radiation. These beams allow scientists to examine the structure and properties of matter at the atomic and molecular scales, with applications ranging from materials science and nanotechnology to biology, medicine, archaeology, and cultural heritage.

The centre operates two major facilities: Elettra, a third-generation synchrotron light source, and FERMI, a free-electron laser that produces exceptionally bright, ultrashort light pulses.

Its scientific importance lies in giving researchers access to experimental tools that can reveal the structure, composition, and behaviour of matter with extraordinary precision, including processes occurring over extremely short timescales.

**Scientific partnership**

India's participation will support the development of research infrastructure and human resource capacity, marking a "significant new phase" in the longstanding scientific partnership between India and Italy, an accompanying press statement noted.

India and Italy have collaborated on research for at least 25 years, with Indian scientists having conducted research experiments at Elettra since 1998 and continuing to use its facilities. India is currently the second-largest user of Elettra after Italy, reflecting the sustained engagement of its scientific community.

Around 1,100 proposals for experiments were received by Elettra from Indian research groups. India ranks second in the number of proposals submitted, after Italy.

# Manipur Naga organisation seeks NIA probe into Ukhrul killing, action against Kuki rebels

**The Hindu Bureau**
GUWAHATI



**Condolence meet:** Family members mourn around coffins of four Naga civilians killed in firing. PTI

A Naga organisation in conflict-scarred Manipur has issued a three-day "public ultimatum" to the Union and State governments to drive out Kuki rebels from Naga areas and let the National Investigation Agency probe the killing of four Naga civilians in Ukhrul district on Friday.

The four – identified as Kapangkhui R.S., her son Haoleila R.S., Khanmila Keishing, and August Ngalung, all from Ukhrul district – were killed when armed assailants ambushed two vehicles on National Highway-202. The State government said the attackers were unknown gunmen.

Tangkhul Naga civil society organisations held a meeting after the killing and decided to issue the ultimatum. "This is the fourth such incident at the same location. The entire responsibility for failing to protect the lives of innocent civilians is solely fixed upon State and Central governments," the Tangkhul Naga Long (TNL), an apex Naga organisation, said.

**'Lost faith'**

Stating that Naga people have lost complete faith in the Central security forces, the TNL said all Central security forces deployed on that stretch of the road must be immediately withdrawn.

"The victim families resolved not to claim the bodies until then. Failing this, it is resolved that the general public would be compelled to resort to an indefinite agitation until complete justice is delivered," the TNL warned.

The four Naga civilians were killed a day after a Kuki woman was killed and two men from the Kuki community were injured in a similar firing incident in Kangpokpi district. Ukhrul and Kangpokpi are Naga and Kuki-majority districts, respectively.

**Security review**

Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh reviewed the prevailing law and order situation in the State on Saturday. "It was decided that combing operations will continue to nab the culprits involved in various crimes. It was further decided that the respective security posts will have to strengthen security cover in their area of deployment," the government said in a statement.

# Police file chargesheet in Delhi park gang-rape case

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police have filed a 450-page chargesheet against three men accused of posing as police personnel before allegedly raping a 17-year-old girl at knifepoint inside south Delhi's Aastha Kunj Park in September. The chargesheet, filed before a court on Friday, names Mohammad Asif, Hemant Singh and Mukesh Singh as accused and includes statements of 57 witnesses. Investigators have relied on CCTV camera footage, call detail records (CDRs), forensic evidence and the victim's statement.

# *1,000 drums power Meghalaya harvest festival*

In world-record performance, 1,000 drummers play the *dama* during Wangala, a Garo harvest festival dedicated to the Sun God and marking the onset of winter; it began with 10 drums in 1976

**Rahul Karmakar**
TURA



Garo drummers create a Guinness World Record on the 50th anniversary of Wangala festival on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The biggest organised harvest festival of Meghalaya's Garo community expanded from a hundred to a thousand drums on its golden jubilee on Saturday, creating a world record.

Also known as a '100 drums festival', the festival of farmers is the occasion when the tribal people offer sacrifices to please their main deity *Saljong* - the Sun God. The harvest festival marks the end of a period of toil and signifies the onset of winter.

Called *dama* in the Garo tongue, each drum is almost 4 feet long. Wangala was given a formal shape in 1976 after a Block Development Officer, who felt the drumbeats were losing their reverberating sound, scouted 10 dama players and organised a Wangala at the Chandmary Field in Tura, the second-largest urban centre in the State. Captain Williamson A. Sangma, then Chief Minister, felt 10 drums were not enough and organised 100 drummers for a repeat festival in December 1976 at Asananggre, about 16 km from Tura.

Fifty years later, about 1,500 women dancers, 1,000 drummers, and other participants from across five Garo Hills districts assembled at Wangala A'dam (Wangala Ground) near Tura for the record-breaking performance for the grand finale at the conclusion of the four-day Wangala festival on Saturday. A representative of Guinness World Records announced the new achievement after the 1,000-drum ensemble ended in the afternoon.

"This is a proud moment for the Garo people. We felt it was appropriate to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Wangala grandly. The outcome is a world record," Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said.

Union Minister of Art and Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the chief guest at the event, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on preserving cultural heritage has elevated traditional festivals across India, resulting in record-breaking performances. "In the coming days, it will become an international festival like [Nagaland's] Hornbill," he said.

# Bihar police say over 1 lakh bank accounts linked to cybercrime

**Amit Bhelari**
PATNA

The Bihar Police Cyber Unit has identified a total of 1,09,475 bank accounts suspected of involvement in cybercrime.

Ranjit Kumar Mishra, Inspector-General, Cyber Crime and Security Unit, said on Friday that a total of ₹72.53 crore had been deposited in these mule accounts across all 38 districts. The police would soon initiate action against these accounts under the Cyber Prahar 5.0 campaign, he said.

Patna leads with the highest number of mule accounts (14,644), followed by Gaya (6,172), Muzaffarpur (4,244), Nalanda (4,146), Bhagalpur (4,197), West Champaran (3,945), Siwan (3,859), Vaishali (3,441), and Aurangabad (3,326). Mr. Mishra said another cyber police station would soon be established in Patna district to address rising cybercrimes.

Earlier, the Bihar Police launched the Cyber Prahar 4.0 and 4.1 campaigns to combat cybercrime, Mr. Mishra said.

A total of 47,659 cybercrime complaints were registered in Bihar, while 5,69,160 complaints were registered at the national level. Similarly, cyber fraud amounting to ₹121.26 crore was reported in Bihar. Of this, accounts worth ₹36.94 crore were frozen and ₹8.04 crore has been refunded to victims.

According to police data, cyber fraud of ₹3,503 crore was reported nationally during the same period. Of this, accounts worth ₹993 crore were frozen, and ₹57 crore has been refunded to victims.

## INBRIEF



### Goyal in Egypt, to discuss strengthening bilateral ties

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will begin a two-day visit to Egypt on Sunday, focusing on ways to strengthen bilateral trade, investment ties and explore opportunities for cooperation in the Suez Canal Economic Zone, industrial development, an official statement said. A high-level Indian business delegation are accompanying the minister to participate in the India-Egypt Joint Business Council (JBC), and Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meetings. PTI

### Mahanadi Coalfields files RHP for proposed ₹9,500 cr. IPO

Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Coal India Ltd., on Saturday said it had filed the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP) for the proposed IPO. The proposed IPO comprises an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 66.18 crore equity shares by Coal India, representing 10% of its stake in the subsidiary. The issue is estimated to fetch around ₹9,500 crore. The proposed public issue remains subject to receipt of applicable approvals, Coal India said in a filing. PTI

### Centre operationalises portal to declare rice, paddy stock

The government has operationalised a portal for online declaration of paddy or rice stock by all entities, a move aimed at preventing hoarding and to check prices. As per the November 6 order, all traders and wholesalers, retailers, large retail chains and processors and millers in all States and Union Territories must declare stocks under six categories – Basmati rice, non-Basmati premium rice, non-Basmati rice, parboiled rice, broken rice and paddy. PTI

# Anthropic's valuation can't secure its moat

Its engineers need to keep building progressively more capable models; the AI firm has also not established that it will be able to sustain its profitability after honouring its infra commitments. neither Anthropic nor its competitors, has a lasting competitive advantage, a.k.a. a moat

**Vasudevan Mukunth**
CHENNAI

Artificial intelligence (AI) company Anthropic, best known as the maker of the Claude AI model, is preparing to go public at a valuation of $1.4 trillion, which could make the IPO one of the largest in history. However, this particular refrain has of late seemed more ominous than cause for optimism, and the Anthropic IPO could be no exception.

The company has said it will offer 825 million shares at $70-78 apiece, to raise up to $64.4 billion. The valuation includes shares to be issued through employee options and other arrangements, and its market capitalisation based on outstanding shares is likely to be near $1 trillion. (It was valued at $965 billion in a private funding round in May.)

Anthropic's financial prospects depend on continuing to spend extraordinary sums of money. Its amended prospectus filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on November 10 revealed roughly $900 billion in spending commitments, almost entirely for computing infrastructure, until 2045. Of this, the company expects to incur half by 2030 and $70.7 billion in the twelve months from September 30.

The filing also mentions another $150-175 billion in potential payments under arrangements sans fixed dollar commitments.

These figures clarify a colossal exposure to future demand that neither Anthropic nor other Big AI companies have thus far been able to guarantee.




**Money counts:** Anthropic's financial prospects depend on continuing to spend extraordinary sums of money. REUTERS

And while Anthropic's revenue has also been growing, from $2.5 billion in the first three quarters of 2025 to $33.2 billion in the corresponding slice of 2026, the proposed fully diluted valuation exceeds annualised sales 17-fold.

The current business model is, largely, to charge customers according to how many tokens they use to run their tasks on its AI models. From January to September 2026, this revenue constituted 79% of the total revenue, giving Anthropic a reason to encourage users to maximise token use, irrespective of changes in the value of the output generated – a tendency famously called tokenmaxxing. But three factors complicate this picture. First, Anthropic has said AI models released within the last six months accounted for more than 80% of its third quarter revenue, which means its engineers need to keep building progressively more capable models. Second, it has not established that it will be able to sustain its profitability after honouring its infrastructure commitments.

The third factor is the most important, however: neither Anthropic nor its competitors, including OpenAI, currently has a lasting competitive advantage, a.k.a. a moat.

In fact, the difficulties of securing a moat are better illustrated by OpenAI CEO Sam Altman's position of late, in favour of new regulatory and compliance demands. These demands could impose costs that larger AI companies will bear more easily than smaller ones.

**Legitimate reasons**

Legitimate reasons to regulate AI include security failures and the risks posed by autonomous systems but governments should endeavour overtly to prevent such regulatory capture given the perverse incentives facing AI companies.

Overall, neither Anthropic nor its competitors have presented evidence of a sturdy moat. Instead, thanks to capable open-source development, models are becoming cheaper and competitors are catching up, and efficiency gains threaten the pricing power on which their valuations depend.

# Iron ore capacity under-utilisation in major-producing States prompts concerns

**Saptaparno Ghosh**
NEW DELHI

With India's iron ore demand projected to rise to 772 million tonnes (MT) by 2047, miners in Odisha, the country's largest iron ore reserve holder, are yet to utilise nearly 40% of their existing capacities, raising concerns over resource wastage and potential revenue losses.

The issue has come under judicial scrutiny, with both the Supreme Court earlier this month and the Odisha High Court in January flagging the underutilisation of mining capacities.

The Odisha High Court, while agreeing with petitioners who highlighted the sluggish operationalisation of mines despite environmental clearances, observed that the delay had resulted in an average annual revenue loss of ₹4,000 crore to the State.

Data cited by petitioner Citizens' Action Forum (Bhubaneswar) show that of the 246 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of mining capacity granted environmental clearance in FY25, only around 159 MTPA had been operationalised.

The underutilised capacity is particularly significant as it largely involves hematite, the highest-grade variety of iron ore.

Odisha accounted for more than 50% of India's domestic iron ore production during FY26. Chhattisgarh contributed around 17.1%, followed by Karnataka at 16.6%. Capacity utilisation in the two states - albeit with significantly lower volumes than Odisha - stood at 62% and 80%, respectively, according to calculations based on BigMint data.

# Apparel exports surge 20% on currency slump

**M. Soundariya Preetha**
COIMBATORE

India's apparel exports registered a 20.33% year-on-year growth (YoY) in dollar terms in October 2026, largely aided by the depreciation of the rupee, even as growth in the volume of garments shipped remained subdued.

"If companies had not invested in expansion projects in the last one year, they would be running at full capacity now," said a leading garment exporter.

He cautioned that the increase in export value was unlikely to have been matched by a significant rise in shipment volumes.

A. Sakthivel, chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), said ready-made garment exports recorded an encouraging growth of 20% in October compared with the corresponding month last year.

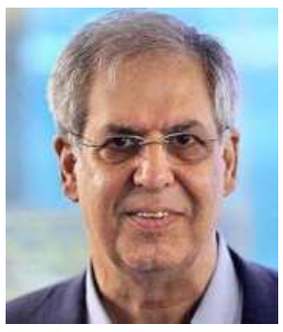
# 'Why to tinker with something that has delivered value for 150 years'

**Lalatendu Mishra**
MUMBAI

Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata has cautioned that listing Tata Sons could fundamentally alter the group's distinctive operating philosophy, with shareholder interests potentially taking precedence over philanthropy.

Amid growing demands for listing Tata Sons in line with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) requirements, Mr. Tata on Saturday made a strong pitch for maintaining the status quo.

"Why tinker with something that has delivered value for 150 years. Why do you want to change that," he asked, referring to calls for listing from some



Noel Tata

Tata Sons board members and a section of Tata Trusts trustees.

He said the Trusts would engage constructively with regulators and other stakeholders to find a solution that preserves the group's traditional governance structure.

"My worry is that listing, which is what some people are proposing, will change the Tata way. And one day, if we have 30,000-40,000 shareholders, profit may take precedence over philanthropy. And I think that will fundamentally change the Tata way of working," he said at a function in New Delhi.

Explaining the philosophy, Mr. Tata said: "Charity precedes commerce. Charity owns commerce and it is not the other way around." He added that the group's ownership structure ensured continuity.

On the group's strategic direction, Mr. Tata said its twin objectives of philanthropy and nation-building remained unchanged, but called for greater discipline in executing large projects involving long gestation periods and substantial capital commitments.

"Philanthropy on one hand. Nation building on the other hand. This is independent of leadership and personalities and this will continue. I do not question the direction of what we have done. I question, sometimes, the delivery of what we are doing," he said.

Recalling the legacy of Sir Ratan Tata and Sir Dorabji Tata, who dedicated their wealth to charity rather than passing it on to their families, he said their commitment to institution-building and helping the needy remained his guiding principle.

# LPG distributors seek higher commissions and new connections

**Saptaparno Ghosh**
NEW DELHI

LPG distributors have sought a revision in commissions, permission to issue fresh connections and a balanced approach to piped natural gas (PNG) expansion during an interaction with Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday.

Two industry executives who attended the meeting told *The Hindu* that distributors flagged rising operational costs amid declining refill sales as PNG gains ground.

They said refill sales had suffered amid the PNG push, while commissions, last revised in October 2023, remained unchanged despite rising technology and safety costs.

"However, what has also happened is that refill sales have suffered amidst the PNG push and as a result, with [distributor] commissions not revised, our operational margins, be it for the requisite technology and safety have gone up," they said.

Distributors also sought a "balancing act" between PNG and LPG, arguing that consumers should retain the freedom to choose.

*The Hindu* has sought the government's response.

# TRAI barred 1.24 lakh mobile connections in July-Sept. for spam

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

**The regulator also blocked 3,725 SMS headers and blacklisted 374 senders for one year**

Regulator TRAI took enforcement action against more than 1.24 lakh telecom resources and blacklisted 374 entities for one year for violating unsolicited commercial communication (UCC) norms during July-September, as it stepped up efforts to curb spam calls and messages.

A total of 1,10,325 telecom resources, including mobile numbers, were barred from outgoing services for 15 days for the first violation, while 13,777 were disconnected for one year for repeat violations, according to TRAI's report for the second quarter of 2026-27. The regulator also blocked 3,725 SMS headers and blacklisted 374 senders for one year, during which they cannot obtain fresh telecom resources.

TRAI received 15.29 lakh complaints of unsolicited commercial communications during the quarter, of which 7.23 lakh were classified as actionable.

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**

**Open Tender Notice No.: SrDEE-TRD-BSB-2026-27-T42 Date: 13-11-2026**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD, North Eastern Railway, Varanasi for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed "OPEN" E-Tender for the following work:-

**Sl. No.-01,** Name of work: 25 KV Electrical work in connection to construction of Limited Height Sub way (2.5x2.5x20 M) by Air pushing technique for Pedestrain Subway work for 130 KMPH in BSB-PRRB section of BSB division of N.E. Railway. Tender reference no: SrDEE-TRD-BSB-2026-27-T42, Approx. Cost (in Rs.): ₹ 85,91,600.90, Earnest Money (in Rs.): ₹ 1,71,800/-, Cost of tender documents (in Rs.): Nil, E-Tender closing date and time: 04-12-2026 up to 14:45 Hrs., Completion period: 09 Months.

• Open E-Tender Online will be submitted up to 14:45 Hrs. on date 04-12-2026. • For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the Official website of Indian Railway i.e. *www.ireps.gov.in*

**Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD**
CPRO/Vidyut-262 **Varanasi**

*Never travel on roof and foot boards.*

**KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD**
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560009. Phone No. 080-22265383, Website: www.kiadb.in

**No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-45/2470/2026-27** **Date: 13.11.2026**

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

Tender under two cover bid system 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 Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work of :

**Name of the work:** Establishment of 2x20 MVA, 66/11kV Substation at Koorgalli Industrial Area, Mysuru District along with Construction of 66kV LILO transmission line from existing Hootagalli-Bannikuppe (Hunsur) line upto proposed KIADB Koorgalli 66/11 kV Sub station for a distance of 0.632 Kms at Koorgalli Industrial Area Mysuru District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **04.12.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

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

**Sd/-**
**Engineer in Chief, KIADB, Bengaluru**

DIPR/CP/3691/SMCL/2026-27

**OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**

**DEATH**

IN LOVING MEMORY



*K A MATHEW THARAKAN (Tharakan)*

With deep sorrow, we remember Mathew Tharakan, a monk and a respected member of the Kanjiram Parampil Family, Haripad, Alappuzha, who passed away on 9 November 2026.

His funeral was conducted on 10 November 2026.

We remember him with love, respect and gratitude. May he rest in eternal peace.

**Kanjiram Parampil Family**
**Haripad, Alappuzha.**
**Ph: 9567496252**

**IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES**
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
**011-43579797**
from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
**For Placing Advertisements Online**
log on to
**www.thehinduads.com**
**DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT**

**ONLINE TENDER DOCUMENT "PURCHACE OF LAPTOP, DESKTOP, PRINTER (B/W) FOR HOME, PHQ, M.P. POLICE**

**STATE CRIME RECORDS BUREAU**
**POLICE HEAD QUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL**

No./ PHQ/SCRB/STORE/1678/2026 Bhopal, Dated 5/11.2026

**ONLINE TENDER NOTICE**

Online tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of SCRB, Police Head Quarter, Bhopal on behalf of DGP M.P. for the following on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

| SN. | Name of Works | Tender Fees (Rs.) | EMD Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Purchace of Laptop, Desktop, Printer (B/W) | 2000.00 | 27,600.00 |

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non-refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & **must submit online through website** https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.

2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (**www.mppolice.gov.in**)

3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

4. **Critical Date Sheet:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Published Date | 05/11/2026 Time 18:00 |
| Bid Document Download Start Date | 05/11/2026 Time 18:00 |
| Pre bid meeting | 12/11/2026 Time 13:00 |
| Bid Submission Start Date | 16/11/2026 Time 18:00 |
| Bid Submission End Date | 26/11/2026 Time 18:00 |
| Bid Document Download End Date | 26/11/2026 Time 18:00 |
| Bid Opening Date | 27/11/2026 Time 18:00 |

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum/addendum/amendment.

6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated latter.

**AIG SCRB**
**For: DGP MP**

G21446/26

# Ancient south Indian diets featured milk, wild game: study

**Divya Gandhi**

The archaeology of food is well documented in North India's ancient Indus Valley Civilisation, where the culinary repertoire, deduced from rigorous studies of pottery shards, comprised dairy, meat, and plant-based products as far back as 2500 BC.

A new study has now pieced together the culinary composition of prehistoric South India's cuisine and revealed advanced plant processing and a custom of consuming cow milk in 600-100 BC, in two important archaeological sites: Keezhadi in Tamil Nadu from 6th to 2nd century BC and in Gottiprolu in Andhra Pradesh from 2nd to 1st century BCE.

The study, published in Heritage Science, said: "This indicates that the societies primarily depended on agriculture, cattle rearing, and dairying practices." In Keezhadi, the authors analysed 70 animal skeletal fragments and found a predominance of cattle, buffaloes and goats, and the presence of wild animals such as antelope and wild boar, "with cut marks [suggesting] hunting supplemented" people's diets.

At Gottiprolu, the team found remains of several fauna, including cow/ox, buffalo, sheep, goat, horse, dog, and pig. Researchers used organic residue analysis to examine dietary biomarkers in pottery. Trapped in the vessels' pores, these molecules remained preserved for millennia.

While both Gottiprolu and Keezhadi are situated on river banks, "the chosen pottery may not have been used to cook aquatic species such as fish," the study said. However, the study analysed only four shards as a proof-of-concept, co-author and Vellore Institute of Technology associate professor Vijayanand Chandrasekaran told *The Hindu*: "It is entirely possible that the inhabitants consumed fish but cooked them in other, unsampled vessels or prepared them using methods that did not require pottery."

Artefacts excavated recently from Keezhadi have pointed to a prosperous urban settlement in the Sangam age, replete with brick structures and thriving trade. Researchers have also found evidence of weaving and dyeing industries as well as gold ornaments, ivory bangles, and dice games.

According to Dr. Chandraseharan, the new finding is also an advance because it moves beyond structural artefacts to direct biomolecular evidence. And "it provides the first direct chemical evidence of prehistoric dairying practices in South India, previously thought to be strictly limited to North India and the Indus Valley civilisation," he added.

# Potent perovskites demand domestic manufacturing push

As China tightens export controls on next-generation photovoltaic technology, local enterprises are racing to establish independent supply chains; national testing facilities are now vital to ensure lightweight modules become viable

**Sonam Raina**
BENGALURU

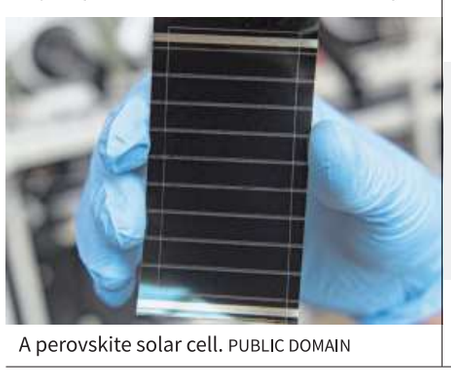
Perovskite solar cells are an exciting technology in the solar industry because they extract more power from a given area than silicon. They get their name from the crystals they are made of, metal-halide perovskites. They absorb sunlight strongly, so require an active layer only a few hundred nanometres thick, three orders of magnitude thinner than silicon wafers.

China is already regarding them as a strategic asset. On October 16, the country proposed adding 12 photovoltaic technologies to its export control list, including manufacturing technologies for perovskite and tandem solar-cell modules above certain production and efficiency thresholds. Tandem cells have both perovskite and silicon layers and can generate even more electricity from the same area.

India's solar industry depends heavily on imports from China. It has no polysilicon manufacturing capacity and imports the vast majority of wafers as well as the machines used to make them, according to a report by The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi. The country has built a self-reliant solar-power supply chain but the road there has been marked with temporary cell shortages and legal challenges. If perovskites become the next major solar technology, India will need to build the capacity to manufacture them domestically.

### Place in the sun

If perovskites become the next major solar technology, India will need to build the capacity to manufacture them domestically



A perovskite solar cell. PUBLIC DOMAIN

- Perovskite solar cells have higher power yields than silicon while potentially requiring less energy to manufacture
- With China restricting technology exports, India urgently needs to develop a domestic perovskite manufacturing supply chain
- Innovative Indian startups are currently developing scalable perovskite solar modules and building local core manufacturing equipment
- Despite their impressive efficiency, perovskite materials face severe durability challenges because moisture triggers chemical degradation
- Due to these challenges, experts say that early Indian applications will target environments related to space exploration
- To succeed, the emerging domestic industry needs dedicated testing facilities, certification standards, and the government's trust

Dinesh Kabra, co-founder of Advanced Renewable Tandem-Photovoltaics (ART-PV) India, a start-up developing high efficiency tandem cells, said he expects perovskites to complement silicon over the coming decade rather than replace it. For example, the relative thinness of perovskites' active layers could bring solar power to surfaces where conventional panels do not work, such as windows and in space.

ART-PV has tested a machine from a Taiwanese supplier that applies a thin layer of perovskite material onto a solar cell. The team used its own formulation of the material and is now finalising a deal to buy the equipment, Dr. Kabra said.

Sooraj Kumar, co-founder and chief executive officer of P3C Technology & Solutions, another company developing perovskite solar technology, said it has built most of its core manufacturing equipment in India. P3C has also scaled cells from about a centimetre across to mini-modules spanning one square foot, each of which has an active area with an efficiency of 17%-18%.

## Durability challenge

The company's next step is to build a larger sub-module that is field-ready. Experts at the company have projected that manufacturing costs could fall to ₹12 per watt at the gigawatt scale, assuming favourable yield, production volumes, and reliability and the cost of the complete module being competitive in the future market. Dr. Kumar also suggested that high-purity input materials like iodide salts, lead iodide, and glass with transparent and conductive oxide coating, which are mostly being imported today, will eventually be developed in India.

Dr. Kabra said buyers perceive solar panels as infrastructure rather than as consumer gadgets, and expect the panels to last for decades. Silicon panels are indeed generally designed for a service life of 25 to 30 years. Perovskites, however, may not last as long: moisture can trigger chemical reactions that break down the light-absorbing material. So experts have suggested unconventional uses for perovskite setups for now.

Ke Xiao, assistant professor at the Nanjing University School of Advanced Manufacturing, said they can be deployed in orbit because tandem cells are more efficient and, as studies have found, perovskite cells can tolerate particle radiation better than silicon or gallium arsenide cells. That said, researchers say standards for testing how perovskite solar cells perform under orbital conditions have yet to be developed.

Some important barriers still need to be overcome, including encapsulating perovskites to protect from heat, according to Dr. Xiao. In June, his team reported a certified 26.2% efficiency on a 65 $cm^2$ all-perovskite tandem module, which is a noteworthy high and a milestone towards manufacturing.

Most high-performing perovskite formulations also contain a small amount of lead. Dr. Kumar said P3C seals its modules with lamination and barrier sheets to prevent leaching.

## Domestic capacity

He added that he wants the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to back pilot and megawatt-scale production lines, and that the industry will benefit from national testing facilities, certification standards, and demonstration projects on public buildings.

The IIT-Bombay has also set up a 6,300 sq. ft facility for perovskite-silicon tandem research. Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, researchers are working on scalable fabrication. GREW Solar has partnered with U.S.-based Caelux to target 4-GW of hybrid perovskite-silicon tandem module production in India by 2028. Ultimately, Dr. Kabra said money is not the main obstacle.

He wants the government to instead trust Indian researchers and manufacturers to build the technology.

*(Sonam Raina is a Bengaluru-based journalist who covers sustainability in business. sonam.raina@gmail.com)*

# There is more to vanilla than its taste and aroma



SPEAKING OF SCIENCE
**D. Balasubramanian**

Vanilla is a common additive to make cakes, ice creams, and fragrant body lotions. Children enjoy a good vanilla ice cream. People often use vanilla as the primary flavour in baked goods and in chocolates. It is not just the flavour: vanilla also has health-promoting properties that have been known for centuries.

Vanilla comes from the fruits of the orchid herb that botanists call *Vanilla planifolia*, found mostly in tropical countries. Its medicinal properties have been known since ancient times. Traditional physicians of the 15th century in the Aztec region of Mexico had used the orchid pods as a remedy for stress and mental strain.

In India, the vanilla plant was brought by the Colonial British and the plant is now grown in Keralam, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

In 2013, a group of scientists from Mysuru described the cultivation, chemistry, and nutraceutical properties of vanilla (DOI: 10.1080/10408398.2011.563879).

In 2024, a group of researchers in Uttar Pradesh also summarised the use of vanilla by Ayurvedic physicians for its therapeutic properties (*Int. J. Environ. Clim. Change,* vol.14, no. 2, pp. 809-817, 2024).

The vanilla flowers are greenish in colour with a soothing fragrance. Newborns breathe calmer and better when they smell vanilla, and adults sleep better. It is also known to reduce inflammation.

Vanilla's active component is an aromatic benzaldehyde called vanillin, which offers a sweet smell, taste, and flavour, while its sugar content is negligible. Vanillin is approved by the World Health Organization, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India as a food additive. The Barnes Jewish Hospital in Washington University in the U.S. has listed that a tablespoon of vanilla extract has several minerals and vitamins but no fatty acids or cholesterol.



The vanilla flower belongs to the orchid family. FILE PHOTO

Vanilla's medicinal properties are largely due to vanillin. It soothes coughing, reduces blood pressure, and acts as an antidepressant. It also has reliable healing properties against certain wounds and is efficient as an antibacterial and anti-fungal agent. A review by a group of scientists from Nigeria (DOI: 10.1016/j.ejmcr.2022.100055) has shown that vanillin helps with regulating blood pressure, digestion, and has antimicrobial, antioxidant, and neuroprotective properties.

Likewise, a group of pharmacologists from Adelaide in Australia has also shown the biomedical advantages of vanillin in chronic wound healing and tissue regeneration (DOI: 10.1016/j.ijpharm.2026.127263). Given the vanilla plant is not available in several countries, and the medical and cosmetic advantages of vanillin, a short review of its chemical synthesis and biotransformation was recently published by a group from Jiangsu University, China in (DOI: 10.1016/j.rser.2023.113905).

The group also chemically modified lignin, which is present in plant cell walls, to produce vanillin. Scientists have also made vanillin by genetically modifying microbes (DOI: 1016/j.ces.2022/8049).

A 2019 review by Banerjee and Chattopadhyay from the University of Gauhati summarised the biotechnological aspects of vanillin (*J. Sci. Food Agric.* 99, 4999-506, 2019), including a description of how the molecule, besides its medicinal value, can also be used for metal plating, as a herbicide, a deodorant, and of course as a flavouring agent.

In addition to domestic consumption, India exports its vanilla to various countries, notably Bangladesh, Germany, and several in Africa, for several million dollars in revenue every year.

So the next time you have vanilla ice cream, you can enjoy its taste as well as its versatility.

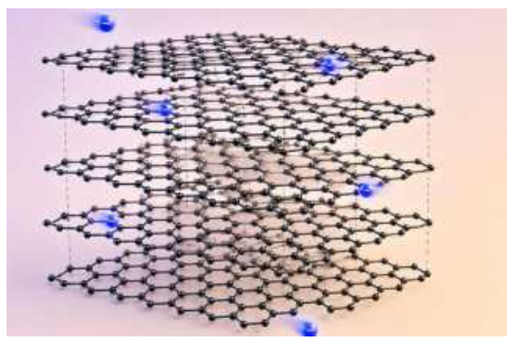
*dbala@lvpei.org*

## SNAPSHOTS



### $CO_2$ emissions briefly dipped in 2026 due to West Asia war

Between 2019 and 2025, global fossil fuel emissions grew 0.8% annually. Now, researchers have projected a 0.4% drop in 2026, likely temporary, due to high oil prices linked to the West Asia conflict, which constrained supply chains and drove fuel prices up by 10% to 50% in major economies, including the U.S., China, and Europe. Oil-linked emissions thus dropped by 1.9%, pulling total $CO_2$ levels down despite a 0.6% increase in coal emissions.



### Graphene adds new feather to cap of unusual properties

Magic-angle twisted bilayer graphene (MATBG) consists of two layers of graphene twisted at a small angle to create unique properties. Scientists have found that straining MATBG even slightly drastically changes its electrical resistance. Its sensitivity to strain was over 100-times greater than that of ordinary metals, and depended on the material's temperature and electron density. The findings suggest physical strain could be an effective new tool to control the unusual quantum physics in MATBG.



### Ebola outbreak 'flowed' along major travel, trade routes

The Bundibugyo virus (BVD) outbreak in the DRC this year expanded rapidly early, with the caseload doubling roughly every 10 days. The primary driver was human movement, with BVD following major travel and trade routes radiating from Mongbwalu, Rwampara, and Bunia. By combining local health records with mobile phone mobility data, researchers found tracking human relocation could accurately forecast which areas would become infected – a highly actionable finding since there are no approved vaccines for BVD.

## Question Corner

# Smoke in the air

**Why do firecracker emissions sometimes linger in the air?**

Emissions from firecrackers can linger when local atmospheric conditions keep the pollutants from dispersing or being moved away.

For example, winds can carry pollutants away from their source and dilute them in cleaner air. When the winds are weak, smoke and fine particles can accumulate near where firecrackers are burst. If people also repeatedly burst firecrackers over several hours, the pollutants can fill the air faster than they can be dispersed. Normally, warm air near the ground lifts pollutants upward. But during an inversion, a layer of warmer air sits above the surface air, trapping pollutants near the ground.

When the lowest part of the atmosphere, called the boundary layer, becomes shallow, the pollutants also become confined to a smaller volume of air. Many particles released by firecrackers can also absorb moisture and swell, rendering them 'more visible'. Taken together, the aftermath of an explosive spree can seem to be the worst when the winds are weak, the boundary layer is shallow, and an inversion is in play.

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

# What are the hurdles in Hasina's return?

Bangladesh govt. calls her a 'terrorist' and will not issue passport; repatriation or extradition requires the document

Kallol Bhattacherjee

**The story so far:**

Sheikh Hasina sought a new passport and a national identity card from the Government of Bangladesh on November 9. In response, Acting Foreign Minister Humayun Kabir said that Bangladesh seeks her extradition under an "acceptable prisoner transfer process". This is the latest episode in the Hasina saga that began when she came to India on August 5, 2024, after the student-led uprising toppled her government.

**What are the twin challenges faced by Hasina in returning to Bangladesh?**

Ms. Hasina faces a dilemma. She wants to return as a political leader and reclaim her party, the Awami League. But she stands accused of ordering the police crackdown of July-August 2024 by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in Dhaka, which has sentenced her to death for it. Her challenge is now to return to face justice and yet emerge as a leader of her country. She has refused to apologise for the crackdown, saying the police did not take her orders, but responded to angry agitators and militants who had provoked them. The death sentence makes it clear that she will have to face the ICT on her return, so it will have to be part of the process that delivers justice in Bangladesh.

Apart from that, she does not hold a Bangladesh passport, which leaves her without a valid travel document. Repatriation or extradition will have to rest on the availability of a passport or some other form of travel document such as an emergency certificate without which India may not be able to transfer her. The Government of Bangladesh, however, has said it will not issue her a passport because she is a "terrorist".

Tribunal in Dhaka has sentenced her to death for the crackdown on protesters; she will have to face the tribunal if she returns passport, which leaves her without a valid travel document

**Why does the current government refer to her as terrorist?**

Mr. Kabir called Ms. Hasina a "terrorist" on November 9. The fundamentalist political party Jamaat-e-Islami has used the same term. Ms. Hasina stands accused of ordering the police crackdown that led to the deaths of hundreds of civilians, including students protesting against her rule. She maintains that during her tenure she implemented a tough counter-terror policy, led by the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), a force she says was raised under her.

The label is common in Bangladeshi politics. During her own tenure, Ms. Hasina often called her opponents terrorists or supporters of Pakistan.

**If Hasina indeed wants to return, which route will she have to take?**

Ms. Hasina said on August 5, 2026, that she would like to return and indicated December as the month. She has not yet said how she might do so.If India hands her over under the 2013 extradition treaty, she will be arrested on arrival at the airport. If she returns on her own, she could instead use a land port such as Benapole-Petrapole on the West Bengal border.

**What are the security risks if Hasina returns to her country?**

The Awami League remains banned in Bangladesh, but it has a large number of supporters. If she returns through Benapole-Petrapole, her supporters are expected to gather in large numbers at the border, along with opponents from the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Jamaat-e-Islami. This could turn into a tense confrontation and a major law-and-order challenge for the government's stretched security machinery. Bangladesh has already seen a few arson attacks in recent days, in which vehicles were set on fire.

There is growing concern that her return may embolden her supporters to clash with the government and destabilise a country that is yet to recover from the uprising of August 2024. The police are a particular worry. Their legitimacy and public acceptance remain low because of their role in the July-August 2024 crackdown.

Her return will be part of a legal process that will follow the verdict or a retrial before the ICT.

**How will the political situation change in Bangladesh if Hasina is handed over?**

At present, the BNP, the Jamaat-e-Islami, and the anti-Hasina student-led National Citizen Party occupy the centre-right and right of the spectrum. Her return is expected to energise the left and centre-left, helping parties such as the Jatiya Party and the Awami League hit the streets. That would challenge the Tarique Rahman government, which already faces labour unrest in the readymade garment sector.

Ms. Hasina may find a new Awami League on her return because the party, whose activities are banned in Bangladesh.

# How Microsoft outage affected millions

When the problem first emerged, Microsoft engineers and automated systems shifted their workload to other machines, which then became overloaded and failed as well, thus triggering a chain reaction through its networks that affected multiple services

Sahana Venugopal
Vasudevan Mukunth

**The story so far:**

Software giant Microsoft faced a widespread outage affecting users of its Microsoft 365 service from the early hours of November 13.

**How did the outage affect users?**

Microsoft said users might be unable to connect to multiple Microsoft 365 services, particularly those that interact with its Exchange Online and email services. Microsoft's Exchange Online is the cloud-based messaging platform that facilitates its users' emails, calendars, contacts, and tasks.

Think of Microsoft's Exchange Online as a huge ice rink that enables various Microsoft service users to 'skate' on top and carry out their tasks and reach various locations. However, the company has said elements of these services that do not depend on interaction with Exchange Online remained functional. These would be the non-skaters who don't need to be on the rink and can simply walk around it to get to their destination.

Microsoft Teams users had a split experience. While some were completely unable to make or receive calls, others found that previously scheduled meetings were able to proceed as planned. Microsoft updated its website to explain that most of the core functionality of Teams was not affected but that tasks hinging on Exchange Online were failing.

Some social media users also said they could still use their Microsoft apps at work even as others were struggling to view their emails.

That said, the number of affected services came with significant consequences for professional users as well as entire sectors. With Microsoft 365 Admin Center affected, administrators were unable to load crucial pages. With Apps down, many users couldn't access their recent files. Since Microsoft 365 Education was affected, students/teachers were not able to use offerings such as Assignments, Reading Progress, and Speaker Progress, and so on. Cybersecurity was endangered: with Microsoft Defender for Office 365 not functioning as intended, the Safe Links services might have been unable to verify URLs, the company said.

The outage drew calls for critical enterprises, governments to diversify their IT infrastructure providers

U.S. and Australian government bodies have put out notices informing users of the changes and have acknowledged impact on operations.

Microsoft has said it will investigate the outage and publish an incident report.



**Logged out:** The temporary shutdown of services came with significant consequences for professional users as well as entire sectors. AP

**What did the 48-hour email timeout mean?**

On November 13 afternoon, as part of its rolling updates on the Service Health Status page, Microsoft said it was expanding its email timeout to 48 hours. This did not refer to email services being down for 48 hours.

When you hit 'send' on an email, your email application – Outlook, GMail, etc. – will send your message to an outgoing mail server. This server will identify the recipient's email provider and contact it over the Internet. The receiving server will check the message, including whether it could be spam, and store it in the recipient's mailbox. When the recipient opens their open application, they will be able to see your message. If the receiving server is unavailable, the sending server will hold your message in a queue and keep attempting to deliver it. And if they fail beyond a point, the sender will be told that delivery failed. Microsoft's update referred to this point.

**What describes the outage?**

Microsoft shared on X on November 13 that a portion of infrastructure was experiencing elevated load across multiple regions, and this could likely be contributing to the connectivity errors. However, Microsoft later clarified that the elevated load was not driven by an increase in traffic. Rather, servers were unexpectedly unavailable, which further affected the remaining infrastructure that was online.

Microsoft said it was addressing a problem causing servers to fail automated health checks before becoming unavailable, but users were concerned as the outage continued to persist for hours with no signs of recovery. The company tried limiting traffic to some of its infrastructure and tried to bring servers back into service but said the changes were "not taking as expected".

"We're identifying alternative workstreams that can be applied to increase capacity in the face of sustained traffic management imbalances," the company said.

The demand for Microsoft products helps explain at least part of why the company struggled in its recovery efforts. While there is no count now of exactly how many users were affected, the company puts it at 450 million paid Microsoft 365 subscriptions. The outage affected businesses in at least 74 countries and territories.

As Microsoft executive vice-president of Copilot Charles Lamanna wrote in a post on X.com, "Our investigation points to technical challenges and failure modes (cascading failures + thundering herds at our network perimeter) that made recovery more difficult than normal." This means that when the original problem emerged, Microsoft engineers as well as automated systems shifted their workload to other machines, which then became overloaded and failed as well, thus triggering a chain reaction through Microsoft networks that affected multiple services.

Likewise, "thundering herds" referred to the fact that when a service became available again, a larger number of clients and systems tried to reconnect or to retry pending requests at the same time, overwhelming the just-recovering infrastructure and potentially causing it to fail again. (The network perimeter is the infrastructure handling traffic entering or leaving Microsoft's networks.) According to Mr. Lamanna, this combination of loads slowed the company's efforts to restore affected services.

**What was the public response?**

While Microsoft shared updates on X.com and on the Service Health Status page, among other fora, several customers criticised the company's updates as being too technical and requested more customer-friendly language. Many called on CEO Satya Nadella to directly address the incident.

Many users were curious as to whether the outage involved malicious actors or errant artificial intelligence (AI) models. However, Mr. Lamanna had stressed that the incident was not caused by a cyberattack. "We will continue to share more information as soon as we have it, and for now I can confirm that there is no indication this is the result of malicious or cyber activity," he wrote on X.com.

The outage drew calls for critical enterprises and governments to diversify their IT infrastructure providers, echoing those issued in the aftermath of similar incidents involving various providers in the past. However, these changes have been either slow or absent because these services are deeply integrated and relatively inexpensive at scale, and switching providers would entail significant costs, including to retrain staff. That said, the providers often passively encourage such dependence by bundling their services together for discounts and restricting interoperability.

# Can India refuse summons in Pannun case?

A U.S. court has allowed Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun to pursue serving summons on India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and former RAW chief Samant Goel through Indian courts. The order raises several legal questions

Aaratrika Bhaumik

**The story so far:**

A U.S. court on November 9 permitted Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun to serve summons on National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Samant Kumar Goel through Indian courts, in connection with a civil lawsuit alleging a conspiracy to assassinate him. The lawsuit filed by Mr. Pannun, wanted in India on terror charges, is separate but linked to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation's findings of an assassination plot against him in June 2023.

**How are summons served by other nations on defendants in India?**

The Hague Service Convention, formally known as the Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters, 1965, provides a framework for serving judicial and extrajudicial documents abroad and facilitates proof of service. Both India and the U.S. are parties to the Convention. Each member state must designate a central authority to receive and process requests for service. In India, the Law and Justice Ministry is the designated central authority. The treaty provides for alternative channels, including diplomatic and consular channels, postal service, and direct communication between judicial officers or other competent persons in the originating and destination states.

India limits service of summons through diplomatic or consular channels to nationals of the country from which documents originate

India acceded to the Convention subject to certain reservations, including objections to the alternative methods of service under Article 10. It stipulated that service through diplomatic or consular channels would be limited to nationals of the country from which the documents originate. Thus, U.S. diplomatic or consular officials cannot serve documents in India unless the recipient is a U.S. national.

The Law Ministry can reject a request for service but must specify the reasons. Under Article 13, a request can be denied if the country considers that its sovereignty or security would be compromised, but not merely because its domestic law does not recognise the underlying claim. If accepted, the central authority proceeds with service and issues a certificate confirming whether it was effected (the request is accepted).

To give effect to the Convention, the Union government issued a notification on January 12, 2009, extending the procedure under Section 29(c) of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (CPC), to civil courts in countries that are parties to the Convention. The provision allows summons issued by such courts to be transmitted to Indian courts for service on defendants within their jurisdiction, in the same manner as summons issued by Indian courts.




India has dismissed allegations against National Security Adviser Ajit Doval (in picture) and former RAW chief Samant Goel by Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. PTI

**What are the procedural hurdles?**

Experts have pointed out that the central authority mechanism has often fallen short of the Convention's objective of simplifying and expediting service abroad. The treaty prescribes no deadline for processing requests, leaving litigants with limited recourse against delays or refusals. In a 2009 assessment based on responses to a questionnaire circulated among member states, the Permanent Bureau, the secretariat that monitors the Convention's operation, found that 66% of requests were completed within two months, 18.3% took at least a year to receive a certificate of service, and another 10.3% were returned unexecuted.

U.S. courts have particularly noted delays in serving documents through India's central authority.

**What did the United States court order in the Pannun case?**

District Judge Katherine Polk Failla noted that Mr. Pannun's three attempts to personally serve the summons on Mr. Doval during the official visits of the NSA to the U.S. were blocked by security personnel. His attempts to serve Mr. Doval, Mr. Goel, and former RAW officer Vikash Yadav through the Union Law and Justice Ministry had also failed. Before granting his request for alternative service, the court consulted the U.S. Attorney's Office and the State Department, which it said took "no position" on the proposed method.

The court relied on Article 19 of the Convention, which recognises more liberal methods of service permitted under the receiving country's domestic laws, even if not expressly provided for under the treaty. Citing U.S. judicial precedents, Judge Failla noted that Section 29(c) of the CPC, read with the Union government's 2009 notification, permits summons issued by courts in Convention countries to be transmitted to Indian courts for service. She accordingly authorised summons against Mr. Doval and Mr. Goel to be transmitted to three Delhi district courts – Patiala House, Dwarka, and Tis Hazari – identified as having jurisdiction over the areas where they are believed to reside.

The judge rejected Mr. Pannun's argument that India's earlier refusal to execute the requests rendered the Convention inapplicable, noting that the reasons for the refusal remained unclear. She nevertheless left open the possibility of reconsidering its applicability if the Government of India or an Indian court expressed a contrary view.

**What are the implications?**

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal has dismissed Mr. Pannun's lawsuit as "fabricated and malicious" and said all official communications would be routed through the Ministry of Law and Justice. The November 9 order concerns only the service of summons and does not establish liability on the part of the Indian government or the two officials.

India has previously invoked diplomatic immunity to refuse service under the Convention.

# AI rainmaker meets his Waterloo

## Jensen Huang

The Nvidia chief's abrupt exit marks a stunning fall from grace for the man who built the hardware foundation of the AI revolution, forged deep ties with Silicon Valley's tech leaders and expanded the company's reach across every layer of the AI stack

**John Xavier**

"In another life, Jensen Huang might have been a teacher," says Tae Kim in his book *The Nvidia Way*. Whether he likes it or not, the Nvidia co-founder's reality has now been reset, forcing him back to his idiosyncratic style of solving problems: diagramming on a whiteboard. But this time he won't get a clean start as the scandal-hit former chief of Nvidia will face intense scrutiny over his affair with a Chinese businesswoman who is at the centre of an alleged spy scandal.

Within days of reports emerging about Mr. Huang's affair with Alice Huang, *The New York Times* reported a second relationship, with Kimberly Powell, Nvidia's head of healthcare and one of his direct reports. By then, the controversy had come to a head, forcing Mr. Huang to resign as CEO of Nvidia, the company he had built from scratch.

Several hours after Nvidia announced Mr. Huang's departure, Reuters reported a third extramarital affair involving another of his direct reports. Nvidia has said CFO Colette Kress will serve as interim CEO while it searches for a permanent successor, and that former Synopsys chief Harvey Jones will become its first-ever Board chair.

A week earlier, Mr. Huang was at the top of the AI game. His abrupt exit from Nvidia is a shocking fall from grace for someone who built the very hardware foundation for today's AI companies, developed deep connections with Silicon Valley tech leaders, and vertically integrated Nvidia into every layer of the AI stack.

### Early bet

Mr. Huang co-founded Nvidia three decades ago to make graphics cards that can transform 3D coordinate data into 2D screen pixels through a multi-step process. His chips were largely popular in the gaming community. But, by 2006, he began pushing the company towards general-purpose computing with the Compute Unified Device Architecture (CUDA) platform that could make Nvidia graphics cards do more than 3D rendering.

That bet put Nvidia's GPUs at the centre of advances in artificial intelligence. The chips were not only good at rendering video games but also at image processing and matrix multiplication, a crucial mathematical operation used to train and run deep learning models.

Mr. Huang hand-delivered Nvidia's first AI super computer – the DGX system – to OpenAI back in 2016. ChatGPT and its predecessor models were all trained on Nvidia's hardware. But Mr. Huang didn't want Nvidia to be just a GPU maker. More data processing would need more networking and that means more interconnects. He bought the Israeli-American high-speed computer networking company Mellanox in 2020. Beijing was sceptical of the $6.9 billion deal as it would allow Nvidia to bundle its products and create customer lock-ins.

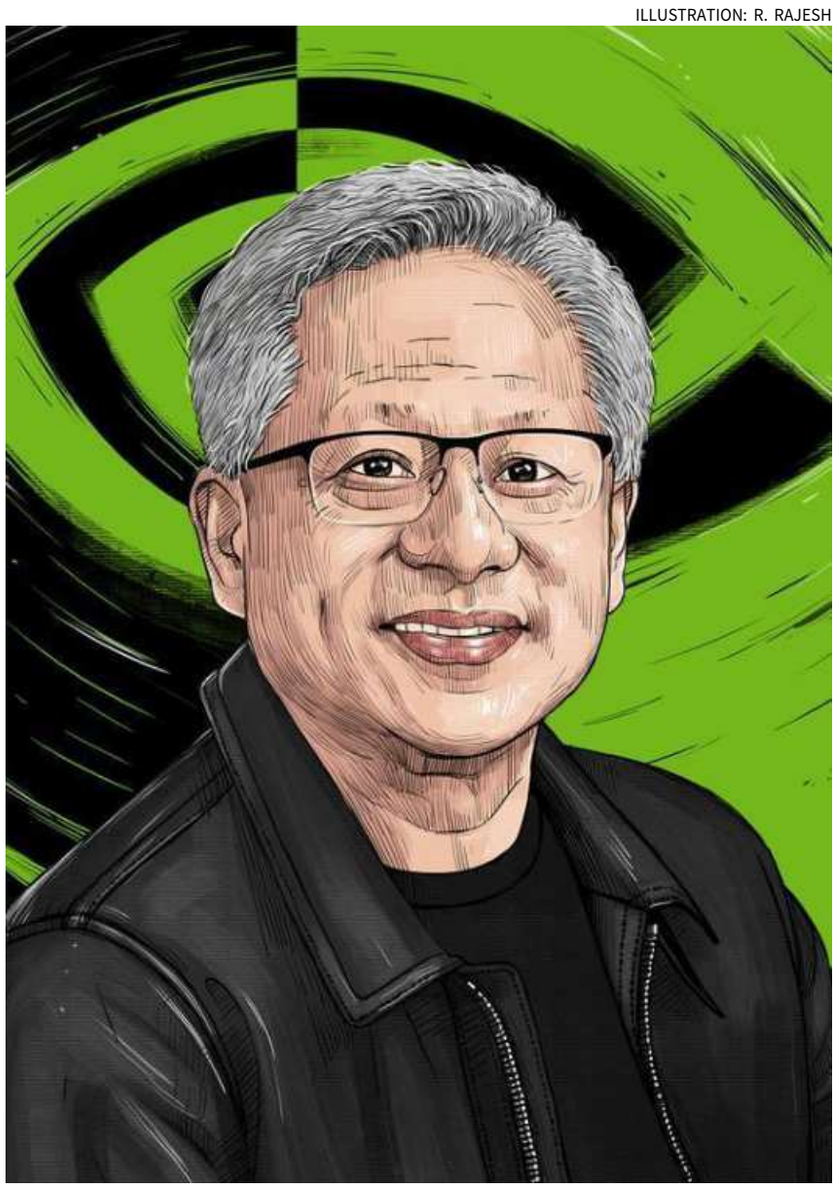
### Strategic approval

China's market regulator, State Administration for Market Regulation, approved the deal on the condition that the AI chipmaker would supply Mellanox's products to the Chinese market on fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory terms. The deal paved the way for Nvidia to become a full-stack data centre architect.

OpenAI has since signed large multi-year compute deals with Nvidia; Anthropic, Google, Meta, xAI and others also buy Nvidia's AI chips in huge volumes to train their AI models. Hyperscalers like Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google Cloud, Meta, and Microsoft's Azure account for roughly 60% of Nvidia's revenue today. And the company's data centre revenue for the quarter ended in July stood at $89 billion, which accounts for 93% of the company's total quarterly revenue of $96.2 billion.

While the company has been growing steadily over the years, the jump in its valuation since ChatGPT launched was astronomical – soaring from $400 billion to $4 trillion.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH



Despite the size and scale, Nvidia's organisational structure was deliberately kept flat. In the book, *The Nvidia Way*, Mr. Kim portrays Mr. Huang as a leader who expects flat communication and sits atop an unusually wide organisation with about 60 executives reporting to him directly.

While a flat organisational structure reduces bureaucracy and helps the firm move fast, it also centralises power and creates key-man risk. Any system that is driven by a single large force moves quickly towards a singular goal, but becomes fragile if that primary driver fails or stalls.

Mr. Huang has carried that culture playbook to other places, including the White House where he secured an unusual degree of closeness with President Donald Trump.

His arguments that chip restrictions only strengthen Chinese chip makers like Huawei and that China should stay reliant on the American tech stack, found a receptive audience in Mr. Trump. He used the direct connection to tweak certain Biden-era export controls that blocked Nvidia from selling its top AI chips like the A100, H100 to China in October 2022.

### Limits of influence

Still, Mr. Huang's influence had limits as Blackwell – Nvidia's top tier data centre chip – remains blocked for sales in China. But it was made available to Megaspeed – the Singapore-based AI infrastructure firm helmed by Alice Huang, the businesswoman with whom Mr. Huang had an affair.

Reports have also suggested that Trump administration officials knew of the allegations some time ago. As of this writing, their claims are unproven. Attorney General Todd Blanche has said the Justice Department has not determined whether Ms. Huang is a Chinese spy.

China's Foreign Ministry has called the spying allegations baseless and a smear campaign. Megaspeed has said that repeated inspections by U.S. and Nvidia officials have found no illegal chip transfers.

Nvidia's chips underpin the AI efforts of American companies and their Chinese rivals alike, and its China strategy sits between a Washington that swings between bans and revenue sharing and a Beijing that is withholding H200 chips from import approvals. Under an interim chief, Colette Kress, and a new chair, every one of those negotiations will now be handled in the absence of Mr. Huang.

For Mr. Huang, before he goes back to that whiteboard in a now reset reality, he will have to answer the U.S. Congress in a closed-door briefing on Nvidia's security protocols and his interactions with the Megaspeed executive Ms. Huang. This will be an entirely new battle for a chief who built a massive tech empire only to watch it slip away over a personal indiscretion.

### THE GIST

- Jensen Huang's argument that chip restrictions only strengthen Chinese chip makers like Huawei and that China should stay reliant on the American tech stack found a receptive audience in Donald Trump
- Huang used the direct connection to tweak certain Biden-era export controls that blocked Nvidia from selling its top AI chips like the A100, H100 to China in October 2022
- Still Huang's influence had limits as Blackwell — Nvidia's top tier data centre chip — remains blocked for sales in China. But it was made available to Megaspeed, the Singapore-based AI firm helmed by Alice Huang

# At the centre of the storm

## Megaspeed

The Singapore-based company that came to play a vital role in the global chip trade is under scrutiny after its former CEO was linked to Nvidia's Jensen Huang in an alleged spy scandal

**Ananth Krishnan**

At the centre of the scandal surrounding Nvidia, which led to the resignation of founder-CEO Jensen Huang on November 12, is a little-known Singapore-based business founded by Chinese tech executive Alice Huang that came to play a vital role in the global chips trade.

Set up in 2023, with no background in AI or semiconductors, Megaspeed grew within the span of a few months into a linchpin of the semiconductors and data centre business in Asia, connecting Chinese tech companies with valuable Nvidia chips amid tightening U.S. export controls. Over the course of a couple of years, the new company would purchase between $4-5 billion of Nvidia technology, according to reports.

Its story begins in 2023, when Ms. Huang, who had been active in the financial industry in Shanghai, acquired a Singapore-registered gaming company called 7Road International. She renamed it Megaspeed and pivoted into the data centre and cloud computing business, with the aim of filling a crucial void for Chinese tech companies - providing them access to Nvidia chips. This was when she struck up a relationship with the Nvidia co-founder.

U.S. export controls prevented Nvidia from directly selling many of its most advanced chips in China. Singapore and Southeast Asia emerged as a workaround: companies registered in Singapore could purchase the chips and route them to data centres built in nearby Malaysia and Indonesia, where Chinese firms such as Alibaba could tap into computing power without violating the law. Megaspeed counted Alibaba as among its major clients.

AFP




Even before the current scandal, which erupted into the public domain after reports that the U.S. was investigating Mr. Huang's romantic relationship with Alice Huang and her ties to Chinese authorities, Megaspeed had been on the radar of the Singapore government.

Singapore authorities said on November 12 the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and Singapore Customs initiated "an independent investigation into several companies and their key officers, including Megaspeed... and its controllers" in February 2025.

Ms. Huang, as CEO, was then investigated, but "not for espionage". Her passport was confiscated, and when the SPF concluded earlier this year there was insufficient evidence to establish if she committed any offences, she was allowed to leave Singapore. No wrongdoing was established against either Megaspeed or Ms. Huang, but the new attention has left the company's future under a cloud.

### The spy who wasn't?

Former CEO Ms. Huang's particular role in the affair has been under the lens. After initial media reports in the U.S. described her as "an alleged spy", subsequent statements have left a murkier picture. On November 13, U.S. reports said there was "disagreement among U.S. officials about the strength of evidence" that Ms. Huang was working for China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) as a spy, while U.S. President Donald Trump, who has been a strong backer of Mr. Huang and allowed the exports of some chips to China, said that he himself wasn't clear.

Part of the reason for the suspicion was her stunning rise from a television journalist to CEO of a company handling billions of dollars worth of strategic chips. Yet her story was not exactly unusual in China's fast-moving tech and finance space, where fixers often conceal the true ownership of firms.

"My suspicion is that Alice Huang was not a spy who happened to become a businesswoman. She was a commercial fixer... whose value lay in connecting powerful interests while keeping their involvement at arm's length," wrote Desmond Shum, author of *Red Roulette*.

Even if Ms. Huang has ended her connections with Megaspeed, the company very much remains active, although its future operations in Singapore remain unclear given the fresh scrutiny and signs that the U.S., following this episode, will move to tighten controls further and target third countries that have been facilitating this trade.

Nvidia maintains their engagement was above board as it was dealing with a Singapore entity and not a Chinese subsidiary. Megaspeed, in a statement, said it had "cooperated with inspections" by the U.S. and was "committed to working constructively and transparently with the U.S. government".

# From rebellion to despair

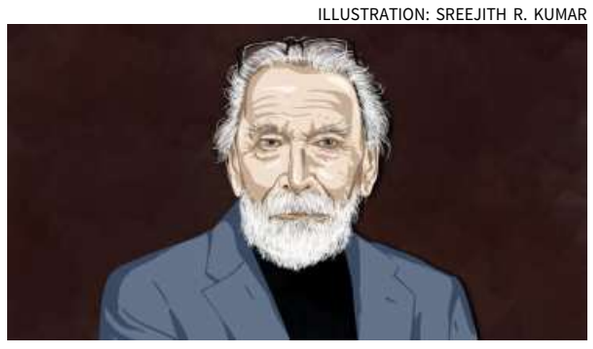
## M. John Harrison

The British author who won this year's Booker Prize has long championed resistance to the *status quo*, but his latest novel reflects a deepening pessimism about humanity and its future

**Vasudevan Mukunth**

In 2019, British writer M. John Harrison said he supported Extinction Rebellion, a global environmental movement, and people taking action to change the world. But last week, after winning the Booker Prize for his "destabilising and satirical dystopian novel", *The End of Everything*, he said he had lost hope for humanity – even as people continued to fight to change the world. Did something change in seven years?

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



Harrison was born in 1945 and grew up in the shadow of the Second World War. He has said he was impressed by *The Waste Land* by T.S. Eliot, especially the way its narrative could pull fragments together into a coherent whole without also pretending it depicted a complete reality. Harrison later moved to London from Warwickshire determined to become a professional writer, despite financial difficulties.

He published his first short story in 1966 and thereafter became involved with the influential science fiction (sci-fi) magazine *New Worlds*, edited by Michael Moorcock. This is when the 'New Wave' movement against traditional sci-fi emerged, with its vanguard – including Harrison, Moorcock, Brian Aldiss, and J.G. Ballard – bringing sexuality, political conflict, and experimental narrative structures, a lot of which sci-fi had until then avoided, to the genre's then-conventional tropes of exploring space and celebrating the ingenuity of the human species.

Of Harrison's own work in this time, *The Centauri Device* and The *Viriconium* sequence stand out. *The Centauri Device* is a space opera led by a non-hero that ends in catastrophe rather than progress. *Viriconium* remains influential to this day, including for refusing to reclaim some glorious past and so restore the honour of its decaying world and for denying its readers narrative closure – paralleling Britain's nostalgia for its imperial greatness and the cultural disorientation of the Margaret Thatcher years.

Harrison has said fiction should confront readers with reality rather than offer an escape. For many years, he has borne an anti-authoritarian, anti-capitalist disposition and has been sceptical of proclamations of progress and consumerism. The people in his stories do not become more powerful by accumulating knowledge or technics, and they fail by not acting to change their circumstances.

### Loss of meaning

This same iconoclast wrote *The End of Everything*, a bleak novel about the total loss of meaning. But while many have said the book is a "difficult" read, Harrison has been making his way to this point since the late 1980s, and not always through sci-fi.

His 1989 novel *Climbers* seemed to ask whether ordinary Britons really understood their own existence, forget their "great past", in the country's post-industrial social landscape. In *The Course of the Heart* (1992) and *Signs of Life* (1997), Harrison extended his investigation of the ways in which people hurt each other in order to escape their own intolerable realities.

He returned to sci-fi with *Light* (2002), which launched the Kefahuchi Tract trilogy in which humans confront the possibility of sensing a strange astronomical phenomenon without ever being able to explain it. Yet, the trilogy also allows its characters to comprehend the exploitation of their fellow people. This message echoes the unspoken paradigm of *The End of Everything*: humans may never understand everything but they already understand enough about destroying themselves.

Harrison had said in a previous era that escapist literature could encourage people to accept their circumstances instead of endeavouring to change them, and his books have always been the parables to illustrate the folly. For example, the deceptively bleak *The End of Everything* could be a clarion call to militate against the loss of meaning.

The Booker Prize judges' choice has divided readers, however. Supporters see a win for science fiction itself given that is Harrison's 'home genre' and thanks to his use of the fantastic to reveal the inadequacies of the present and the future they portend. Detractors, however, have been put off by what they perceive to be a defiance of the conventions of literature for its own sake.

Today, Harrison's earlier insistence that people must act for a better world may be a more useful message than the despair of the novel that finally won him the Booker Prize.

WASHINGTON

## Trump to raise nuclear-arms cuts with Putin, Xi, says White House



AP

U.S. President Donald Trump will raise nuclear-arms reduction at a meeting in China with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, the White House said on Friday. Mr. Putin, Mr. Xi and Mr. Trump are expected to meet on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Shenzhen. REUTERS

CHICAGO

## Microsoft says services are fully restored after hours-long outage




REUTERS

Microsoft said on Saturday that services were fully restored after a massive outage that lasted for hours. It said the incident "was introduced by an issue during an earlier network capacity upgrade that surfaced" following a recent network change. Users in more than 70 countries were affected, according to an online tracker. AP

WASHINGTON

## Rubio acknowledges 'people are struggling' economically in speech



REUTERS

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio gave a sweeping speech to fellow conservatives on Friday evening acknowledging that Americans are struggling in the current economy. "I think we have to recognize that people are struggling. There's no doubt about it," he said. Mr. Rubio, however, defended the Iran war. AP

STARBASE

## SpaceX's Starship set for return to earth after booster catch aborted



AP

SpaceX's Starship spacecraft was "healthy" as it orbited the earth and on track to return Saturday, where Elon Musk's company was planning to "catch" the vehicle for first time. Successful recoveries of both the Super Heavy booster and the Starship would have marked a milestone in pursuit of fully reusable rocket systems. AFP

# 'Trump may hold off on new strike unless provoked by Iran, Houthis'

The U.S. President expresses sympathy for allies in the region who have asked him not to return to full-scale war, saying he is pursuing a 'more civil' path at their request; White House officials say that Trump will decide whether and when to act

**Reuters**
WASHINGTON/RIYADH

U.S. President Donald Trump has told senior advisers in recent days that he may hold off on attacking Iran if the U.S. faces no new provocations from Tehran or the Houthis (Ansar Allah) in Yemen, according to three people familiar with the matter.

Mr. Trump has alternated between threats of escalating the war with new strikes and winding down hostilities, and current and former officials say he does not appear to have made up his mind about how to resolve the unpopular conflict, which he launched in February with Israel.



**Weapons array:** Visitors walk past drones on display during an exhibition at the National Aerospace Park outside Tehran. AFP

But in meetings with his national security advisers and after a series of intelligence briefings, Mr. Trump said he was considering holding off on strikes, said the people, who, like others interviewed for this story, spoke on condition of anonymity.

He has also indicated sympathy for allies in the region who have asked him not to return to a full-fledged war.

"I could end it immediately, but at the request of the nations that I am looking to protect, we are doing it a little bit longer way, a bit more civilly," Mr. Trump told sports broadcaster Stephen A. Smith on Thursday.

The war has hiked global fuel prices and proven unpopular with U.S. voters, who handed control of Congress to the Democrats in last week's midterm elections. In a Reuters/Ipsos poll taken shortly before the November 3 elections, 55% of Americans said the war was not worth the cost, and Vice-President J.D. Vance cited it as the reason Mr. Trump's Republicans lost Congress.

Mr. Trump's private comments build on public remarks playing down the likelihood of major warfare resuming.

"As Commander-in-Chief, President Trump is the architect and sole decision-maker who holds all the cards and will always ensure that America's interests are protected," a White House official said in a statement. "The United States is in a very strong position with control of the Strait of Hormuz and the Iranian economy collapsing. Only President Trump knows what he will do, and when."

# Airlines cancel thousands of flights across the U.S.

**Associated Press**
WASHINGTON

Airlines cancelled thousands of flights across the U.S. on Saturday as they worked to recover from a nationwide ground stop a day earlier that left passengers scrambling for seats and disrupted travel around the world.

The U.S. air travel schedule should be back to normal by the end of Sunday, two days after what was the nation's longest ground stop in 25 years, said Bryan Bedford, administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. He said airlines "will still have delays and cancellations" on Saturday but promised that the "worst is behind us".

New technology being added to the nation's air traffic control system overloaded antiquated equipment and caused "intermittent" communications and radar gaps, leading to Friday's ground stop that lasted more than four hours, Trump administration officials said.



**Lengthy wait:** Passengers look at departures and arrivals boards at Logan airport in East Boston, Massachussetts on Friday. REUTERS

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy told reporters on Saturday that a contractor had been replacing a section of the system's old copper wire with new fibre wire, and that work somehow caused the system overload.

Andrew Charlton, an aviation consultant, said Friday's stoppage affected about a quarter of the 45,000 flights in the U.S. each day.

The nationwide stop was the first since January 2023, when a key FAA computer system malfunctioned, and the second since the 9/11 attacks.

## Myanmar air strike kills 12 in camp for displaced persons

**Agence France-Presse**
PONNAGYUN

A Myanmar military air strike on a camp housing people displaced by the civil war killed 12 people in the westernmost State of Rakhine, witnesses and a rescue worker said on Saturday.

Chit Su Wai, a 27-year-old shopkeeper, sobbed as she described how her daughter, aunt and mother were killed on Friday evening in Byar La IDP camp in Ponnagyun township, northeast of State capital Sittwe.

Khine Hein Htet, chairman of the Phyusin Yin Khwin Foundation, a rescue and emergency service, said a five-year-old was among the dead, while 18 were also injured in the camp, where many residents had been living for four years.

"They believed the camp was safe, and they sheltered there together. When we arrived at the scene, most of the victims had died in one place."

## Zelenskyy says new European security plan floated by U.S. could benefit Putin

**Associated Press**
KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the United States had raised the possibility of a new security framework for Europe as part of efforts to end Russia's war in Ukraine, warning that Moscow could use such discussions to weaken NATO and reshape the continent's borders.

Separately, Ukrainian forces struck a major Russian oil facility supporting Moscow's war effort, Ukraine's General Staff said in a statement on Saturday.



Workers clear debris at a heavily damaged thermal power plant in Ukraine following Russian missile and drone strikes. AFP

"In my view, this can be dangerous," Mr. Zelenskyy told reporters on Friday, referring to the new security framework. "This should not be the main agenda."

He said he believed Moscow was interested in reopening broader questions about European security rather than focusing exclusively on ending the war.

"(Russian President Vladimir) Putin's desire to change borders in Europe is a fact. I am sure this is part of his concept of revising security guarantees in Europe," he said. "This is dangerous because, in my view, it is precisely things like this that lead to wars or escalations."

European leaders have stressed that decisions about the continent's security must be made by Europeans themselve.

## South Sudan puts off first national polls until February 2027

**Agence France-Presse**
JUBA

South Sudan on Saturday postponed its first national elections from December to February amid growing violence, political battles between its President and deposed Vice-President and voter registration only just starting.

Legislative and presidential elections had been scheduled for December 22, having already been delayed several times.

The electoral commission issued a new calendar on social media on Saturday, with a new election date of February 11 and the results to be announced four days later.

Commission secretary general Ahon Malou Lueth confirmed the change but would not explain why the decision had been taken or give other details.

According to the World Bank, some 90% of the country's 15 million inhabitants have no state-recognised identification, further complicating process.

# Sport

## Martirosyan inflicts first loss on Carlsen

TOTAL CHESS

**Jayantho Sengupta**
BUDAPEST

Magnus Carlsen suffered his first loss in the Total Chess World Championship Tour pilot as Haik Martirosyan beat the World No. 1 and took the outright Group C lead on the third day of the Fast Classic stage here on Friday.

The Armenian won with white before drawing their return encounter, leaving Carlsen winless after six games. Martirosyan had 10 points to Carlsen's five.

R. Vaishali secured her first Fast Classic victory, recovering from a defeat against Bibisara Assaubayeva to win their second meeting with an attack.

The split results left the Indian on four points and the Kazakh on eight in Group D.



**Causing a flutter:** Martirosyan, right, upstaged Carlsen and climbed to the top of the group. FLICKR.COM

Arjun Erigaisi overturned a difficult position to beat Wesley So with black before drawing the return match. His nine points put him level with Hans Niemann, three behind leader Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. R. Praggnanandhaa drew both games against Vladislav Artemiev in Group B, their first encounter lasting 89 moves.

The Indian had four points and Artemiev five.

Martirosyan's attacking victory over Carlsen helped him move one point clear of Anish Giri, who followed a draw against Ian Nepomniachtchi with a win after a long battle.

Nepomniachtchi and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov had seven points each. Mamedyarov drew twice against Abhimanyu Mishra, who had five. Vachier-Lagrave drew his game against Niemann before winning with white to reach 12 points.

Group B leader Fabiano Caruana beat Vincent Keymer with black and drew their second game.

Unbeaten with four wins and two draws, he had 14 points, four clear of Liem Le, who drew twice against Richard Rapport. Keymer had four points and Rapport five. In Group A, Andrew Hong handed Alireza Firouzja his first group-stage defeat before the leader won their return meeting. Firouzja retained top spot with 11 points. Hong had six.

*(The writer is in Budapest at the invitation of Total Chess).*

## Archers face new challenges at Nationals

ARCHERY

**Y.B. Sarangi**
SHILLONG

Competitions with Indian bows have embraced significant changes, including fixing the distance for the qualification round at 30m and making it mandatory for every archer to shoot six arrows instead of three in each of the 12 ends.

These changes were adopted to iron out logistical challenges of moving targets for 50m and 30m segments and making archers better prepared for a possible switch to recurve or compound division.

After introducing these changes at the National junior championships in Jaipur last month, the Archery Association of India (AAI) implemented these at the elite National event here on Saturday.



**Adaptability:** The changes introduced are likely to test the archers. RITU RAJ KONWAR

"Shifting targets for 50m and 30m segments was a big problem. Earlier, with one big target face, every time an arrow bounced or hung, we had to stop as all four archers shooting at it were affected.

"Now, with four smaller faces, even if someone has an issue, others don't get affected," said tournament director Rupesh Kar.

"Instead of three, they are shooting six arrows. This will make them keep track of time and help switching to recurve or compound."

Among 236 archers, Gusehaj Singh Sandhu (686) and 13-year-old Pratibha Kandara (661) topped in men's and women's sections respectively under the new format.

P. Heroba Singh, competing with Indian bows for two decades, found the format challenging. "The equation changes with six arrows. One must be mentally prepared," he said.

Manipur's archer-turned-coach Gitanjali Devi said, "Two 30m segments are better as arrows reach targets with good force and accuracy. It's ideal for beginners."

Recurve coach Sonam Thapa underlined the affordability of Indian bows, made of bamboo and wood in Manipur.

"Most archers come from middle-class or poor families. A bamboo bow, which costs ₹5,000-6,000 unlike imported ones, is good to develop basic technique," he said.

**BRAVE EFFORT**

## ‘I wanted to score regardless of copping a blow on my arm’



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

I don’t feel any pain in my hand any more. I cannot believe what I have witnessed. I still have goosebumps. Emotions are very high whenever it is India-Pakistan. I wanted to score today regardless of copping a blow on my arm. It was hurting, but I knew if I stayed in the middle, it would put pressure on Pakistan — Aaryavir Sehwag.

**CAPTAINSPEAK**

## ‘It was a roller-coaster ride... we believed in our lower-order’



X@BCCI

India skipper Lakshya Raichandani lauded the grit of the lower-order batters. “We believed in ourselves to chase this target. It was a roller-coaster ride. I always believed in the batting strength of our lower-order. We were playing with almost 11 batters. I thank the fans for their support and request them to keep supporting us”.

**BELIEF**

## I knew it was my day and I would take my team over the line: Mohit



ACC

I had belief in God in the last over. I believe myself to be an all-rounder. This tournament had not gone well for me. I knew it was my day and I’d take my team over the line. I needed Manal Chauhan’s support, which he provided. We were telling ourselves that if Pakistan can score this many, then we can too — Mohit Ulva.

**ONE STEP AT A TIME**

## I looked for a boundary every over: Manal on his modus operandi



X@BCCI

I want to thank the support staff for trusting me with the role of the finisher. I was told to enjoy out in the middle. I was breaking down the target and was looking for a boundary in each over because I knew I would be able to take my team close. I had tears in my eyes after I got out — Manal Chauhan.

# India roars back to win last-ball thriller, regains title

Manal and Mohit emerge as the unlikely batting heroes after Pakistan puts its rival in trouble at 252 for eight in pursuit of a daunting 338; Raichandani and Aaryavir, too, shine in the stunning chase

**U-19 ASIA CUP**

**Press Trust of India**
AL AMERAT

Lower-order batters Mohit Ulva and Manal Chauhan held their nerve in the crunch moments as India pulled off a stunning one-wicket win off the final ball against Pakistan to regain the under-19 Asia Cup crown here on Saturday.





**Red-letter day for Boys in Blue:** The India players are over the moon after Mohit, right, snatched victory from the jaws of defeat in a nerve-wracking summit clash on Saturday. X@BCCI

**Rising up**

India, chasing a massive 338, was in all sorts of trouble at 252 for eight in the 42nd over, but it found two unlikely batting heroes in Manal (47, 32b, 3x4, 3x6) and Mohit (49 n.o., 26b, 5x4, 3x6) to cross the line. Mohit fittingly smashed a boundary off the last ball, bowled by spinner Ahmed Hussain, to seal the match and title.

**Turning it around**

When Manal and Mohit joined forces, Pakistan had one hand on the trophy. But they faced a confident opponent and handled the pressure bravely during their 57-run stand for the ninth wicket. But there was another twist to the game when Manal departed with the Boys in Blue requiring a further 36 runs for victory.

Mohit, however, found another stouthearted ally in C. Venkata (11 n.o.), and India needed eight runs off the last over. The equation narrowed down to three runs off the last ball, in which Mohit smashed Hussain wide of long-off.

Prior to that, skipper Lakshya Raichandani (80, 101b, 5x4) and Aaryavir Sehwag (58, 61b, 9x4) kept India’s fight going, adding 95 runs for the opening wicket. Aaryavir’s departure and the back-to-back dismissals of Raichandani and Anvay Dravid pushed India into a tough spot before the team pulled off a Houdini act. Earlier, opener Usman Khan’s composed 107 (111b, 11x4, 3x6) guided Pakistan to 337 for nine.

Usman stitched a quick 62-run alliance with his opening partner Hayam Khan and it was just an appetiser. Usman, who reached his hundred off 106 balls, and No. 3 Abdul Qadir (80, 54b, 3x4, 8x6) smashed 135 runs as Pakistan got a serious middle-order move-on.

Skipper Farhan Yousaf made a 63-ball 60 (4x4, 3x6) to help Pakistan go past the 300-run mark.

Pacers Kavya Patel (four for 68) and Venkata (three for 40) picked up some late wickets, but by then Pakistan had already reached a big score.

**The scores:** Pakistan 337/9 in 50 overs (Usman Khan 107, Abdul Qadir 80, Farhan Yousaf 63, Kavya Patel 4/68, C. Venkata 3/40) lost to India 339/9 in 50 overs (Lakshya Raichandani 80, Aaryavir Sehwag 58, Manal Chauhan 47, Mohit Ulva 49 n.o., Rizwanullah 3/53).
**Toss:** Pakistan.
**PoM:** Mohit; **PoS:** Aaryavir.

# Gurnoor added to India’s Test squad; Kuldeep released

**CRICKET**

**Amol Karhadkar**
MUMBAI

Gurnoor Brar has been drafted into India’s Test squad for the New Zealand series while Kuldeep Yadav has been released to play domestic cricket, with the team management opting to bolster the pace attack.

Rishabh Pant, the enigmatic wicketkeeper-batter, has joined the squad after recovering from a back injury.

*The Hindu* understands that the decision to bring in the lanky fast bowler was influenced by the favourable conditions expected during the two-match series, which begins in Wellington on Thursday. Gurnoor has been impressive in the ongoing ODI rubber and is expected to provide another seam-bowling option.

The 26-year-old has been in New Zealand for well over three weeks. He had travelled as part of Test captain Shubman Gill’s personal bowling entourage before joining the ODI squad. Having spent considerable time acclimatising to the conditions, Gurnoor will now link up with the Test contingent and will not be available for Sunday’s fifth and final ODI. India has decided against naming a replacement for him.



Gurnoor.
FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Pant had hurt his back during the Irani Cup tie last month. The 29-year-old proved his fitness and obtained clearance after featuring in a two-day match simulation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru last week.

Kuldeep will return home after spending much of the tour on the sidelines. With the left-arm wrist-spinner unlikely to feature prominently in the team’s plans for the two Tests, the management and the selection committee felt that releasing him would allow him to get some much-needed game time.

# Batters need to fire as India targets series win

**INDIA IN NZ**

**Press Trust of India**
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

The Indian batters would be determined to put up a much improved performance against the seaming ball with the series at stake in the fifth and final ODI against New Zealand here on Sunday.

India leads 2-1 despite its second-heaviest loss by runs in ODIs in the fourth match here on Friday.

The Indian batters came a cropper in seaming conditions with Matt Henry effectively sealing the game for his team in his opening over by striking thrice. India was bowled out for 89 in 26.4 overs while chasing 334.

India needs to get better on pace-friendly surfaces as it could get similar conditions in the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa.

Considering the collective failure of the batting line-up, it would not be fair to single out an individual. Having said that, Rohit Sharma and Shreyas Iyer, who had a forgettable captaincy debut, are yet to make an impact.

While Henry squared Rohit up with a beauty, Sheyas was caught in the crease against a sharp incoming delivery on Friday.

For Rohit and Virat Kohli, the game presents a final opportunity to enthral the crowd on probably their last tour of New Zealand. Kohli, too, had no response to Henry’s magic in the last outing.

Stand-in captain Shreyas said conditions changed drastically in favour of the bowlers in the second innings.

New Zealand, on the other hand, finds itself in another must-win situation as it aims to level the series. Opener Tim Seifert may have resurrected his career with a fifty in the fourth ODI, while Young, who was dropped twice in the slip cordon, went on to make a fine hundred.

The Indian pacers will need to stop the openers from taking the game away from them in the first 10 overs.

The Black Caps have not lost a bilateral ODI series at home in seven years.

*Match starts at 7.30 a.m. IST.*



**Real struggle:** Rohit has looked out of sorts in the ODI series.
CREIMAS/BCCI

## Harshal set to move from SRH to GT in all-cash deal

**Amol Karhadkar**
MUMBAI

Two-time IPL Purple Cap winner Harshal Patel is set to join Gujarat Titans from Sunrisers Hyderabad in an all-cash trade ahead of the retention deadline on November 17.

*The Hindu* understands that the 35-year-old pacer, whose death bowling skills made him a sought-after commodity, will move to the Ahmedabad-based franchise for ₹4 crore – half the price SRH paid to acquire him at the IPL 2025 auction.

Harshal’s stint with SRH failed to take off as expected. After a below-par 2025 season, the franchise relied heavily on uncapped Indian pacers Sakib Hussain and Praful Hinge during IPL 2026, leaving the experienced campaigner with just five appearances.



Harshal. FILE PHOTO




**Marching ahead:** Svitolina overcame a mid-match blip. REUTERS

## Svitolina gets past Sabalenka to seal a semifinal spot

**WTA FINALS**

**Agence France-Presse**
LOS ANGELES

Ukrainian veteran Elina Svitolina beat World No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka in a rollercoaster three sets on Friday to punch her ticket to the WTA Finals last four, where she’ll face Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova.

Broken to start the third set, sixth-ranked Svitolina stormed home, winning six straight games to win 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

She claimed just her second career victory in eight meetings with the Belarusian star, whose first-serve struggles and 35 unforced errors proved too much to overcome.

The match concluded round-robin play in the elite season-ending event. Earlier Friday, French Open champion Mirra Andreeva capped an unbeaten run through the group stage with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Diana Shnaider.

Andreeva, already assured of a semi-final spot as a group winner, needed just 56 minutes to beat Shnaider, a late replacement for ailing Karolina Muchova. The 19-year-old Russian, ranked third in the world, next faces fifth-ranked American Jessica Pegula.

Katerina Siniakova clinched her record sixth year-end finish as the world’s top-ranked doubles player on the WTA Tour. She will have held the top spot for 209 weeks as of Monday, leaving her second all-time behind Martina Navratilova, who was No. 1 for 237 weeks.

## INBRIEF



### India holds off Bhutan to reach SAFF C'ship final

India survived a second-half fightback from Bhutan to register a 2-1 win in Dhaka on Saturday and enter the SAFF Championship final. P.V. Vishnu (ninth minute) and captain Chinglensana Singh (27th) scored before the interval, but Kinzang Tashi Tobden's (48th) goal early in the second period brought Bhutan back into the semifinal that India largely controlled. The Video Assistant Referee played a big role, overturning the offside decision against Bhutan's goal while cancelling a penalty awarded to India.

### Aguadze scores at both ends as Sethu FC edges Kickstart

Ghanaian forward Juanita Aguadze was the unlikely protagonist as Sethu FC began its Indian Women's League campaign with a 2-1 victory over Kickstart FC, Bengaluru, at Kalyani on Saturday. Aguadze scored twice for Sethu but also put through one in her own net. She opened the scoring in the 18th minute with a solo effort. However, the forward undid her good work when an attempted clearance off a corner resulted in a misdirected header into her own goal in the 30th minute. Sethu regained the lead midway in the second-half when Malavika P. was brought down inside the penalty area. Aguadze stepped up and confidently converted the spot-kick.

**The result:** Sethu FC 2 (Juanita Aguadze 18, 67-pen) bt Kickstart FC 1 (Juanita Aguadze 30-og).

### Salah nets a brace to become Egypt's all-time top-scorer

Mohamed Salah netted a brace as he became the leading all-time scorer for Egypt with 70 goals, achieving the feat in the 5-0 rout of Malawi in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier in Cairo on Friday. The 34-year-old overtook Hossam Hassan.

# TN holds its nerve to pip Railways

Shahrukh and Rajkumar's fireworks help the Sai Kishore-led side overcome a mid-innings wobble; Gurjapneet does the job at the death after Toufik and Zuber nearly pull off a comeback victory for the institutional team; Mayank's five-for the standout performance in the group

SMAT

**S. Prasanna Venkatesan**
INDORE

Shahrukh Khan (46 n.o., 30b, 5x4, 2x6) rediscovered his characteristic finishing touch to help Tamil Nadu fashion a six-run victory over Railways in a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Group B encounter at the Daly College ground here on Saturday.

Having been sent in, Tamil Nadu posted 172 for seven, recovering from a mid-innings wobble through a late assault by Shahrukh and R. Rajkumar (31, 13b, 1x4, 3x6), the duo adding 55 runs off 33 balls for the fifth wicket.

Opener Amith Sathvik set the tone with an enterprising 38 off 28 balls, striking seven fours. He added 65 runs with B. Sachin (33) for the second wicket. But Railways fought back, with leg-spinner Pradhyumn Parikh (two for 29) leading a disciplined bowling effort.

At 83 for three in 11.3 overs, Tamil Nadu needed a pick-me-up. Shahrukh obliged. He cut and lofted inside-out for fours against spin, and pulled a short ball from pacer Atal Bihari Rai over deep squareleg for six.

Facing the same bowler in the final over, he sat deep inside the crease to launch another six over cow corner before dispatching a full toss to deep midwicket for four.



**Breathing fire:** Mayank's pace proved too hot to handle for the J&K batters. R.V. MOORTHY

Rajkumar, as is typical of him, took the spinners downtown, smoking a straight six each off Pradhyumn and left-arm tweaker Mohammad Saif.

Railways stumbled early in the chase. Slinger Athisayaraj Davidson (three for 47), who returned to Tamil Nadu's T20 fold after eight years, made an immediate impression, removing both openers in his first over.

Railways slipped to 54 for four in the PowerPlay before Varun Chakaravarthy (two for 17), at his frugal best, struck twice off successive deliveries to leave it reeling at 69 for six. He bowled Saif and had Kritagya Singh edging one to Shahrukh at slip.

Toufik Mondal (57, 22b, 5x4, 5x6) and Zuber Ali (46), however, revived the contest with a 69-run seventh-wicket stand off just 31 balls. But Athisayaraj returned to break the partnership before Gurjapneet Singh held his nerve to defend 11 runs in the final over.

Group-B's standout performance came in the last match of the day. Mayank Yadav, playing for Delhi for the first time since 2023, marked his return with a terrific three-over spell of five for 14 as Delhi thrashed Jammu & Kashmir by 103 runs at the Holkar Stadium.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, at 15 years and 232 days, became the youngest captain in men's Twenty20 history when he led Bihar against Saurashtra on Saturday.

### SYED MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY — SATURDAY'S SCORES

**Elite: Group A: At Mumbai:** Baroda 148/6 in 20 overs (Shivalik Sharma 45, Krunal Pandya 40 n.o.) lost to Chandigarh 149/7 in 19.5 overs (Shivam Bhambri 45).
Mizoram 76 in 19.2 overs. (Pratyush Singh 3/13, Harsh Raj 3/16) lost to Jharkhand 81/4 in 8.3 overs (Utkarsh Singh 45).
U.P. 171/6 in 20 overs (Siddharth Yadav 37, Sameer Rizvi 74 n.o.) lost to Rajasthan 172/4 in 15.4 overs (Abhijeet Tomar 63, Rohan Rajbhar 48, Mahipal Lomror 33).
Karnataka 184 in 20 overs (Karun Nair 53, Pravin Dubey 30 n.o., Sayan Ghosh 4/28) bt Bengal 165/9 in 20 overs (Sudip Gharami 65, Shahbaz Ahmed 56, Abhilash Shetty 4/26, V. Vyshak 3/28).
**B: Indore:** Haryana 190/6 in 20 overs (Dinesh Bana 42, Rahul Tewatia 35 n.o.) lost to Punjab 193/6 in 19.1 overs (Vihaan Malhotra 86, Uday Saharan 42 n.o., Sumit Kumar 3/55).
Bihar 137/9 in 20 overs (Prithvi Raj 38, Chetan Sakariya 3/33, Prerak Mankad 3/20) lost to Saurashtra 138/5 in 16.3 overs (Harvansh Singh 33, Suraj Kashyap 3/39).
Tamil Nadu 172/7 in 20 overs (Amith Sathvik 38, B. Sachin 33, Shahrukh Khan 46 n.o., R. Rajkumar 31) bt Railways 166/9 in 20 overs (Zuber Ali 46, Toufik Mondal 57, Athisayaraj Davidson 3/47).
Delhi 243/6 in 20 overs (Priyansh Arya 58, Ayush Badoni 37, Tejasvi Dahiya 46, Himmat Singh 63 n.o.) bt J&K 140 in 19.2 overs (Yawer Hassan 70, Mayank Yadav 5/14).
**C: Chandigarh:** Pondicherry 204/9 in 20 overs (Bhanu Anand 46, Akash Pugazhanthi 42, S. Parameeshwaran 46) bt Maharashtra 189/5 in 20 overs (Prithvi Shaw 32, Arshin Kulkarni 33, Sahil Parakh 57, Rahul Tripathi 35 n.o., Badal Rawat 3/12).
Andhra 141/9 in 20 overs (Ashwin Hebbar 34, S.D.N.V. Prasad 50 n.o., Viki Saha 3/23) bt Tripura 98 in 17.2 overs (C.V. Stephen 3/29, K.V. Sasikanth 3/12).
Himachal Pradesh 176/6 in 20 overs (Mridul Surroch 52) bt Assam 119/6 in 15 overs (Saahil Jain 37 n.o.). **Note:** revised target: 136 in 15 overs.
Kerala 138/6 in 20 overs (Salman Nizar 69, Akhil Scaria 32, Tripuresh Singh 3/28) lost to Madhya Pradesh 142/5 in 18.4 overs (Akshat Raghuwanshi 45, Rajat Patidar 36 n.o.)
**D: Kolkata:** Hyderabad 172 in 20 overs (Abhirath Reddy 35, Maxwell Swaminathan 3/23) lost to Mumbai 174/3 in 13.1 overs (Musheer Khan 51, Suryakumar Yadav 60 n.o.).
Gujarat 250/9 in 20 overs (Urvil Patel 62, Harshal Patel 30, Khilan Patel 84, Lalit Yadav 3/36, Debabrata Pradhan 3/34) bt Odisha 229/8 in 20 overs (Kartik Biswal 55, Subhranshu Senapati 89, Arzan Nagwaswalla 4/50).
Goa 146/9 in 20 overs (Deepraj Gaonkar 39, Saurabh Dubey 4/30) lost to Vidarbha 150/3 in 17.3 overs (Atharva Taide 52, R. Samarth 53).
Uttarakhand 197/6 in 20 overs (Avneesh Sudha 48 n.o., J. Suchith 46) lost to Chhattisgarh 202/5 in 18.3 overs (Vikalp Tiwari 50, Ajay Mandal 66).
**Plate: Sovima:** Meghalaya 165/6 in 20 overs (Raj Biswa 32, Jiwanjot Singh 45) bt Nagaland 147/4 in 20 overs (Rongsen Jonathan 60 n.o., Chetan Bist 31).
Manipur 167/9 in 20 overs (Ulenyai Khwairakpam 72, L. Keishangbam 31, Yab Niya 3/35, Darge Bagra 3/21) bt Arunachal Pradesh 106/9 in 20 overs (Salil Malhotra 53, Kishan Singha 3/13, Mohammad Sultan 4/14).
Sikkim 167/7 in 20 overs (Parth Palawat 35, Gurinder Singh 42, Satyajit Bachhav 34) lost to Services 168/4 in 18.4 overs (Kunwar Pathak 38, Suraj Vashisht 67, Leeyong Lepcha 3/30).

## Espionage may score an encore

HYDERABAD: The five-year-old gelding Espionage, who won well in his last start, may score an encore in the Ghulam Ahmed Memorial Trophy, the main event of Sunday's (November 15) races here.

**1. DONEGAL PLATE** (1,600m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 12.50 p.m.: 1. Zorba (8) P. Ajeeth K 61, 2. Rajendra (2) H.M. Akshay 58.5, 3. American Affair (3) V.S. Shekhawat 58, 4. Classy Touch (7) Mukesh K 57.5, 5. Lion's Pride (4) A.A. Vikrant 57.5, 6. Real Thalaivaa (1) Rafique Sk. 55, 7. Photograph (5) G. Naresh 53 and 8. Ruby Tuesday (6) Arjun 50.5.
**1. RAJENDRA, 2. ZORBA, 3. LION'S PRIDE**
**2. ELUSIVE HERO PLATE** (Div. II) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) (no whips), 1.30: 1. Ek (1) Swarup S 60, 2. Diligence (8) Gaurav 58.5, 3. Tootsie Darling (6) V.S. Shekhawat 57.5, 4. Double Bubble (7) Surendra S 57, 5. Surrealist (4) P. Sai K 56.5, 6. Feel The Magic (9) D.S. Deora 56, 7. Power Of The Sea (3) Mukesh K 54.5, 8. Red Hot Punch (10) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 9. Rival (2) Ajay K 53.5, and 10. Crimson Flame (5) Surya Prakash 53.
**1. SURREALIST, 2. DOUBLE BUBBLE, 3. EK**
**3. GHULAM AHMED MEMORIAL TROPHY** (1,200m) (Terms), 4-y-o and upward (Cat. I), 2.10: 1. Espionage (8) Mukesh K 60, 2. Diablo (2) Kuldeep Sr. 54, 3. Get Lucky (5) Md. Ekram 54, 4. Black Onyx (7) D.S. Deora 52, 5. Uchchaihshravas (3) Santosh Raj 52, 6. Ashwa Simran (6) Rafique Sk. 50.5, 7. Lashka (4) P. Ajeeth K 50.5 and 8. Mikimoto (1) Afroz K 50.5.
**1. ESPIONAGE, 2. BLACK ONYX, 3. LASHKA**
**4. TELANGANA TROPHY** (Div. II) (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 2.50: 1. Annhilator (7) Mukesh K 60, 2. Krystallos (2) P. Sai K 58, 3. Secret Saint (3) R.N. Darshan 57.5, 4. Victoria Doresaani (8) H.M. Akshay 57.5, 5. Silver Act (6) D.S. Deora 56, 6. Wolf Creek (5) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 7. Tiger Ruby (9) Kuldeep Jr. 53.5, 8. Born Brave (4) Afroz K 53 and 9. Leather Back (1) Rafique Sk. 50.
**1. ANNHILATOR, 2. WOLF CREEK, 3. KRYSTALLOS**
**5. TELANGANA TROPHY** (Div. I) (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 3.30: 1. Vivaldo (3) Ashad Asbar 60.5, 2. Sugar (1) Md. Ekram 58.5, 3. Darling's Boy (9) Sonu K 57, 4. Decoy (8) Mukesh K 57, 5. Gloria (2) P. Ajeeth K 56.5, 6. Bashir (7) R.N. Darshan 54, 7. Noble Heart (6) Afroz K 53.5, 8. Lucky Zone (4) Kuldeep Jr. 53 and 9. Dapper Look (5) Abhay S 52.5.
**1. DARLING'S BOY, 2. DECOY, 3. GLORIA**
**6. ELUSIVE HERO PLATE** (Div. I) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) (no whips), 4.10: 1. Mystical Dawn (1) P. Ajeeth K 60, 2. Stars Envied (2) G. Naresh 58.5, 3. Armstrong (7) A.A. Vikrant 57, 4. Dontblockmyway (8) Surendra S 56.5, 5. Equine Power (4) P. Sai K 56.5, 6. Calabasas (10) Arjun 56, 7. Mix The Magic (5) Mukesh K 54.5, 8. Dashing Charm (6) Kuldeep Jr. 54, 9. Catchme If You Can (9) D.S. Deora 52.5 and 10. Sangreal (3) Ajay K 52.
**1. STARS ENVIED, 2. EQUINE POWER, 3. MIX THE MAGIC**
**7. SRISAILAM PLATE** (Div. I) (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.50: 1. Modin (10) P. Ajeeth K 60, 2. Her Ladyship (12) Mukesh K 59, 3. Farsiris (1) Sonu K 57, 4. Knotty Circuit (8) Ashad Asbar 56.5, 5. Queen Eternal (9) B.R. Kumar 55.5, 6. Marissa (2) Surya Prakash 55, 7. Bella's Touch (6) Santosh Raj 54, 8. Hoping Star (7) Mohit S 53.5, 9. Divine Ascend (3) D.S. Deora 52.5, 10. Stronghold (4) Afroz K 52.5, 11. Cherish The Lady (5) Ajay K 51.5 and 12. Fighter Wings (11) Md. Ekram 51.
**1. FARSIRIS, 2. HER LADYSHIP, 3. MODIN**
Day's Best: **DARLING'S BOY**
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7. Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 5, 6 & 7.
Tanala: All races.

### LIVE TELECAST

**New Zealand vs. India**: Fifth ODI, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 7.30 a.m.
**Australia vs. England:** Second ODI, FanCode, 9 a.m.
**Afghanistan vs. Zimbabwe:** Second Test, Day 3, FanCode, 11.30 a.m.
**South Africa vs. Bangladesh:** First Test, Day 1, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.
**Football:** Nations League, Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 5 & LIV, 1.15 a.m. (Monday)



**In full flow:** Lakshya continued his recent good form this season. BADMINTON PHOTO

## Lakshya beats Farhan, storms into the final

BADMINTON

**Press Trust of India**
KUMAMOTO

India's Lakshya Sen stormed into his second consecutive men's singles final with a stunning three-game win over World No. 10 Alwi Farhan of Indonesia at the Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 badminton tournament here on Saturday.

World No. 13 Lakshya, who won the Hylo Open title, brightened his chances of qualifying for the BWF World Tour Finals in Hangzhou, after reaching the final with a 21-12 15-21 21-11 win over sixth seed Farhan.

Eighth seed Lakshya, who is currently 12th in the BWF World Tour rankings with 64,980 points, needs to break into the top eight to qualify for the season-ending event.

A title win at the Super 500 event will earn Lakshya 9,200 points, while a runner-up finish will fetch him 7,800 points. Either result should take him into the top eight of the BWF World Tour rankings. However, with the Hong Kong Open Super 500 and Syed Modi International Super 300 events left, there could be some changes to the standings.

Lakshya had lost both his previous meetings with Farhan without managing to take a single game off the Indonesian. But he turned the tables on Saturday.

"It feels very good to play here. I was looking to better the result from last time and happy with the way I played today and now it's time to recover again and get ready for a very tough match," Lakshya said.

Farhan prefers a high-tempo, aggressive style rather than grinding through extended rallies, and Lakshya had the right strategy to counter him. The Indian focused on constructing rallies patiently and waiting for the right opportunity to attack.

Lakshya opened up a 5-1 lead with precise returns and by targeting Farhan's forehand. "It was important that I kept the lead in the third game from the beginning and once it was 11-6, the next three points were very important after changing sides".

## Warner hits out at CA, accuses it of cover-up

SANDPAPERGATE

**Agence France-Presse**
SYDNEY

David Warner blasted Cricket Australia's handling of the 2018 ball-tampering scandal as "a cover-up" on Saturday, escalating a row that has torn apart the sport.

Former opener Warner, who was banned for a year over his part in the Sandpapergate incident in Cape Town, lashed out at what he claimed was "a shoddy investigation".

"As far as I am aware, CA did not interview Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc or Nathan Lyon in their 2018 investigation," he said on Instagram.

"If that's correct then how can CA push the idea that the bowlers didn't know? "It looks like they had decided who they wanted to blame from the very beginning, ran a shoddy investigation to serve the purpose and now they want to maintain the false narrative that the bowlers had no idea.

"That stinks of a cover-up," added the 40-year-old.



Warner. AFP

## Germany, Netherlands notch up victories

NATIONS LEAGUE

**Agence France-Presse**
BELGRADE

Germany cruised to a 3-1 win over Serbia in the Nations League on Friday, setting up a crunch clash with the Netherlands in Berlin on Monday.

The Netherlands' 7-0 annihilation of Greece in Amsterdam means the Germans will likely need to win on Monday to reach the quarterfinals, unless Serbia beats the Greeks.

Serbia is guaranteed to finish bottom of the group after a fifth loss in a row.

**The results: Group A2:** Serbia 1 (Babic 56) lost to Germany 3 (Babic 3-og, Wirtz 14, Gruda 50); Netherlands 7 (Summerville 6, Reijnders 12, 18, 33, J. Timber 40, 59, Malen 61) bt Greece 0; **B1:** Scotland 2 (McGinn 54, 74-pen) bt North Macedonia 1 (Rastoder 57); Slovenia 0 drew with Switzerland 0; **C3:** Moldova 2 (Popescu 39, 77) bt Kazakhstan 1 (Chesnokov 51); Slovakia 2 (Prekop 17, Haraslin 74) drew with Faroe Islands 2 (Davidsen 30-pen, Samuelsen 47); **C4:** Luxembourg 0 lost to Estonia 1 (Paskotsi 42); Bulgaria 0 lost to Iceland 5 (Gudjohnsen 17-pen, 68, 79, Oskarsson 21, Tsenov 52-og); **D1:** Andorra 2 (Lopez 24, Rosas 35) bt Gibraltar 0; **D2:** Liechtenstein 0 lost to Azerbaijan 1 (Emreli 26).



Reijnders. GETTY IMAGES

## SNAPSHOTS

### Hamza, Paterson recalled for first Test against Bangladesh

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa has recalled Zubayr Hamza to fill its troublesome No. 3 role and added veteran bowler Dane Paterson to the team that was named to take on Bangladesh in the first Test at the Wanderers on Sunday.
Meanwhile, Temba Bavuma is set to extend one of Test cricket's most remarkable records when he captains the South African side in the first of two matches against Bangladesh. With 13 wins in his first 15 Tests as captain, Bavuma has had more success than anyone in the history of the game at an equivalent stage of their captaincy.
**The squad:** Temba Bavuma (Capt.), Aiden Markram, Marques Ackerman, Zubayr Hamza, Matthew Breetzke, Ryan Rickelton (wk), Wiaan Mulder, Marco Jansen, Simon Harmer, Dane Paterson and Kagiso Rabada.

### India blanks Guam

KUALA LUMPUR: Raj Singh Wahengbam and Dallalmuon Gangte scored a hat-trick each as India trounced Guam 12-0 in a group match of the AFC under-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers to notch up its second win of the tournament on Saturday.
**The result:** India 12 (Thongbam 5, Gangte 13, 27, 32, Hrishikesh 20, Irom 53, Wahengbam 55, 73, 83, 84, Saikhom 56, Ristik 87) bt Guam 0.

### Chawla and Shrikrishna book spots in the final stage

INDORE: Kamal Chawla outplayed Laxman Rawat 63-15, 29-69, 133-0, 65-64, 108-0 to book a spot in the final stage of the IBSF World snooker championships at the Yeshwant Club in Indore.
Kreishh Gurbaxani, S. Shrikrishna, Piyush Kushwaha, Ranveer Duggal and Digvijay Kadian were other Indians to advance to the final stage.
**Other important results (Indians unless mentioned):**
**Stage 1:** Piyush Kushwaha bt Anuraag Giri 81-48, 69-15, 34-65, 46-60, 87-35, 55-63, 68-43; Kreishh Gurbaxani bt Rayaan Razmi 20-65, 52-57, 90-2, 77-53, 65-57, 79-46; S. Shrikrishna bt Pushpender Singh 43-69, 67-32, 81-16, 108-0, 136-0; Ranveer Duggal bt Dhruv Patel 72-9, 54-39, 78-35, 71-18; Digvijay Kadian bt Thaha Irshath (SL) 62-74, 17-70, 64-23, 77-25, 14-71, 88-1, 69-22.

### Mumbai City names British-Indian Ashvir as head coach

MUMBAI: Indian Super League club Mumbai City FC on Saturday appointed British-Indian Ashvir Singh Johal as the head coach for the remainder of the 2026-27 season. Ashvir, born in Leicester, will succeed Manolo Marquez, who parted ways with the club last week.

### Goalkeeper Owono suspended for 12 matches

BARCELONA: FC Andorra goalkeeper Jesus Owono was suspended for 12 matches by the Spanish federation's disciplinary committee on Friday after his challenge on Jesus de Miguel resulted in the death of the Tenerife striker last week.



**A touch of tradition:** A man gets a sacred symbol on his forehead at a *tika* ceremony at Rani Pokhari in Kathmandu on Bhaitika or Bhai Tihar.



**Bonds beyond blood:** The annual collective bhaitika ceremony offers those without siblings an opportunity to receive the seven-coloured *tika* and flower garlands.



**Applause for paws:** The Nepal Army honours its trained K9 (canine) unit on Kukur Tihar. It also showcases the dogs' skills on the day.



**Festive glow:** Basantapur Durbar Square in Kathmandu illuminated with lights on Bhai Tihar.

# A festival of lights, love and all life

Nepal gives Tihar a distinctive twist, honouring animals and cherishing familial ties, making Deepavali a festival that is one of inclusive celebration



Prabhat Khanal

For five days of Deepavali, Nepal comes alive with grand festivities celebrated with vigour. The festival of lights, or Tihar as it is known in Nepal, is that time of the year when community bonds are renewed and people pause to bow before and pay their respects to all that sustains them.

Along with Indian customs, such as illuminating homes and decorating them with garlands of flowers, the small Himalayan nation also has some interesting celebrations that make the festival particularly special.

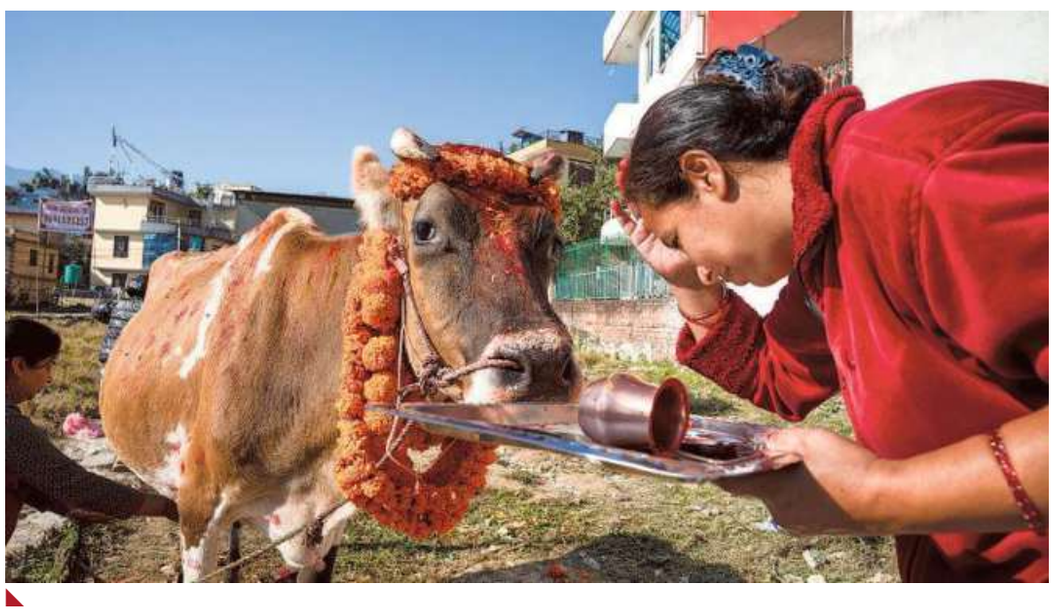
Some of these age-old traditions include the worship of animals closely associated with humans, application of a seven-coloured *tika*, and the 'Deusi-Bhailo' tradition, which involves singing and dancing from house to house.

The first day of festivities, Kaag Tihar, is dedicated to crows. These common visitors are regarded as messengers and associated with Yamaraj, the god of death. People offer food to crows, believing that pleasing the birds brings good fortune.

The second day, Kukur Tihar, is for dogs, recognising these faithful friends' loyalty, companionship and protective role in human lives. The canines are adorned with flower garlands and *tika*, and offered special food. The third day, Gai Tihar, is dedicated to honouring cows and performing a Lakshmi puja. Goddess Lakshmi, revered as the deity of wealth and prosperity, is welcomed into homes illuminated with oil lamps and decorated with flowers and lights. Cows are honoured as manifestations of the goddess and as *Gau-mata* (mother).

The fourth day, known as Goru Tihar or Hal Tihar, is marked by Govardhan puja. This one is for the oxen that pull the plough and help farmers grow crops.

On the final day, Bhai Tihar (Bhaitika), the spotlight shifts to siblinghood. Sisters pamper brothers with their favourite treats and sweets, while brothers return the love with gifts such as clothes or money. On the occasion, blessings are exchanged, celebrating love, laughter and enduring bonds.



**Seeking bovine blessings:** A cow is honoured during Gai Tihar, the third day of the festival, in Kathmandu.



**Harvest hues:** Farmers gather marigolds from a field in Kathmandu. The blooms are woven into garlands for Tihar rituals.



**Vibrant strings:** Vendors make and sell garlands of marigolds and globe amaranths outside the historic Kasthamandap Temple.



**A place for all:** Women apply *tikas* and adorn men with globe amaranth garlands during a collective Bhaitika ceremony in Kathmandu.



**Rhythm and revelry:** Young people perform Deusi-Bhailo, the traditional song-and-dance ritual of Tihar, at Basantapur Durbar Square.



**City of lights:** Swayambhunath Temple, a heritage site, and the rest of the Kathmandu Valley is illuminated for Lakshmi puja.