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IN BRIEF



3-year-old, father of two killed in building collapse

NEW DELHI
A three-year-old boy and a 32-year-old father of two were killed and five others injured after a nearly 50-year-old two-storey building collapsed in east Delhi's Jwala Nagar on Tuesday morning, the police said. » Page 2

Prince William: Gen Z torchbearer for global change

MUMBAI
Young people from around the world are not waiting for someone else to find the solution, they are the torchbearers of the global movement for change, Britain's Prince William said in Mumbai on Tuesday. » Page 14

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 19

World needs peace and predictability, says Modi

Quad leaders issue joint statement opposing economic, maritime 'coercion' in Indo-Pacific; Modi proposes seafarers' safety initiative at East Asia Summit, and attends meeting with ASEAN leaders

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called for "peace, stability, and predictability" in the world as he attended three back-to-back summits, including the Quad Leaders' Summit, in Manila, the Philippines. He made a number of proposals aimed at maritime security, protecting critical minerals supply chains, and enhancing trade.

The Quad meet, which was being held for the first time in a non-member country, was hosted by U.S. President Donald Trump and was attended by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, apart from Mr. Modi. The leaders issued a joint statement opposing economic and maritime "coercion" in the Indo-Pacific, and Mr. Modi announced that India would host the first Quad Business Forum in Mumbai in 2027.



Strategic group: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with leaders of other Quad nations in Manila, the Philippines, on Tuesday. REUTERS

The events started with Mr. Modi's meeting with the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for the ASEAN-India Summit, where he said the world now needed peace, stability, and predictability more than ever. "Together, India and ASEAN represent nearly one-fourth of the world's population. That is why it is essential to ensure that our future is shaped not by competition, but by cooperation," Mr. Modi told ASEAN leaders. He also promised that India would give e-visas free of charge to ASEAN tourists. Myanmar's junta leader, President Min Aung Laing, was not invited, and the country was represented by an official.

Following this, Mr. Modi took part in the East Asia Summit, attended by the leaders of India, China, Russia, the U.S., Japan, South Korea, and the ASEAN countries, and proposed a seafarers' safety initiative. He said that "whether it is the conflict in Ukraine or West Asia, India will continue to support every effort towards peace".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

U.S. blocks remote access to AI chips; China slams restrictions

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

The United States has announced new regulations aimed at curbing Chinese firms' remote access to advanced AI chips through data centres in third-party countries, coming amid the scandal surrounding chipmaker Nvidia. Beijing on Tuesday slammed the new restrictions, accusing Washington of "abusing export control measures".

Nvidia's provision of chips to companies running data centres in Southeast Asia has come under the spotlight amid questions surrounding founder Jensen Huang's relationship with Alice Huang, the CEO of one such Singapore-based company, Megaspeed. With Nvidia barred from selling its most advanced chips in China, many Chinese companies instead sought access to its technology through data centres in countries such as Malaysia.

Tech tussle

Nvidia's provision of chips to Southeast Asian firms is under the spotlight over a scandal involving its founder Jensen Huang

- The new U.S. rule imposes an additional license on 5 countries presenting a 'higher-than-normal risk of diversion'
- U.S. says curbs designed to ensure that restrictions on access to sensitive technology cannot be circumvented through remote arrangements



- China calls it yet another case of the U.S. 'overstretching the concept of national security' to 'go after' its high-tech industry

The U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) announced an interim final rule (IFR) "to address remote access" to advanced AI chips and servers, saying it was "designed to ensure that existing restrictions on access to sensitive American technology cannot be circumvented through remote computing arrangements involving data centres in third countries."

The rule states that in addition to the current licence requirements for advanced semiconductors, a licence will be required "to export, re-export, or transfer (in-country) advanced semiconductors to Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, or Brazil", which it named as "countries which present a higher-than-normal risk of diversion."

The new rule was announced days before U.S. President Donald Trump's arrival in Shenzhen for the APEC Summit.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Nearly 75 lakh names added in draft SSR rolls in 13 States, U.T.s; Goa sees sharpest increase

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Months after final voter lists were published following the contentious special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, nearly 75 lakh more names have been added in draft voter lists published in 13 States and Union Territories via a special summary revision (SSR) process.

The combined size of the electorate in these States before the SIR was 49.61 crore, which shrunk to 45.22 crore after the SIR and has now increased to 45.96 crore in the draft SSR list. This means there has been a cumulative increase of 1.64%.

Uttar Pradesh, which published its draft SSR list on Tuesday, saw 18.84 lakh names being added to its voter lists, the largest in absolute numbers so far. Goa saw the highest rate of additions, at 3.01%.

Bihar, which was the first State to undergo the SIR process in 2025 saw 13.89 lakh names being added to the final post-SIR list. Rajasthan saw more than 11.48 lakh voters being added to the final SIR voter list, followed by Uttarakhand (1.19 lakh), Madhya Pradesh (8.9 lakh), and Tamil Nadu (10.39 lakh).

The SSR, on hold since the SIR process began last year, was first announced in 17 States and Union Territories, including poll-bound Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab, on October 15. On November 5, it was expanded to six more States where the SIR process is over, and on November 16, it was announced that the SSR would also be conducted in Karnataka and Meghalaya. Of these, the draft SSR rolls have been published for 15 States and Union Territories. The data for Punjab and Gujarat, however, was not available.

Changing rolls

The combined electorate in the **13** States and U.T.s where draft SSR rolls have been published as of Tuesday saw a cumulative increase of **1.64%**

Voters in the 13 States/U.T.s

- Before SIR: **49.61** crore
- After SIR: **45.22** crore
- Draft SSR: **45.96** crore
- Largest additions in absolute numbers: Uttar Pradesh (**18.84** lakh)



Delayed process

The SSR, an annual exercise, usually seeks to enrol eligible voters, particularly young and first-time electors, and facilitate advance applications from those who will become eligible on April 1, July 1, and October 1, 2027.

However, it had not been carried out after the SIR was launched last year, an anomaly that was recently highlighted by Election Commissioners S.S. Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12
SIR HEARING » PAGE 13



CAPTAIN COOL hangs up his Yellows

The legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who has been synonymous with the IPL since its inception, has decided to retire as an active Chennai Super Kings player and will act as a **mentor for the joint-most successful franchise**

CAREER

IPL career span	First IPL appearance	Last IPL appearance
2008-2026	April 19, 2008	May 25, 2025

Inns	N.O.	Runs	HS	Avg	SR	50s	4s	6s
215	91	4,865	84*	39.23	139.11	22	342	234

Matches **248**

Titles **5** (2010, 2011, 2018, 2021, 2023)

176 DISMISSALS
Dhoni with **136 catches and 40** stumpings is the most successful wicket-keeper in the league

CAPTAINCY

Matches	Won	Lost	No result
221	131	88	2

- Dhoni also led CSK to two Champions League titles in 2010 and 2014

Runner-up: 2008, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2019

"Dhoni will always be a part of our identity. This will always be his home
– N. SRINIVASAN, OWNER, CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Note: The statistics pertain to his career as a Chennai Super Kings player. His IPL career also included two seasons with Rising Pune Supergiant (2016 and 2017).

SOURCE: IPL, CRICINFO

REPORT: PAGE 17



'SHOCKING ORDER'

Bilkis to fight SC bail to gang-rape convicts

NEWS » PAGE 13



REPEATED VIOLATIONS

Iran targets Bahrain in third strike in five days

WORLD » PAGE 16

Body of Kulgam 'terrorist' retrieved amid prolonged operation

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

A local accomplice of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Lateef Bhat was found dead in Kulgam, officials said on Tuesday as the south Kashmir district witnessed anti-terror operations for the seventh day with frisking of local people, searches of houses, and the combing operations of orchards, especially the encounter site at the Laroo Bypass area, continued.

Meanwhile, several Jammu and Kashmir parties, including the ruling National Conference (NC), questioned the prolonged operation in civilian areas.

Security forces, while resuming the operations in the morning, sealed all the exit and entry points surrounding the encounter site to ensure that 22-year-old Bhat, who was believed to have been trapped at the encounter site, is tracked down. Officials said there was no exchange of fire reported on Tuesday at the encounter site till late afternoon.

Meanwhile, officials identified the slain "terrorist" as Umar Nisar Dar, a baker by profession, from Kulgam. Security agencies suspect that Dar, who was not a listed terrorist, could have joined Bhat on November 11 to attack a checkpoint established by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Akhran area, which left three jawans injured.

Security agencies released CCTV footage, which suggested Dar and Bhat were together on November 10 and 11 surveying multiple locations, including Mir Bazar, Akhran, Hablish, and Kilam areas, as "potential targets".



Routine search: A security official frisks a civilian during anti-terror operation in Kulgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on Tuesday. PTI

Security agencies suspect that Dar was part of the Akhran attack in Kulgam and was trapped on Monday at the encounter site in Laroo area. Officials said Dar's family had also lodged a missing report at the Police Station Kulgam.

Meanwhile, NC spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said, "The situation in Kulgam is concerning following the Akhran attack. While security agencies have every right to conduct checks, keeping entire villages, including the elderly, under prolonged restrictions for days is avoidable as it causes unnecessary hardship."

'Collective punishment'

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti said, "Akhran Nowpora in Kulgam has virtually been turned into a cantonment following the attack on CRPF personnel a few days ago. The reports emerging from the area are extremely distressing. Punishing an entire population for the actions of unidentified militants and possible security lapses is deeply unjust and unacceptable. Collective punishment only breeds alienation and resentment. Innocent people must not be made to suffer."

Communist Party of India (Marxist) legislator M.Y. Tarigami said, "Following the unfortunate attack on CRPF personnel in Akhran, security forces have imposed stringent restrictions in several villages, leaving elderly people, children and women confined to their homes for prolonged periods amid the biting cold.

Mr. Tarigami said the security forces could take strict action against those involved in the attack.

"However, subjecting ordinary civilians to prolonged restrictions and hardship is neither fair nor acceptable. The innocent population should not have to bear the brunt of an incident they had no role in," said Mr. Tarigami.

Govt. to open ex-CM's official bungalow for public viewing

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh on Tuesday said the government bungalow at 6, Flagstaff Road, where Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal stayed during his tenure as Delhi Chief Minister from 2015 until he vacated it in October 2024, would be opened to the public next week "to show visitors its interiors and extravagant features".

"Visitors will be able to see the smart lights, expensive curtains and Vietnamese marble used in the bungalow. Details regarding the arrangements, including how to book tickets and make reservations, will be shared soon," Mr. Singh said.

Ahead of the 2025 Delhi Assembly election, the Bharatiya Janata Party had dubbed the bungalow "Sheesh Mahal", alleging that Mr. Kejriwal demolished four government properties to build a 40,000-square-yard mansion. The alleged irregularities are currently being investigated by Central agencies. AAP has denied the allegations.

'Ploy to divert attention'

Responding to the announcement, AAP Delhi president Saurabh Bharadwaj accused the PWD Minister of trying to divert attention from the "embarrassment" the Minister faced over his claim that 60% of the Yamuna had been cleaned ahead of Chhath Puja.

3-year-old, father of two killed in east Delhi building collapse

Third such mishap in the city this month; building owner arrested, FIR lodged; structure built on encroached Railways land, proximity to tracks may have aided collapse, notes MCD report

Lavpreet Kaur
NEW DELHI



The two-storey structure in Jwala Nagar gave way at once leaving those inside with little time to escape, said a senior fire dept. officer who oversaw the rescue and clearance operations. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



Two persons, including a three-year-old boy, were killed and five others injured after a nearly 50-year-old two-storey building collapsed in east Delhi's Jwala Nagar on Tuesday morning, the police said.

DCP (Shahdara) R.P. Meena said the property owner, Surendar Singh, was arrested while attempting to flee and an FIR has been registered against him under BNS Sections 106(1) (causing death by negligence), 125(A) (endangering safety) and 223 (disobedience to a public servant's order).

This is the third such mishap in the city in November, following the incidents in Paharganj, where a slab at an under-construction hotel caved in on November 15 injuring eight workers, and in Chawri Bazar, where a three-storey building collapsed on November 5, claiming seven lives and injuring several others. "A *gajak* (sweet dish) factory operated on the ground floor, where five persons worked and lived, while four families occupied rooms on the upper floor. A distress call was received at the Vivek Vihar police station, following which police personnel rushed to the spot and initiated rescue operations," said an officer.

The deceased were identified as Pintu, 32, and Devansh. The injured were identified as Devansh's mother Khushbu, 30, Vikesh, 30, Akash, 27, Dalip, 26, and Aman, 32.

All seven were taken to Dr. Hedgewar Aarogya Sansthan, where Devansh and Pintu were declared dead on arrival.

According to a Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) incident report, the structure was built on land belonging to the Ministry of Railways in the Mukesh Nagar-Jwala Nagar area on a plot of nearly 20 square yards. The report flagged the building's proximity to the railway line as a possible contributing factor.

The report noted that the structure stood approximately 24 metres from the railway track, and that "vibrations caused by the movement of trains could also have contributed to the collapse".

Nearby residents said they had repeatedly raised concerns about the building's deteriorating condition and alleged that the owner had not undertaken the necessary repairs.

'Weak structure'

Delhi Fire Services Additional Divisional Officer Deepak Hooda, who oversaw the rescue and clearance operations, said the building appeared structurally weak and collapsed almost entirely at once.

"The structure gave way at once leaving the people inside with little time to get out," he said.

Mr. Hooda added that the *gajak* furnace was still hot when the rescue teams reached the site. The rescue and debris-clearance exercise continued for nearly six hours, until 4 p.m., said the officer.

'I wish he wasn't home': father learns of son's death at hospital; says owner ignored repair pleas

Lavpreet Kaur
NEW DELHI



Kanhaiya (second from left) was at his daughter's bedside when he learnt about the death of his three-year-old son. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Kanhaiya was at Dr. Hedgewar Aarogya Sansthan in Shahdara, by the bedside of his eight-year-old daughter, Kaira, who was being treated for an injury, when the building in which they lived collapsed in Jwala Nagar on Tuesday.

His wife, Khushbu, and their three-year-old son, Devansh, were trapped under the debris. Hours later, they were brought to the same hospital, where Mr. Kanhaiya found out about Devansh's death.

"My elder daughter fell from the roof while playing on Deepavali and was admitted to the hospital. Since my wife and I were taking turns staying with her, we sent our younger daughter, Trishi, 7, and Devansh to my sister's house in Mayur Vihar," Mr. Kanhaiya told *The Hindu*.

Devansh had returned home on November 11, after spending a few days with his aunt, while Trishi stayed back.

Mr. Kanhaiya's sister, Aarti, said the family had initially decided to keep both children with her while their parents attended to Kaira. "Who would have thought that was our last meeting? Had he stayed back, he might have been saved," she said.

Though the family's roots are in Gaya, Bihar, Mr. Kanhaiya was born and brought up in the same house that collapsed on Tuesday. His family had lived there as tenants for nearly four decades, paying a monthly rent of ₹4,000 for one of the four rooms on the upper floor, which he shared with his wife and children. His younger brother and sister-in-law occupied another room. The remaining rooms were rented out to other families whose members had gone to their native villages.

Of his immediate family, only Ms. Khushbu and Devansh were at home at the time of the collapse.

The other victim was Pintu, 32, a worker at the *gajak* factory operating from the ground floor of the building. Residents said Pintu was a native of Agra and was married with two children.

'Roof leaked regularly'

Mr. Kanhaiya and his family alleged that they had repeatedly raised concerns about the building's condition and asked its owner to undertake repairs, but their pleas went unheeded. "The roof used to leak frequently. I had applied several layers of cement to stop the seepage. We repeatedly told the owner about the leaking roof and the cracks in the house, but he never listened," Mr. Kanhaiya said.

Ms. Aarti said the building would also shake whenever trains passed on the nearby railway tracks. Mr. Kanhaiya's younger brother, too, said repeated requests to the owner to carry out repairs had gone unanswered.

She said the family continued to rent the room partly because Mr. Kanhaiya works at a tailoring unit just behind the building.

"He [Mr. Kanhaiya] is familiar with the area. We knew a disaster was waiting to happen, but the owner never listened," Ms. Aarti said. "We want justice. The owner should be punished," she added.

Residents recalled hearing a loud sound before rushing towards the building, only to find a heap of debris where the structure had stood. "I heard a loud sound and came rushing towards the house. We tried looking for people, but no one was visible. All we could see was debris," a neighbour said.

No Eligible Voter to be Left Out of the Electoral Roll

Special Intensive Revision, Delhi 2026

Your name missing from the Draft Electoral Roll?

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DELHI SIR 2026

If you were marked Absent, Shifted, Dead or Duplicate (ASDD), you can still get your name included in the Final Electoral Roll.

1 Check the list

The ASDD list is displayed afresh at ERO/AERO offices, polling stations, and on the CEO, Delhi website (www.ceodelhi.gov.in).

2 Get your form

Your BLO will deliver your Enumeration Form either physically or by WhatsApp/SMS/email. You can also fill in Enumeration Form through the Election Commission of India's website (voters.eci.gov.in) or ECINET app by entering the same EPIC No. that existed before your name was deleted.

3 Submit to your ERO / AERO / BLO

AT SAME ADDRESS	SHIFTED WITHIN DELHI	ALREADY SUBMITTED FORM-6
Enumeration Form + Annexure-B Mention reason why you couldn't submit the enumeration form earlier. Submit it yourself, through a family member, or online on ECINET with e-sign.	Enumeration Form + Annexure-C Submit it to the ERO / AERO of the Assembly Constituency where you have shifted. No Form-8 needed.	No need to apply again. Your Form-6 submitted during SIR will be processed.

Same EPIC number that was assigned to you prior to SIR shall be re-assigned once your enumeration form is accepted.

Homeless? The BLO's field verification will be accepted as residence proof.

Note:- Enumeration Form Distribution and Collection: 18 November 2026 to 30 November 2026.

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NOTICE FOR SPOT COUNSELING (OFFLINE) FOR ADMISSION IN 2026-27

Spot Counseling (Offline) for admission in remaining vacant seats (free and payment) 2026-27 will be held as under:

Degree/Diploma Programme	Date	Qualifying examinations	Venue	Time
B.V.Sc. & A.H. ($5^{1/2}$ years), (2^{nd} round)	26.11.2026	NEET (UG) 2026	Auditorium, Veterinary College,South Civil Lines, Jabalpur (M.P.)	09.30 a.m.
B.F.Sc. (4 years), (2^{nd} round)	26.11.2026	NEET (UG) 2026/CUET 2026		
Animal Husbandry Diploma (Self Finance/Private)	27.11.2026	ADDET 2026		
Dairy Technology Diploma (Private)	27.11.2026	ADDET 2026		

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PUBLIC NOTICE



Be it known to all concerned that M/s Capital Hind Finance Pvt. Ltd. had filed one Civil Suit No.1227/2025 against the above photographed persons namely Sh. Yogesh Jain & his wife Mrs. Monika Jain both R/o H.No.163, Arihant Nagar, Punjabi Bagh West, Delhi-26, in Central District, Tis Hazari Courts and the said Suit is now decreed vide judgment dated 15.11.2025 thereby directing the aforesaid persons to pay Rs.2,84,435/- alongwith interest to M/s Capital Hind Finance Pvt. Ltd. and accordingly, the execution of concerning decree is pending in the Court of Ms. Neha Pandey, Ld. Civil Judge-West, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi vide Execution Petition No.203/2026 and since then, the photographed persons have been evading the summons process of the court and trying to dispose off their properties, in order to get escaped from the clutches of the Laws. Anybody dealing with them will be doing so at his/her/their own risks & consequences and the person who will give the lead/clue against them shall be rewarded.
M/S CAPITAL HIND FINANCE PVT. LTD
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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, MUNMUN Chakraborty, wife of Bapun Chakraborty, resident of Dwarka, New Delhi have changed my name from Munmun Chakraborty to Munmun Chatterjee vide Affidavit dated 12/11/2026 before Mr Sujeet Kumar, Advocate, Delhi area

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BAPATLA
(SENIOR DIVISION)
I.P. No. 8/2024
Between:
MADA VARA PRASAD ... Petitioner
and
IKKURTHI VENKATA RAMESH AND OTHERS ... Respondents
To
RESPONDENT No. (6)
SBI Credit Cards Bearing No. 4155759654352224
DCF Infinity Towers, 12th Floor, Block-2, Buildings 3, DLF Cyber City, Gurgaon-122002, Haryana State.
Whereas, the petitioner, MADA VARA PRASAD, has filed the above Insolvency Petition in I.P. No. 8/2024 before the Hon'ble Principal Senior Civil Judge Court, Bapatla, seeking to be declared insolvent. As you, Respondent No. 6, SBI CREDIT CARDS, BRANCH MANAGER have been avoiding receipt of the notices sent to you, the Hon'ble Court is hereby serving this notice upon you through this publication. Therefore, you are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Court on 11-12-2026, either in person or through an Advocate, and file your objections, if any. Failing which, the matter will be decided ex parte.
Date of Adjournment: 11-12-2026 (By Hon'ble Court Orders)
Date: 18-11-2026
T. RAMESH
A. SIVA NAGESWARA RAO, M.A., B.L.
Advocates, Mobile: 9247261338
Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh.

Curbs eased in Delhi-NCR as air quality improves

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) on Tuesday revoked Stage 3 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi and NCR, as air quality improved. GRAP is a set of short-term emergency measures taken to reduce air pollution.

The ban on plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel vehicles in Delhi and neighbouring districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonipat, Ghaziabad, and Gautam Buddha Nagar will no longer apply. Classes of students up to Grade 5, which were being held in 'hybrid mode', will now be held in person. However, measures such as the ban on construction will remain.

Timings
DELHI

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18	
RISE 06:46	SET 17:27
RISE 13:19	SET 00:10
THURSDAY, NOV. 19	
RISE 06:47	SET 17:26
RISE 13:48	SET 01:06
FRIDAY, NOV. 20	
RISE 06:47	SET 17:26
RISE 14:18	SET 02:03

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	28	12
Safdarjang	28	12
Palam	25	12

Delhi Palam Today
27°C The weather will be dry. A cool morning with shallow fog and mist turns into a.comfortable and windy day. Night also will be cool.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
26°C Morning will be cool with shalllow fog and mist. Dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

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Jharkhand BJP meets Governor, seeks arrest of Congress legislator

Why is Bhushan Bara not behind bars despite FIR in assault case, asks Oppn. party; it also seeks impartial probe into death of tribal activist

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Jharkhand unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Scheduled Tribe Morcha, led by Sunny Toppo, met Governor Santosh Gangwar on Tuesday and submitted a memorandum to him over "rising crimes against women, particularly tribals" in the State.

Highlighting the allegation that Congress's Simdega MLA Bhushan Bara raped a 14-year-old girl, the Opposition party questioned why no arrest has been made despite the registration of an FIR.

The National Commission for Women and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes have also sought reports on the issue from the Jharkhand government. The Congress is a constituent of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led ruling coalition.

On November 14, hours after the FIR was registered against Mr. Bara, the police said they booked two persons, based on a complaint by the girl's grandfather, for allegedly abducting and coercing the girl into making a "false" statement against the two-time MLA. Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Babulal Marandi alleged that one of those booked is a journalist.

The Opposition party has sought to corner the Hemant Soren-led government over a series of crimes, which include the Simdega incident, a sexual assault 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 the Gamharia incident on November 1.


Members of the BJP protesting outside Lok Bhavan in Ranchi, Jharkhand, on Tuesday. ANI

The delegation led by Mr. Toppo also called for an impartial probe into the recent death of tribal leader Nisha Kumari Bhagat.

Demonstration held
During the day, BJP members staged a demonstration outside Lok Bhavan in Ranchi, demanding the immediate arrest of Mr. Bara. "We are protesting against the sexual exploitation of a 14-year-old tribal girl. The victim has shown great courage by lodging an FIR against the MLA. Instead of properly investigating the matter, action is being taken against a journalist who exposed it," said senior BJP leader and former MP Geeta Koda.

(With inputs from PTI)

SC pulls up Raut over remarks on CJI, says should show restraint

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday pulled up Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut, who is facing contempt of court proceedings over alleged remarks about the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the judiciary.

The court said an experienced parliamentarian ought to exercise restraint in his public statements.

A Bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M. Pancholi made the observations while hearing a criminal contempt petition filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) against Mr. Raut and journalist Nikhil Wagle over allegedly objectionable social media posts about CJI Surya Kant and the judiciary.

"Mr. Sanjay Raut, you are a seasoned politician. We have been hearing your political debates... even during our advocate days. You are such a seasoned, experienced parliamentarian... And you yourself are in the press. You should know what restraint should be in your words and we need not tell you," Justice Kumar said.

Appearing for the SCBA, its president, senior advocate Pradeep Rai, submitted that Mr. Raut had continued to make objectionable social media posts even after the initiation of contempt proceedings against him. He referred to an October 19 post featuring images of the Supreme Court of Albania engulfed in flames, alleging that it was an indirect reference to the Supreme Court of India.

'No reference'
Mr. Rai pointed out that although Mr. Raut had tendered an apology through an affidavit filed on October 26, he had made no reference to the Albania post.

"Do your politics, attack political parties, but why [bring the court into] such matters? And when doing so deliberately for political reasons, they cannot be spared and must be dealt with iron hand," he added.

Asked to reply to Rai's submissions, the counsel for Mr. Raut conceded that the remarks were indefensible and assured the Bench that such conduct would not be repeated.

Gogoi tells Rahul his parallel protests have weakened CJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Raijor Dal president Akhil Gogoi, formerly an ally of the Congress in Assam, on Tuesday wrote to former Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, urging him not to weaken the ongoing Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) movement by launching parallel protests and instead extend unconditional support to the "independent, youth-led people's agitation".

Mr. Gogoi said the Congress had weakened the movement by competing with what he described as "a genuine mass revolt", thereby dividing the Opposition's street mobilisation.

He also expressed concern over Mr. Gandhi's silence on two earlier letters (dated October 29 and November 12 respectively), in which he sought clarity on the Congress's approach to the movement and the Opposition's strategy for the 2029 Lok Sabha election.

"As someone who has spent his entire life on the streets fighting alongside peasants, workers, and the masses - not inside air-conditioned rooms - your continued silence troubles me deeply," Mr. Gogoi

Pilgrims leave behind 73 tonnes of waste in Kedarnath during Char Dham Yatra

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Pilgrims visiting the Kedarnath shrine generated 73 tonnes of waste during this year's Char Dham Yatra, over three times the quantity recorded last year.

The yatra, which ended on Monday with the closure of the Badrinath shrine portals, witnessed a record 65.65 lakh pilgrims.

According to data shared by the civic body in Kedarnath, the 73 tonnes of waste comprised plastic bottles, food packets, tetra packs, and cardboard. Neeraj Kukreti, an official of the nagar panchayat, said the waste generated in 2025 was 21.40 tonnes.

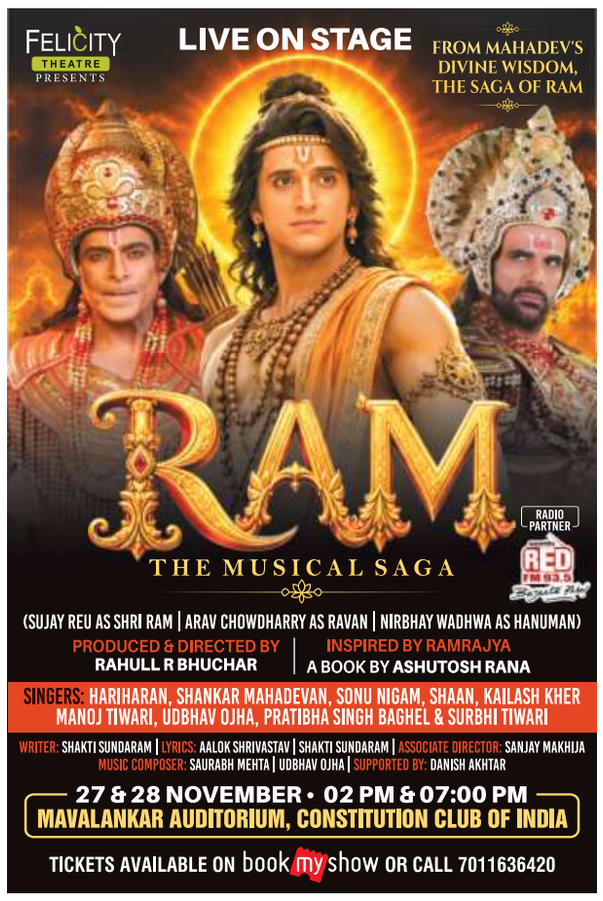
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Registrar, IASST



INBRIEF



Maharashtra: reward for info on weapons looted by Maoists

The Maharashtra Cabinet on Tuesday approved a cash reward scheme for information leading to the recovery of weapons looted by Maoists from security forces. Under the scheme, an informant can get up to ₹1.5 lakh for a single weapon and authorities concerned can sanction rewards of up to ₹1 crore. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. According to the Chief Minister's Office, the reward will depend on the type and number of weapons recovered - including automatic and semi-automatic firearms - other weapons, and ammunition.

Hire locals, Omar tells firms starting operations in J&K

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said companies from outside that are setting up operations in the Union Territory have to hire locals and hiring of outsiders won't be allowed. "The excuse that trained youth are not available will not work now. We will give you [companies] six months... one year to prepare our youth," Mr. Abdullah said, adding that youth from J&K have no shortage of talent. "They [youth] only need opportunities. We will not tolerate excuses at the cost of our children's future," the CM said while inaugurating development projects worth ₹30 crore in Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts.

Turn bulldozer towards ECI: Akhilesh to U.P. CM after CEO rebuts 'Hindu voters' claim

SP chief takes swipe at Adityanath after poll officer says commission doesn't have data on religion or caste; U.P. CM has claimed more than once that names of 1.27 crore Hindu voters are being cut

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday alleged that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has not been truthful about his claim that the names of 1.27 crore Hindu voters have been removed from the State electoral roll. He added that the actual issue was the "deletion of names of backward classes, Dalits, tribals and minorities".

Mr. Yadav made the remarks after U.P.'s Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Navdeep Rinwa said the Election Commission of India (ECI)'s database holds no religion or caste data.

Mr. Adityanath had first made the claim about the removal of Hindu voters' names from U.P. roll at an event in Lucknow last month. He repeated it during a television interview on November 8, adding that his government had filed a plea before the ECI over the issue.



U.P. CEO Navdeep Rinwa addressing a press briefing on Tuesday. PTI

Addressing a media briefing at the SP headquarters, Mr. Yadav said, "Imagine, you are the most powerful person in Uttar Pradesh and you have a particular fondness for bulldozers. We would say that the Chief Minister should turn the steering of his bulldozer towards the Election Commission of India (ECI) if he does not agree with what is being said [by the poll panel]."

Earlier in the day, the CEO, while sharing details of the special summary revision, responded to the claim about the removal of Hindu voters' names, saying the commission's database does not contain any information regarding the religion or caste of voters and that there has been "no conspiracy" by the poll panel or any political party to "target" any religion, caste or community.

Speaking to reporters at Lok Bhavan in Lucknow, Mr. Rinwa said, "If you look at the electoral roll or our database, you'll find details such as the voter's name, age or date of birth, house number, gender."

He added, "Our database does not include information regarding religion, caste or any other such detail. Therefore, it is impossible for us to conduct any analysis based on these factors using our electoral roll."

Later, addressing reporters, the Opposition leader questioned how Mr. Adityanath had arrived at the 1.27 crore figure.

"Does the Chief Minister have some divine power or a celestial source of information? How did he ascertain that those '1.27 crore voters' were Sanatanis?" said Mr. Yadav.

'Conspiracy afoot'

"The truth is that there was a conspiracy to delete the names of those from the Other Backward Classes, Dalits, tribals and our Muslim brothers," he alleged.

The SP chief also claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party is conspiring to get people from other States, including Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand, registered as voters in poll-bound U.P.

(With inputs from PTI)

Shiv Sena row: dissent is not defection, says Shinde faction to SC

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI



Arguments in the SC remained inconclusive and will resume on Wednesday. FILE PHOTO

The Eknath Shinde faction on Tuesday defended its legislators in the Supreme Court, saying that dissent is not defection and a legislator may dissent from the then leadership and oppose the course adopted without ceasing to be a member of the Shiv Sena.

Senior advocate Dhruv Mehta, appearing for Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and other MLAs, told a Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana that the legislators who dissented against the Uddhav Thackeray-led party leadership in June 2022 did not abandon the Shiv Sena but were seeking to restore the party's original ideological identity and political alignment.

Mr. Mehta referred to the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, also known as the anti-defection law, which contains provisions relating to disqualification on the ground of defection.

"Dissent is not defection," he said, adding that the disqualification clause can be invoked on issues relating to voting on confidence or no-confidence motion and matters relating to programmes of the political parties. He said the anti-defection provisions are intended to curb political defections and horse-trading, not suppress dissent or differences within a political party.

Decision challenged

The lead plea, filed by Sunil Prabhu of the Uddhav Thackeray faction, challenges the Assembly Speaker's 2024 decision declining to disqualify the MLAs of the Shinde faction under the Tenth Schedule.

A connected plea filed by Mr. Thackeray challenges the EC's decision recognising the Shinde faction as the official Shiv Sena and allotting it the party symbol. The arguments remained inconclusive and will resume on Wednesday.

T.N. urges apex court to stay HC order in Karthigai Deepam case

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Status quo must remain until appeal against the HC order is decided by the top court, the State said

The Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to stay a Madras High Court decision confirming its earlier order allowing the Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple devasthanam or management body to light the Karthigai Deepam on a stone pillar atop the Thirupparankundram hill.

A Division Bench of the High Court had, in January, upheld the earlier Single Judge order, brushing aside fears expressed by the State that such an action would be a recipe for "disturbance of public tranquillity and peace", given the fact that the stone pillar was proximate to a dargah. The High Court had dismissed the fears as an "imaginary ghost".

On Tuesday, senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, appearing for the Tamil Nadu government, said the fear was real, and *status quo* must remain until the State's appeal against the January order was decided by the top court.

The submission came during a hearing before a Bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M. Pancholi. The hearing will resume on Wednesday.

Senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, appearing for the Commissioner of the State's Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, argued that the unsubstantiated claims about the "custom" of lighting the Karthigai Deepam on the *Deepathoon*, made by the Hindu Dharma Parishad (which was the petitioner in the High Court), was "calculated to occasion a breach of peace upon a sensitive site with a recorded history of communal tension".

Mr. Gupta, along with Tamil Nadu's Additional Advocate General and senior advocate Prashanto Chandra Sen, submitted that there had never been any established practice, custom, or even a prior claim of lighting the Karthigai Deepam on the summit of the Thirupparankundram hill or the stone pillar "now described as the *Deepathoon*". They submitted that the lamp had been lit only at the Deepa Mandapam for over 150 years.

Mr. Naphade said the petitioner wanted to light the lamp on the side of the dargah and not on the side of the temple. "On the right side is the dargah and on the left is the temple. A natural division. As a result of the High Court order, the natural division would be upset. There is potential for disturbance of public peace," Mr. Naphade said.

Remarks on judge: HC initiates criminal contempt proceedings against Abhishek

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday initiated criminal contempt proceedings against Diamond Harbour MP and Mamata All India Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee over his remarks that allegedly cast aspersions on a judge.

Justice Krishna Rao said he went through the transcript of Mr. Banerjee's speech and his Facebook post on November 7 and they clearly indicated that he "committed criminal contempt of the court" and "attempted with interference of administration of justice". The remarks amounted to "scandalising the court", the judge said.

The alleged contemnor has to explain within 15 days as to why appropriate action should not be taken , the court said.

Justice Rao, on November 13, took exception to Mr. Banerjee's comments,



Mamata AITC leader and MP Abhishek Banerjee. FILE PHOTO

observing that an elected representative and an educated person could not be treated like an ordinary layperson. "You ask your client, who are the judges with the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) and who aren't... since he is so intelligent, let him give a list. I will see," Justice Rao had remarked. "Your client is writing the ACR (Annual Confidential Report) of the judges," the court had said.

On November 7, when a scuffle erupted outside his residence, Mr. Banerjee claimed that he had been attacked seven times in six months, adding that he had not been granted the desired protection from the judiciary.

Staying unfazed

Reacting to the criminal contempt proceedings initiated by the court, Mr. Banerjee remained unfazed and said the courts had come to the rescue of BJP leaders when they were in Opposition but had not provided any to him.

The Trinamool leader asked why the courts had not issued contempt proceedings against Chief Election Commissioner of India Gyanesh Kumar for "not following a single direction" of the Supreme Court during the West Bengal Assembly election. "Why did I say that the judiciary is not impartial? Because when an FIR (First Information Report) is filed against [Chief Minister] Suvendu Adhikari, a stay order is granted, but that does not happen in my case. The rules should be the same for everyone, but they are not," he said.

Mr. Banerjee's residence was attacked, allegedly by BJP supporters, in the early hours of November 7, and the three-term MP vented his ire against the judiciary. Only a few days ago, the Trinamool MP said his party had "lost elections not to the BJP but to the Supreme Court of India".

The Diamond Harbour MP had approached the Bench of Justice Rao challenging the State government's decision to downgrade his security.

The judge directed the West Bengal government to review his security arrangements. The court directed the Principal Secretary, Home and Hill Affairs Department of the West Bengal government, to convene for a review committee meeting within two weeks of the order.

SFI activists, police clash over setting up bookstall

Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA

A ruckus erupted between supporters of the Students' Federation of India (SFI), the student wing of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), and police near University of Calcutta over setting up a bookstall. After the clash, the police detained several SFI supporters, including the SFI State secretary Debanjan Dey.

The SFI leadership said it had sought permission from Kolkata Police to set up a bookstall at a makeshift stall on the footpath of College Street. However, the police refused to grant permission on Monday evening, stating that it may disrupt traffic. The bookstall was part of the party's three-day campaign, 'Sangrami Boipotro'. It was supposed to be opened by the Left Front chairman Biman Bose on Tuesday.

Pollution curbs hit outstation taxi drivers; Delhi airport trips down 80%

Lavpreet Kaur
NEW DELHI

The number of taxis ferrying passengers from neighbouring States to the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) in Delhi has plunged by nearly 80% following restrictions on the entry of non-Delhi-registered vehicles that do not meet BS-VI emission standards.

Taxi operators from Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, with whom *The Hindu* spoke, said airport trips, which once accounted for a substantial share of their business, had fallen sharply, with several reporting losses of 50-70%.

With the restrictions in place until January 31, operators fear their financial strain will deepen as vehicles remain parked and they struggle to meet loan instalments and contractual commitments.

Sharp decline

Sanjay Samrat, president of the Delhi Taxi and Tourist Transporter Association (DTTTA), said more than one lakh commercial vehicles from neighbouring States travelled to the Delhi airport every day before the restrictions came into force. The number has now fallen to fewer than 20,000. "Private cab aggregators in Delhi are benefiting as outstation passengers are forced to switch to other modes of transport to reach the city, and then book cabs for the airport," Mr. Samrat said.

The impact is particularly evident in Punjab, where airport transfers account for a significant share of the taxi business, driven by passengers travelling abroad for education and work, as well as non-resident Indians visiting the State.



Taxi operators from neighbouring States said trips to the IGI Airport have fallen sharply, with several reporting losses of 50-70%. ANI

Parminder Singh, a transport operator from Delhi, said he earlier had 20-25 cars coming from Punjab to the city every day. The number has now dropped to just two or three, as most of the vehicles do not meet BS-VI standards.

Varinder Singh, owner of Punjab-based 'Veerji Taxi', said at least 10-15 of his 25 vehicles would earlier make trips to the Delhi airport every day. Now, only one or two manage to do so. "With much of his clientele comprising passengers catching international flights, the restrictions have wiped out nearly 60% of his business," he said.

Baljinder Singh, a driver, said the restrictions threatened to phase out commercial taxis before they completed their permitted 10-year lifespan. "BS-VI vehicles were introduced in 2020. It has been just six years, and BS-IV vehicles are now being stopped from entering Delhi even before their permitted lifespan is over. Four months without work is a blow to drivers who depend on these trips for their livelihood," he said.

Some operators and drivers are also finding ways around the restrictions to complete airport transfers.

Kulwant Singh said drivers from neighbouring States were bringing passengers in BS-IV vehicles up to the Delhi border, where the passengers and their luggage were transferred to another compliant vehicle for the onward journey to the airport. "The two parties then divide the fare according to the distance travelled. But this is not always possible," he added.

Passengers feel the heat

Arushi Bhatia, a Chandigarh resident who was trying to book a shared cab to her workplace in Delhi on Saturday, said she usually had no difficulty finding an affordable shared taxi travelling from Punjab to the Delhi airport. This time, however, the operators she contacted told her that no vehicles were making the trip, leaving her with little choice but to take a bus.

Harsh Ahuja, another commuter whose family had come to drop him at the Delhi airport after the Deepavali break, said his regular taxi operator had to refer him to another operator with a BS-VI-compliant vehicle.

DMK president avoids Rahul's phone call, but greets Sonia on book

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

Six months after the Congress unilaterally exited the DMK alliance to join the TVK-led government in Tamil Nadu, the national party's leader, Rahul Gandhi, made an attempt to speak to DMK president M.K. Stalin to invite him to the launch of his mother Sonia Gandhi's book, *Belonging,* in New Delhi.

Sources aware of the development told *The Hindu* on Monday that Mr. Stalin avoided the call as he did not wish to engage in a conversation with Mr. Rahul, following strains in their 'brotherly' bond in the run-up to the 2026 Assembly election and the Congress jumping ship after the results.

It is learnt that Mr. Rahul's office reached out to Mr. Stalin over phone, conveying that the Congress leader wished to invite him to the book launch.

However, Mr. Stalin made it clear that he was preoccupied with other engagements. He, nevertheless, sent a message congratulating Ms. Sonia on the release of her book.

Though the two leaders were once close, the run-up to the Assembly election saw the gap between them widen. The Congress drove a hard bargain over sharing of seats while Mr. Stalin tried to reach out to Mr. Rahul to ensure an amicable settlement.

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Seize the Epilepsy DRAGON
#TalkEpilepsyFightEpilepsy

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Does Diet Affect Seizures? What You Need to Know



Dr. Prashant Kumar Chaudhary
Neurosurgeon
West delhi, Delhi

Diet may not directly trigger seizures, but a balanced diet supports health and may reduce risk:

•At least 5 portions of fruits and vegetables daily.
•Starchy foods like potatoes, rice, pasta.
•Proteins from fish, beans, dairy.
•Unsaturated fats; limit high-fat, high-sugar, high-salt foods.
•6-8 glasses of fluids daily.

Home cooking offers better ingredient control. Vitamin D supplements are recommended, especially in winter; pregnant women should take folic acid and limit vitamin A. The ketogenic diet may help hard-to-control seizures under professional supervision. No specific foods consistently trigger seizures; caffeine's effects are complex, so consult a specialist about dietary concerns.

Every Seizure Counts: Why Meaningful Reduction Matters in Epilepsy Care



Dr. Nirmala Lahoti
Neurologist
East Delhi, Delhi

Even when seizures cannot be stopped completely, a meaningful reduction can make an important difference. Fewer seizures may reduce injury risk, improve confidence, and support greater independence in daily life. However, fewer seizures are not the same as complete seizure freedom, and your doctor will continue assessing whether further improvement is possible. Keep a seizure diary recording episode frequency, duration, possible triggers, and recovery time. Share these details with your neurologist during regular reviews. Every episode you report provides useful information for treatment decisions.

Common Myths About Epilepsy: What's True and What's Not



Dr. Anshul Goel
Neurosurgeon
Delhi, Delhi

Understanding epilepsy myths and facts reduces stigma and builds support.

Myth	Fact
People with epilepsy can't lead normal lives.	Many live full lives with management.
Seizures are always dramatic.	They vary; many are subtle.
Epilepsy is a mental illness.	It is a neurological condition.
People swallow their tongue during seizures.	Impossible; objects in the mouth cause harm.
Epilepsy is contagious.	It is not infectious.
Only children have epilepsy.	It can develop at any age.
Everyone with epilepsy has the same experience.	It affects everyone differently.
You can't drive if you have epilepsy.	Many with controlled epilepsy can, following regulations.

Epilepsy and Pregnancy: Key Things to Consider



Dr. Avinash Goswami
Neurologist
Delhi, Delhi

1.Medication Management
•Consult Your Doctor: Some antiepileptic drugs may affect fetal development; adjustments balance seizure control and safety.
2. Seizure Control
•Maintain Stability: Good control protects mother and baby; plan pregnancy during a stable period.
3. Prenatal Care
•Regular Check-Ups: Epilepsy-specialist visits monitor your health and the baby's development.
4. Nutritional Considerations
•Folic Acid: Increased intake reduces neural tube defect risk, particularly on specific AEDs.
5. Postpartum Considerations
•Monitor Seizures: Seizures may increase after delivery; strong support is vital.
6. Mental Health
•Seek Support: Consider counselling or support groups for stress.
7. Emergency Preparedness

Finding the Right Medication: Evaluation, Assessment and Eventual Success



Dr. Bipan Kumar Sharma
Neurologist
East Delhi, Delhi

Every patient responds to medication differently, so finding the right epilepsy medication involves evaluation and assessment. As a neurologist, I guide patients through this process, which often takes time and patience. Side effects or inadequate seizure control may cause frustration, but hope matters. Continuous communication with the neurologist is vital for adjustments, and a seizure diary documenting seizures, side effects, and lifestyle changes provides invaluable insights for tailoring treatment. Over time, many patients find an effective medication, a substantial step toward epilepsy management that reinforces the importance of persistence and partnership with the neurologist for optimal health.

Epilepsy Medications: What You Should Know



Dr. Nikhil A Kumar
Neurologist
Delhi, Delhi

Epilepsy medications, or antiepileptic drugs (AEDs), control seizures and improve quality of life.
Function: AEDs stabilize the brain's electrical activity through different mechanisms, such as enhancing inhibitory or inhibiting excitatory neurotransmitters.
•Types: Common AEDs has unique properties and side effects, so finding the right one needs trial and adjustment.
•Adherence: Missed doses can cause breakthrough seizures, so follow the regimen.
•Side Effects: Range from mild (dizziness, fatigue) to severe (liver problems, mood changes); regular follow-ups help manage them.
•Monitoring: Regular blood tests and clinical evaluations ensure effectiveness and optimal seizure control.

When Seizures Persist, Hope Remains: Exploring the Next Steps in Epilepsy Management



Dr. Nisha Singh
Neurologist
New Delhi, New Delhi

Persistent seizures can be discouraging, but they do not mean that treatment options are exhausted. The next steps may include confirming the diagnosis, reviewing medication adherence, identifying triggers, and arranging investigations such as video electroencephalography (EEG) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Depending on the individual, specialist assessment may also consider epilepsy surgery, neurostimulation devices, or dietary therapies. The appropriate approach depends on seizure type, medical history, and previous treatment responses. If seizures continue despite treatment, seek review by an epilepsy specialist. Bring your medical records and seizure diary, and never change or stop prescribed medication without professional guidance or supervision.

Tips for Going to School or Work with Epilepsy

As a neurologist, I stress managing school and work environments. Key strategies:



Dr. Snigdha Seth
Neurologist
West delhi, Delhi

•Educate Yourself and Others: Sharing knowledge reduces misconceptions and fosters support.
•Develop a Seizure Action Plan: Detail how to respond during a seizure and share it with teachers or co-workers.
•Communicate Openly: Discuss needs and triggers to obtain accommodations like flexible hours or safe spaces.
•Build a Support Network: Friends and colleagues offer emotional support and understanding.
•Manage Stress: Mindfulness, exercise, and sufficient sleep minimize triggers.
•Educate Peers: Teaching others improves seizure preparedness.
These strategies build confidence and quality of life.

First Aid Training: How to Help Someone During a Seizure



Dr. Shikha Priya
Neurologist
East Delhi, Delhi

First aid training for seizures is essential for friends, family, and co-workers of people with epilepsy. As a neurologist, I stress understanding how to respond to ensure the person's safety. Training covers recognizing signs of an impending seizure, providing a safe environment, and knowing when to call for medical help. Education reduces panic caused by misconceptions and fosters calm. Simple actions, like moving objects away and timing the seizure, improve safety, while understanding postictal care builds confidence during recovery. Equipping others creates a safer community, ensuring support during challenging moments and minimizing injury or misunderstanding.

How to Spot and Avoid Seizure Triggers



Dr. Tushar Sharma
Neurosurgeon
North Delhi, Delhi

As a neurologist, I stress avoiding triggers for effective epilepsy management.
Common Triggers:
•Time of Day: Specific times.
•Sleep Issues: Lack of sleep increases risk.
•Illness: Can provoke seizures.
•Flashing Lights: Bright lights.
•Alcohol and Drug Use: Heavy use or withdrawal.
•Stress: Positive and negative.
•Hormonal Changes: Menstrual fluctuations.
•Poor Nutrition: Dehydration, low blood sugar.
•Specific Foods: Excessive caffeine.
•Medications: Missed doses.
Management strategies:
•Manage Stress: Yoga or meditation.
•Prioritize Sleep: Consistent schedule, calming bedtime routine.
•Limit Alcohol and Caffeine: Moderation avoids disrupted sleep.
•Stay Hydrated and Eat Regularly: Balanced meals stabilize energy.
Managing triggers reduces risk.

Managing Stress and Emotions with Epilepsy



Dr. Nirja Pandey
Neurologist
West delhi, Delhi

Managing stress and emotions is vital in epilepsy, as stress can trigger seizures. Key strategies:

- **Recognize Stress Triggers:** Identify stressors to develop coping strategies.
- **Practice Relaxation Techniques:** Deep breathing, meditation, yoga.
- **Establish a Routine:** A consistent schedule reduces stress.
- **Engage in Physical Activity:** Enjoyable exercise lowers stress and improves mood.
- **Seek Support:** Share experiences with friends and family for understanding.
- **Consider Professional Help:** Therapy, especially CBT, is effective.
- **Focus on Sleep Hygiene:** Use a calming bedtime routine.
- **Limit Caffeine and Alcohol:** Reduces anxiety, improves sleep, lowers seizure risk.
- These strategies improve overall well-being.

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Living with Seizures: How to Adapt Daily Life



Dr. Peeyush Tomar
Neurosurgeon
East Delhi, Delhi

Living with epilepsy requires adapting daily routines for safety and well-being. As a neurologist, I stress understanding one's specific condition and triggers. Many people manage stress, keep regular sleep patterns, and adhere to treatment; a structured schedule and relaxation techniques help reduce stress. Safety measures, like having a trusted person nearby during risky activities, are essential, and openly informing friends, family, and colleagues fosters understanding and support. Adapting is empowering, and celebrating small victories, like managing a trigger, reinforces resilience. Ultimately, it means finding balance and an environment promoting safety and fulfilment, so individuals can thrive despite their condition.

This is a patient awareness initiative by MSN Labs. The views and opinions expressed here are based on the expertise of the doctors and not endorsed by MSN Labs. Readers are advised to seek necessary medical advice from qualified medical practitioner.



A sanitation worker clears discarded clothes from the Pampa riverbed on the opening day of the pilgrimage season. LEJU KAMAL

Sabarimala sees heavy rush on first day of pilgrimage season

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA/KOTTAYAM

The annual pilgrimage season at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple got off to a smooth start on Tuesday, with thousands of devotees making their way to the hill temple on the first day of the Malayalam month of Vrischikam.

The temple opened at 3 a.m. as the newly appointed Melsanthi (chief priest), Areekkara Subramanian Sankaran Namboothiri, performed the opening rituals. This was followed by the opening of the Malikappuram temple, where its new Melsanthi, A Damodaran Namboothiri, took charge of the rituals.

The hill temple witnessed a heavy influx of devotees in the morning, with nearly 25,000 pilgrims reaching the Sannidhanam by noon. Devaswom Minister K. Muraleedharan was among those who offered prayers at the temple in the early hours. According to official estimates, around 60,000 devotees had booked virtual queue slots for darshan on Tuesday.

However, discarded clothes soon began littering the Pampa-Triveni riverbed as devotees left them behind after a holy dip in the river.

Cleaning staff deployed

The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) has deployed 30 cleaning staff to clear the riverbed round the clock in shifts. It has also opened a counter near the bathing ghats to collect clothes from devotees.

Despite repeated interventions, including directions from the Kerala High Court, the practice continues unabated. As per estimates, the TDB collects more than 60 tonnes of clothes from the riverbed every pilgrimage season.

Govt. will bring in Tirupati-style mega project: CM

KOCHI

A Tirupati-model mega project to provide modern and comprehensive facilities for pilgrims will be implemented at Sabarimala, Keralam Chief Minister announced on Tuesday. Inaugurating the Sabarimala facilitation centre at Cochin airport, the CM said the shrine would be developed as part of pilgrimage tourism.

Cyclone Akvan slows, likely to turn very severe by tomorrow

The cyclone may continue to drift slowly and intensify into a severe cyclonic storm over the west-central Bay of Bengal on Nov. 18, and further into a very severe one next day, IMD says

Nellore Sravani
VIJAYAWADA

Cyclonic storm Akvan, currently over the central parts of the south and west-central Bay of Bengal, is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by Wednesday morning.

Initially, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast that the weather system would strengthen into a severe cyclonic storm by Tuesday evening, but the system had either remained stationary or moved slowly.

At 5.30 p.m., the weather system was centred around 590 km east of Chennai, 630 km northeast of Trincomalee in Sri Lanka, 650 km southeast of Machilipatnam and 650 km south-southeast of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and 780 km south of Gopalpur in Odisha.

It may continue to move slowly north-northwestwards and intensify into a severe cyclonic storm over west-central Bay of Bengal on Wednesday morning, and further into a very severe cyclonic storm by Thursday morning.

The system has changed its track slightly, and the probable landfall points may remain between Visakhapatnam and Nellore. Isolated heavy rainfall is likely in the northern districts of Visakhapatnam, Alluri Sitharama Raju, Parvathipuram Manyam, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, and strong winds with speeds of 100 kmph to 110 kmph are likely along the coastal belt from Wednesday evening.

'Rare event'

Speaking to *The Hindu*, IMD Director General of Meteorology Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said it is normal for the Bay of Bengal to see three or four tropical cyclones in a year. "What is not normal is that all of them are crossing the coast near Andhra Pradesh."

A similar event last happened in 1987. And, the reason for this can be attributed to El Nino, he said.

Delhi HC gives Kejriwal, others 3 weeks to file reply in contempt case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday gave Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh, and others a "last opportunity" to respond to a criminal contempt case initiated against them over alleged "vilifying" social media posts against Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma. "Three weeks. Last opportunity. Otherwise, we are closing [the right to file] replies," a Bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Arun Bhardwaj told lawyers appearing for the alleged contemnors.

The counsel for one of the respondents submitted that he was yet to receive the complete case record as directed by an earlier court order. "We have a report from the registry that full compliance has been done," the Bench orally remarked. It listed the matter for hearing on January 14

The Bench also sought responses from AAP leaders, including former MLA Gopal Rai, on a separate contempt petition filed by advocate Ashok Chaitanya, who alleged that they were part of an "orchestrated social media campaign" against Justice Sharma.

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)-

The Executive Engineer, Bhoranj Division HPPWD, Bhoranj on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the Item rate/ Percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class for the works as detailed below on the table:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Starting date for downl--oading Bid	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Construction of Medical Block , Emergency ward along with Operation theatre at PHC Jahu in Tehsil Bhoranj Distt Hamirpur (SH:- Part –I Civil works i.e Building portion , WS & SI , Septic tank, Rain Water Harvesting tank, Boundary wall and Gate) Part II Electrical works i.e (Providing E-I, 1 No lift therein)	5,40,11,001/-	10,80,200/-	20-11-2026	27-11-2026

The bidders are advised to note all details of tenders, from the department website

Executive Engineer,
Bhoranj Division,
HPPWD Bhoranj, Pin Code 176045
Tel. No. 01972-266099
e-mail : eepwd-bhoranj-hp@gov.in
on behalf of Governor of HP.

HP / 4761/26-27 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Ministry of Culture
Government of India

Centre for Contemporary Studies
Prime Ministers Museum and Library

Cordially invites you to a **Public Lecture**
On
Dance Tradition in North-East India : Marking Cultural Identities
by
Prof. Urmimala Sarkar Munsi
Senior Fellow, PMML

19 November 2026 at 3:00 pm
Venue:
Seminar Room, Library Building
Prime Ministers Museum and Library

All are welcome.

Those wishing to have their names added to the email list may please email us at :- ccseventspmml@gmail.com

cbc 09142/11/0035/2627

KARNATAKA STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD., KEONICS ISO 9001 : 2008
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
No 59, 1st Floor, Kumara Park West, Railway Parallel Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore - 560020.

No.: KSEDC/P333/2026-27 **Date: 16.11.2026**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

As per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation Limited (KEONICS), Bengaluru invites tender of 7 days through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **"Short Term e-Auction tender document for Fund Management"**. The information regarding the tender is made available in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For any tender related queries or more information, Bidders may contact KEONICS during office hours. (Telephone Number 080-2222 5645).

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No.	Details of Tender	Last date to submit the tender
1	KEONICS/ 2026-27/ AUCTION14	Short Term e- Auction tender document for Fund Management (E-Auction Notification, Eligibility Criteria and Terms and Conditions)	**23.11.2026**

DIPR/CP/3744/SA/2026-27 **Sd/- Director (Finance)**

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office:- PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001
Phone No. -96461-18774, Email id:- semeteringpatiala@gmail.com
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in

Tender Enquiry No. MQP-279/2026-27/PO(M) **dated 13.11.2026**
Chief Engineer / Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites e-tender for Procurement of 20-in-1 Meter Pillar Boxes for incorporating Single Phase energy meters for DS organization. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 13.11.2026, 11:30 AM onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.**

1079/12/2026-27/17097 **C 1097/26**

THE HINDU
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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION VIJAYPUR

ABBREVIATED NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 75 of 2026-27 Dated: 14-11-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works

S. No	Name of work	Estimated cost of Work (in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time allowed for completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Macdamized road with proper drainage at Rajpur, Khoular Kotli, Tehsil Bari Brahmana District Samba. (2nd Call)	**15.00**	**600**	2% of Adv. Cost	**02 months**	Hot Mix Plant Holder "A, B & C"

Position of AAA :- **Accorded**
Position of T.S :- **Sanctioned**
M:H :- **Under City & Town (C&T) Sector Capex Budget 2026-27.**

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-11-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 14-11-2026 to 19-11-2026
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	16-11-2026 at 1200 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vijaypur
4	Bid submission Start Date	14-11-2026 at 1400 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	19-11-2026 upto 1600 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	20-11-2026 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vijaypur
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

The tender is available at website **http://jktenders.gov.in** all other terms & conditions can be seen on the above website.

No. PWD/V/5662-67 Dt. 14-11-2026
DIP/J-14411/26

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PWD (R&B) Division,
Vijaypur

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

GOVT. OF BIHAR
BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD
I.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14.
Website : bceceboard.bihar.gov.in / Helpdesk : helpdesk.bceceboard@bihar.gov.in

POST GRADUATE DENTAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING (PGDAC)-2026
for MDS in Govt./ Private Dental colleges of Bihar

Advt. No.- **BCECEB(PGDAC)-2026/10 Dated : 17.11.2026**

Notice for Stray Vacancy Round Online Application & Choice Filling

Online Registration & Submission of Application-cum-Choice filling after Round-3 are invited from such qualified, eligible & interested NEET(MDS)-2026 candidates for appearing in the Stray Vacancy Round Online Counselling of Under Graduate Medical Admission Counselling (PGDAC)-2026, who have not done the Registration and submission of Online Application or who has completed their registration process but did not duly submit Online Application with payment of requisite Counselling Fee & Security Deposit against Adv. No. BCECEB(PGDAC)-2026/01 & 2026/02 Dated 18.08.2026 , 2026/03 Dated 14.09.2026, 2026/04 Dated 02.10.2026, 2026/06 & 2026/07 Dated 23.10.2026 and 2026/08 Dated 01.11.2026 and are not admitted in any Dental Colleges of India, for admission to the first year MDS Courses (MDS) in Government / Private Dental Colleges in Bihar based on the Rank of PGDAC-2026 prepared on the basis of AIR of NEET(MDS)-2026 on the basis of vacant seats available after admission on the basis of PGDAC-2026 Online Round-3 Counselling held from 13.11.2026 to 14.11.2026.

Consent are also invited from eligible candiates who have already duly submitted the Online Application form earlier and fall under the condition mentioned in para-15 of Advertisement No. BCECEB(PGDAC)-2026/09 Dated 17.11.2026 uploaded on Board's website.

2. Updated Seat Matrix of vacancies after completion of Round-3 Counselling is available on Board's website: bceceboard.bihar.gov.in. If any further vacancies arise due to non joining of candidates on their Round-3 Counselling allotted seat etc., the Updated Seat Matrix will be uploaded on the Board's website. The candidate must see it before Online Registration & Submission of Application-cum-Choice filling / submitting their Consent / editing of choices for Online Counselling.

3. The online Registration & submission of Application-cum-Choice Filling / Editing of Application Form data / Editing of Choices **will start from18.11.2026.**

4. Eligibility criteria for Online Counselling, Fee payment procedure, Choice filling, instructions and other details are available in the Prospectus of PGDAC-2026 and the **related detailed Advertisement No.-BCECEB(PGDAC)-2026/09 dated 17.11.2026, which can be seen / downloaded from the Board's website: bceceboard.bihar.gov.in.**

Controller of Examination

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On line bids on item rate basis tender are invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Vibhag Division, Indora Himachal Pradesh on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Jal Shakti Vibhag.

Sr No	Name of work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of tender form	Eligibility criteria	Time Limit
1.	Name of work :- Providing Flood Proection work in Surajpur Khad under Indora Constituency area in Tehsil Indora Distt. Kangra HP(SH :- Construction of Earthen Embankment with apron slope pitching etc. and construction of Toe Key on Right Side along the embankment RD 1800/0 to 1870 RD 2085/0 to 2800, 3050/0 to 3250 & 3325/0 to 3500=1160 Rmt on LEFT BANK & RD 1800/0 to 2100, RD 2200/0 to 2480, RD 2520 to 2550, RD 2650 to 2800 & RD 3050 to 3500= 1210 Rmt. on RIGHT BANK .)	Rs. 5,89,47,953/- only	Rs. 6,64,480/- only	Rs. 10000/- only	(a) Experience on similar works executed during the last seven years and details like monetary value, clients proof of satisfactory completion should be furnished in online mode.	06 months

Last date of filing/uploading the tender through e-tendering is 27/11/2026 up to 11.00 AM. The tender forms and other detailed terms and conditions can be obtained from the website www.hptenders.gov.in

HP / 4751/26-27 "Him Suchna Avam Jan Sampark"

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Division Indora, Distt Kangra

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
Central Offices, Stores and Purchase Dept, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027.
Tele No. 080-22221321 Ext: 224 Fax No: 080-22223424

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO: 13 Dated: 17.11.2026

Tenders (Pre-qualification and or (Commercial offers) through e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** are invited for supply of the following Goods/Services

Tender Nos as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items/Services/ Equipment	Tender Value in crores (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender @17.00hrs
KSRTC/2026-27/ IND0356	Procurement of First Aid Box with Medicine Kit	0.30	08/12/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/ IND0357	Procurement Tyre, Tube, Patches	5.35	08/12/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/ IND0358	Procurement of Rubber Glazing with inserts (EPDMRubber)	1.50	08/12/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/ IND0359	Procurement of Adhesive SR-998	0.50	08/12/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/ IND0360	Procurement of MS Welding Electrodes and CO2 MIG coils	0.60	08/12/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/ IND0361	Procurement of Automotive Bulbs	1.33	08/12/2026
SHORT TERM TENDER			
KSRTC/2026-27/ IND0355	Procurement of Automotive lubricants required for Tata & Ashok Leyland BS-VI Vehicle	3.50	02/12/2026

NOTE:- Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone. No. 080-46010000/080-68948777). Interested bidders may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to Support@eprochelpdesk.com for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org, (contact: 7760990224).

Sd/-
Controller of Stores & Purchases
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/MAA/3750/2026-27

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS KATHUA
E- mail: sspkathua@jkpolice.gov.in Fax/Phone No.: 01922-234010

LOOK OUT NOTICE

One lady namely Relo Devi W/O Shanga R/O Sadrota, Tehsil Lohai Malhar District Kathua lodged a written report at P/S Malhar stating therein that her daughter namely Sunita Devi, age 23 years went missing from home since 27.10.2026. The complainant and the other family members made best efforts to search her but all in vain. On this, missing report vide DD No. 16 dated 02-11-2026 has been entered at Police Station Malhar.

During the course of investigation, best efforts were made to locate missing individual, whereas she is still un-traced.

As such Description Roll/Photograph of said missing individual is being shared with the appeal that anybody having clue/information regarding her whereabouts may inform us accordingly. The informer will be rewarded suitably:-

DESCRIPTION ROLL

Name	Sunita Devi
Father	Shanga
Permanent Address	Sadrota
Present Address	Sadrota
Tehsil	Lohai Malhar
Police Station	Malhar
Age	23 years
Height	05 feet
Complexion	Fair
Built	Normal
Face	Round
Eyes	Black
Attire	Black Kameez Multi clour Salwar
Languages known	Hindi/Dogri

PHOTOGRAPH



Any information related to the whereabouts of the subject may be communicated on following contacts:-

1. DPO Kathua- 01922-234010 (Phone/Fax)
2. dpokathua@jkpolice.gov.in (Mail ID)
3. PCR Kathua- 01922-234311(Phone/Fax)
4. SHO P/S Malhar- 9186316023

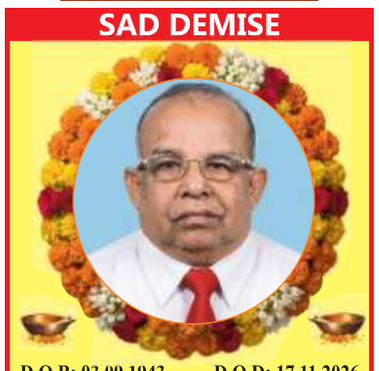
DIP/J- 14403/26

Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Kathua.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE



D.O.B: 03.09.1943 - D.O.D: 17.11.2026

Engr. S.NACHIAPPAN (83)
of Ariyakudi
Chairman & Managing Director
SANASIA ASSOCIATES PTE.LTD., Singapore
SAN CONSTRUCTION CO.PVT.LTD
Passed away at Chennai on 17.11.2026
Final rites at Ariyakudi today 18.11.2026 (afternoon)
Deeply Mourned by
N.SATHAPPAN (SON) - 9445115309
N.SUBRAMANIAN (SON) - 8438310250
CHANDRAN - 9381047832

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

14th ANNIVERSARY



S. RANGARAJAN
DOB: 01.04.1940 - DOD: 18.11.2012
Forever in our Hearts
Fondly Remembered by:
Sumathi Rangarajan
Karthik Rangarajan
Saiprasad Rangarajan

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PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

CORRIGENDUM

A Corrigendum is hereby issued for the tenders invited by the department of Pune Municipal Corporation, as mentioned below All details regarding the terms and conditions of the said work, along with other relevant information, have been incorporated in the Tender Document. The Tender Document is available free of cost for viewing on the website www.mahatenders.gov.in

Sr. No.	Tender No. Published in the Advertisement	Name / Details of the Tender
1	PMC/BHAVAN/ 100/2026-27	**Previous Name of Work** Pr.Kr.7 K Madhil Nadi Sudharna Praklpa Antargat Badhit Honari Sangamwadi Smashanbhumi Sthalantarit Karne Kami Sthaptya Vishayak Kame Karne. **Shall be read as follows:** Nadi Sudharna Praklpa Antargat Badhit Honari Sangamwadi Smashanbhumi Sthalantarit Karne Kami Sthaptya Vishayak Urvarit Kame Karne.

All other contents shall remain unchanged as published earlier.

SD/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Building Construction Department
Pune Municipal corporation

ADVT No: 3/1152
Date: 17/11/2026

CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY
(Established by an Act of Parliament)
56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058

Advertisement No. 06/2026 Date: 18.11.2026

Notification for engagement of Centre Coordinator & Vertical Experts on Contractual basis in Gyan Bhartam Cell of the Cluster Centre at Central Sanskrit University, Delhi

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for engagement on a **purely temporary, contractual and project basis for the positions of Centre Coordinator (01 Position) and Vertical Experts (04 Positions–one each in Survey & Cataloguing, Conservation, Technology & Digitization, and Script & Language) in the Gyan Bharatam Cell of the Cluster Centre at Central Sanskrit University, Delhi.** Interested candidates are advised to visit the University's official website at **www.sanskrit.nic.in** under the **"Recruitment"** tab for the detailed information regarding eligibility criteria, selection/engagement process, consolidated remuneration, roles and responsibilities, procedure for submission of online applications, and other relevant terms and conditions etc.

Last date for submission of application is 30.11.2026 upto 11:30 p.m. (IST).

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

H.P. STATE HANDICRAFTS & HANDLOOM CORPORATION LIMITED
BLOCK NO. 3, SDA COMMERCIAL COMPLEX, KASUMPTI, SHIMLA-171009
E-mail: mdhpshhcl@gmail.com. Phone No: 0177-2621557

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Managing Director, Himachal Pradesh State Handicrafts and Handloom Corporation Limited, Shimla, invites sealed tenders from eligible and experienced Firms/Agencies for design, fabrication, Installation, execution, beautification, stall decoration and other allied activities for Him Utsav at Dilli Haat, INA New Delhi w.e.f 16.12.2026 to 31.12.2026 through two-bid system. The schedule of receipt and opening of bids and other details are as under:

S. N	Particulars	Date & Time
1.	Date of publication of NIT and commencement of availability of tender documents	17.11.2026
2.	Last date and time for submission of sealed tender documents	01.12.2026, 11:00AM
3.	Date and time of opening of Technical Bids/ Presentation	01.12.2026, 11:30AM
4.	Date and time of opening of Financial Bids of technically qualified bidders	On the same day

The detailed tender document, inter alia, containing eligibility criteria, qualification requirements, scope of work, procedure for deposit of processing fee and EMD, prescribed bid formats and other terms and conditions, can be viewed/downloaded from the official website of the Corporation, i.e. www.himcrafts.com. or can be obtained from the Corporate office of the Corporation situated at Kasumpti, Shimla/ Field offices/ Emporia of the Corporation.

Managing Director

U.T. OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
56/2366(Old No.27/1038B), Panampilly Nagar, Cochin-682 036, India
Phone: 0484-2323448/2323458, E-Mail:amindivi@asianetindia.com
Website: www.lakshadweep.gov.in

E-tenders are invited from IG and Non-IG Insurance Companies approved by DG Shipping of India in two bid system through or **https://tendersutl.gov.in** for Protection and Indemnity Insurance cover of 21 Vessels operated by LDCL for a period of one year from Noon GMT 19.02.2027 to Noon GMT 19.02.2028. Last date of the submission through online portal is **08.12.2026 at 11.30 AM .**

For any help in e-tendering, please contact For any Technical Help, please contact Help Desk Number: 0120-4001 002, email: support-eproc@nic.in,.

For regarding any queries in tender documents, you may contact: 04842323458, Mobile: 9447407653 (Officer Administration).

Karnataka State Electronic Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Regd Office: #59, Kumara Park West Extension,
Railway Parallel Road, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru 560020
Tel: 080-22225645, Website: www.keonics.in

No: KSEDC/P332/2026-27 16.11.2026

E-Tender Notification

As per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and 2000, Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation Limited (KEONICS), Bengaluru invites tender of 15 days through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for **"Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Service Provider for Scanning and Digitization of Files and Records at the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms".** The information regarding the tender is made available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For any tender related queries or more information, Bidders may contact KEONICS during office hours. **(Telephone Number 080-2222 5645).**

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No.	Details of Tender	Last date to submit the tender
1	KEONICS/ 2026-27/ SE0149	Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Service Provider for Scanning and Digitization of Files and Records at the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms	02.12.2026

DIPR/CP/RO3730/AAPL/2026-27 SD/- Director (Finance)

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMILNADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD
BUILDINGS (CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE 2, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI-600 005.

e-Tender Notice No. 12 BCM/2026-2027/dated: 16.11.2026.
NOTICE FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE SELECTION OF ARCHITECT / ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL(RFP)
FOR

ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANCY FIRM FOR SPECIALIZED ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY FOR MULTI PURPOSE INDOOR STADIUM FOR PERAMBUR ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY AT DR. AMBEDKAR ARTS COLLEGE, VYASARPADI, CHENNAI.

1. For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (Construction & Maintenance) Circle 2, Chennai invites e-tenders from the leading Architect / Architectural Firms / consortium registered in the Council of Architecture in India / Equivalent to provide comprehensive Architectural Consultancy Services and PMC services towards Master planning for a total land area of about 1.16 Acres and detailed architectural and Structural design for Multi Purpose Indoor Stadium for Perambur Assembly constituency at Dr. Ambedkar Arts College, Vyasarpadi, Chennai.

E.M.D. Amount: Rs.1,00,000/- (through online only)

The last date for receipt of e-tender through online is upto 15.00 hours on **21.12.2026. for further details visit https://tntenders.gov.in**:

Superintending Engineer, PWD.,
Buildings (Construction & Maintenance)
Circle-2 Chepauk, Chennai – 600 005

DIPR/3616/Tender/2026

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (DISTRIBUTION)
KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LMITED (KPDCL)
EXHIBITION GROUND, JEHANGIR CHOWK OPP: J&K HIGH COURT, SRINAGAR 190001
E-mail:ce.mre.kash@gmail.comPhone No: 0194 - 2452001

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NITNo:CE/D/KPDCL/02 of 2026 Dated:14/11/2026.

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), and in compliance to his directions received vide communication no. MDKPDCL/TS/3348-50 dated 14/11/2026, e-bids (In two cover system, Part I - Techno-Commercial Bid &Part II - Price Bid) in Tender-Cum-Auction mode are hereby invited from eligible bidders for "Discovery of Tariff and Selection of RESCO-Renewable Energy Service Company for Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning including Warranty, Operation & Maintenance for 2 kW Grid Connected Roof Top Solar Plant for AAY Households in districts of Srinagar, Pulwama, Shupiyan, Ganderbal and Bandipora through RESCO Mode of Utility Led Aggregation Implementation under PM - Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana".

1. The price bids of technically responsive bidders shall be put to Reverse Auction to arrive at the L1 price.
2. Bidders who have already participated in the respective districts in response to the earlier e-NIT issued by this office vide e-NIT no. CE/D/KPDCL/ 01 of 2026 dated 02/06/2026 do not need to submit any Bid Processing Fee or EMD for participating in that district. However, in case they intend to participate in any new district, they shall submit the requisite Bid Processing Fee or EMD as specified in this document.

Further since the technical documents have already been submitted by such firms, they shall only be required to submit an undertaking from the authorized signatory in the format attached as Annexure Q. No Technical Bid is required to be submitted by them.

3. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.
4. The tender document is available on website **https://jktenders.gov.in**. Interested bidder may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over **http://jktenders.gov.in** from 14/11/2026 : 1600 Hours
B	Clarifications start date	14/11/2026 :1600Hours
C	Clarifications end date	19/11/2026 :1400Hours
D	e-Bidsubmission(start) date & time (Submission of bid processing fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	21/11/2026 :1400 Hours
E	e-Bid submission (end) date & Time	27/11/2026 :1400 Hours
F	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid Opening date & Time	28/11/2026 :1400 Hours
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & Financial e-Bids	Office of the Chief Engineer (Distribution), KPDCL, Srinagar
I	Bid Processing Fee	In the form of DD pledged to Chief Accounts Officer, Office of the Chief Engineer (Distribution), (KPDCL) and payable at Srinagar. The required amount of bid processing fee for each of the 5 administrative districts is given in Annexure B of the SBD
J	Earnest Money deposit (EMD)	Interested Bidder shall furnish EMD / Bid Security of required amount for each administrative district under the jurisdiction of KPDCL for which Bidder is placing Bid. The EMD shall be in the form of Bank Guarantee/FDR/CDR from a scheduled commercial bank pledged to Chief Accounts Officer, Office of the Chief Engineer (Distribution), (KPDCL) and payable at Srinagar/ Jammu. The required amount of Bid Security for each of the 5 administrative districts is given in Annexure B of the SBD.

5. Clarifications/doubts, if any, on RfP document shall be mailed to **ce.mre.kash@gmail.com** before the end-dates as specified above. No query or clarification shall be accepted if received in any mode other than email. Further, no queries shall be accepted and entertained beyond the dates as specified in this document.
6. The scanned copy of the demand draft for Bid processing fee must be enclosed along with the technical Bid but the original Demand Draft should reach the Office of the Chief Engineer (Distribution), KPDCL, Srinagarby or before the schedule date of technical bid opening.

   In case the bidder is bidding for multiple districts, he has to submit the Bid Processing Fee for each district that he is bidding for. He can either submit a single Demand Draft of cumulative value or separate Demand Drafts for each district that he is bidding for. Bids with insufficient bid processing fee are liable to be rejected.
7. The scanned copy of the EMD in the form of Bank Guarantee/CDR/FDR must also be enclosed along with the Technical Bid but the original Bank Guarantee/CDR/FDR should reach the Office of the Chief Engineer (Distribution), KPDCL, Srinagar by or before the schedule date of technical bid opening.

   In case the bidder is bidding for multiple districts, he shall submit a separate EMD for each district. Bids with insufficient EMD's are liable to be rejected.
8. The technical Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table.
9. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids of technically responsive bidders shall be notified on e-tendering website https://jktenders.gov.in. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through the tendering portal.
10. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly online on the tendering portalwhich shall generate the auction start price in each district for each contract period. The Auction Schedule shall subsequently be uploaded on the portal which shall be communicated to the responsive bidders through the portal who shall accordingly submit their bids as per the schedule.
11. The purchaser reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof if any major lapse/deviation is found. The decision of purchaser will be final and binding.
12. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday, then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
13. All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
14. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III(b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. Only those bidders shall be considered for technical evaluation who deposit the Bid Processing Fee and submit the requisite EMD.
15. Corrigendum's, if any would be published on the website.
16. Hard copy of only the commercial instruments as mentioned above are required to be submitted. No hard copy of the technical bid is required to be submitted. The documents uploaded on the website shall be treated as final.

No:CE/D/KPDCL/ TS/ 64788-93
Dated: 14/11/2026

Sd/-
(Er. Nisar Ahmad Lone)
Chief Engineer (Distribution)
KPDCL

DIPK-NB-2138/26

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMILNADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD
BUILDINGS (CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE 2, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI-600 005.

e-Tender Notice No. 14 BCM/2026-2027/dated: 16.11.2026.
NOTICE FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE SELECTION OF ARCHITECT / ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL(RFP)
FOR

ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANCY FIRM FOR SPECIALIZED ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY FOR PROPOSED OLYMPIC CITY AT SEMMENCHERI, CHENNAI

1. For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (Construction & Maintenance) Circle 2, Chennai invites e-tenders from the leading Architect / Architectural Firms / consortium registered in the Council of Architecture in India / Equivalent to provide comprehensive Architectural Consultancy Services and PMC services towards Master planning for a total land area of about 124.31 Acres and detailed architectural design for **proposed Olympic City at Semmencheri, Chennai.** E.M.D. Amount: Rs.2,00,000/- (through online only)

The last date for receipt of e-tender through online is upto 15.00 hours on **21.12.2026. for further details visit https://tntenders.gov.in:**

Superintending Engineer, PWD.,
Buildings (Construction & Maintenance) Circle-2
Chepauk, Chennai – 600 005

DIPR/3614/Tender/2026

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMILNADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD
BUILDINGS (CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE 2, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI-600 005.

e-Tender Notice No. 15 BCM/2026-2027/dated:16.11.2026.
NOTICE FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE SELECTION OF ARCHITECT / ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL(RFP)
FOR

ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANCY FIRM FOR SPECIALIZED ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY FOR PROPOSED OLYMPIC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AT CHENNAI, TIRUVANNAMALAI, COIMBATORE, NAGAPATTINAM AND PARAMAKUDI.

1. For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (Construction & Maintenance) Circle 2, Chennai invites e-tenders from the leading Architect / Architectural Firms / consortium registered in the Council of Architecture in India / Equivalent to provide comprehensive Architectural Consultancy Services and PMC services towards Master planning for a total land area of about 64.50 Acres and detailed architectural and Structural design for Olympic Centre of Excellence at Chennai – 15.00 Acres Tiruvannamalai - 10.00 Acres Coimbatore - 20.00 Acres Nagapattinam -12.00 Acres and Paramakudi -7.50 Acres E.M.D. Amount: Rs.2,00,000/- (through online only)

The last date for receipt of e-tender through online is upto 15.00 hours on **21.12.2026. for further details visit https://tntenders.gov.in**:

Superintending Engineer, PWD.,
Buildings (Construction & Maintenance) Circle-2
Chepauk, Chennai – 600 005

DIPR/3615/Tender/2026

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

Advt. No. :–JCECEB/46/26 -126 ,Ranchi/Dated: 17/11/2026

Indicative information regarding Special Stray vacancy Round- II of Online Counselling for admission to All India Seats in B.D.S. course

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

In compliance with the directions issued by Medical Counselling Committee, New Delhi on 16.11.2026 regarding the NEET-UG Schedule-2026 State Counselling, the Board will conduct Special Stray Vacancy Round-II of Online Counselling for admission to vacant All India seats in B.D.S. Course in Vananchal Dental College & Hospital, Garhwa under Babu Dinesh Singh University, Garhwa as well as Awadh Dental College & Hospital, Jamshedpur of the Jharkhand State.

Detailed information in this regard has been uploaded under "Important Notice" section of the **Board's website http://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in.**

Sd/-
PR 394017 Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board(26-27)D **(Controller of Examination)**

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Bommanahalli Zone-2,
Bangalore.

No: SADH/BSCC/(Z-2)/TENDER/02/2026-27 Date:17.11.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER(IFT)
(Through KPP Portal Only) (Single Cover Tender)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture Bommanahalli Zone-2,invites tenders through KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible and experienced Person / Agencies / Firms registered in Labour department for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.-17 N.S.Palya in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 455910/-** EMD: **Rs.11398/-**
2	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.-18 Vishwamanava Kuvempu Ward in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 5937310**/- EMD: **Rs.118746/-**
3	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.19 New Taverekere in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs.1163580/-** EMD: **Rs. 29090/-**
4	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.-20 Madivala in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 373525.60** EMD: **Rs.9338/-**
5	Maintenance of Medians at Madiwala Market Ward No.20 in Bommanahalli Constituency. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 286000/-** EMD: **Rs.7150/-**
6	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.-21 Chikka Adugodi in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2.Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 494060**/- EMD: **Rs.12352/-**
7	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..22 Rashtra Kavi Kuvempu (Saddagunte palya) Park in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 3903200/-** EMD: **Rs. 78064/-**
8	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..24 A.Adugodi in Bommanahalli zone in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 4696690**/- EMD: **Rs. 93934/-**
9	Maintenance of Medians at Ward No..24 A. Adugodi in Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 377000/-** EMD: **Rs. 9425/-**
10	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..25 National Games Village in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 1189000/-** EMD: **Rs. 29725/-**
11	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..26 NGV Quarters Ejipura in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 823010/-** EMD: **Rs. 20575/-**
12	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..27 Sri Lakshmidevi ward parks in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs.** 1055480/-EMD: **Rs. 26387/-**
13	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..28 Koramangala East in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs.4436460/-** EMD: **Rs. 88729/-**
14	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..29 Koramangala West in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs.6763890/-** EMD: **Rs.135278/-**
15	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..30 Jakkasandra in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 1461420/-** EMD: **Rs. 36536/-**
16	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..53 Jaraganahalli in Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 1344400/-** EMD: **Rs. 33610/-**
17	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..53 Doresani Palya in Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 3794540**/-EMD: **Rs. 75891/-**
18	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..57 Hulimavu in Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 776480/-** EMD: **Rs.19412/-**
19	Maintenance of Medians at Hulimavu Temple road to Dental College in Bommanahalli Constituency. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 129220/-** EMD: **Rs. 3231/-**
20	Maintenance of Medians at Lake Road to Fire Engine Road in Bommanahalli Constituency. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 67200/-** EMD: **Rs. 1680/-**
21	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..58 Arakere in Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs 1060980/-** EMD: **Rs. 26525/-**
22	Maintenance of Medians at Bannerghatta road to Saibaba temple Part-1 and 2 in ward 58 Arekere.Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 210000/-** EMD: **Rs. 5250/-**
23	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..59 Vijaya Bank Layout in Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs.4004510/-** EMD: **Rs. 80090/-**
24	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..60 Billekahalli Vijaya bank colony, in Bommanahalli Zone -2 (KAVERAMMA TEMPLE). Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 497250/-** EMD: **Rs.12431/-**
25	Maintenance of Park at Near Namana Hotel in Ward No.-60 at Billekahalli in Bommanahalli Constituency. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 280000/-** EMD: **Rs. 7000/-**
26	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..61 Kodichikkanahalli in Bommanahalli Zone -2. NIGHTINGAL SCHOOL). Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 474240/-** EMD: **Rs. 11856/-**
27	Maintenance of Medians at Vijaya Bank Layout to Hulimavu Krishna Kutira Hotel in Bommanahalli Constituency. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 175000/-** EMD: **Rs. 4375/-**
28	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..62 Devarchikkanahalli in Bommanahalli Zone -2. (bande park). Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 507000/-** EMD: **Rs.12675/-**
29	Maintenance of Medians at RTO Besides Hotel in Bommanahalli Constituency. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 110000/-** EMD: **Rs. 2750/-**
30	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..63 Bommanahalli in Bommanahalli Zone -2. (VIRAT NAGARA) . Amount put to Tender: **Rs.378300/-** EMD: **Rs. 9458/-**
31	Maintenance of Medians at Sathya Sai Baba to Kempegowda Circle at Bommanahalli Constituency. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 80000/-** EMD: **Rs. 2000/-**
32	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..64 HONGASANDRA NEAR GRAVE YARD in Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs.124880/-** EMD: **Rs. 3122/-**
33	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..65 Garvebavipalya Mico layout in Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 520000/-** EMD: **Rs. 13000/-**
34	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..66 Singasandra in Bommanahalli Zone -2. (GOVT HOSPITAL PREMISES). Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 550000/-** EMD: **Rs.13750/-**
35	Maintenance of Medians at Opposite Central Jail Part-1,1 and 3 in Ward No.-66 Singasandra at Bommanahalli Constituency. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 310000/-** EMD: **Rs. 7750/-**
36	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..67 Singasandra, in Bommanahalli Zone -2. (NEAR HIGHT TENSION LINE). Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 241500/-** EMD: **Rs. 6038/-**
37	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..68 ITI Park Mangammanapalya in Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 429000/-** EMD: **Rs. 10725/-**
38	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..69 Hosapalya Horticulture Faram Park in Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 1600000/-** EMD: **Rs. 40000/-**
39	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..70 Sector-1, 28th main (FOODYS PARK) Ibbaluru in Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs 2601810/-** EMD: **Rs. 52036/-**
40	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..71 Agara in Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 4787820/-** EMD: **Rs. 95756/-**
41	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No..72 HSR layout, in Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 10062679/-** EMD: **Rs. 150940/-**
42	Maintenance of Sarajapura Road Median in Ward No. 107. Amount put to Tender: Rs. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 495000/-** EMD: **Rs. 12375/-**
43	Maintenance of ORR- sarjapura junction to Ibalur junction in Ward No. 107. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 390000/-** EMD: **Rs. 9750/-**
44	Maintenanace of Kasavanahalli Lake park in Ward No. 107. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 563750**/- EMD: **Rs. 14094/-**
45	Maintenanace of Kaikondrahalli Lake park in Ward No. 107. Amount put to Tender: **594000/-** EMD: **Rs. 14850/-**
46	Maintenance of Ambalee Pura park at Bellandure ward area in Ward No. 107. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 196840/-** EMD: **Rs. 4921/-**
47	Maintenance of Haraluru Lake in Ward No. 107. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 638000/-** EMD: **Rs. 15950/-**
48	Maintenance of BOREWLL in Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency parks. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 5000000/-** EMD: **Rs. 100000/-**
49	Maintenance of Borewells in BTM Layout Assembly Constituency parks. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 6000000/-** EMD: **Rs. 120000/-**
50	Maintenance of Toilets at Bommanahalli constituency in Bommanahalli Zone. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 4000000/-** EMD: **Rs. 80000/-**
51	Maintenance of toilets in B.T.M Layout Assembly Constituency parks. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 4000000/-** EMD: **Rs. 80000/-**
52	Civil Maintenance In Bommanahalli Constituency parks at Bommanahalli Zone. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 3500000/-** EMD: **Rs. 70000/-**
53	Civil Maintenance In BTM Constituency parks at Bommanahalli Zone. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 5000000**/- EMD: **Rs. 100000/-**
54	Supply of water through tankers for Parks, Medians and Circles in BTM Layout Assembly Constituency. Amount put to Tender: **Rs.** 2500000/-EMD: **Rs. 50000/-**
55	Supply of water through tankers for Parks, Medians and Circles in Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency. Amount put to Tender: **1500000/-** EMD: **Rs. 37500/-**
56	Providing of Security in BTM Layout Constituency. Amount put to Tender: **8500000/-** EMD: **Rs.170000/-**
57	Providing of Security in Bommanahalli Constituency Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 8500000**/- EMD: **Rs.170000/-**

1) Tender Documents can be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 20.11.2026** onwards. **2)** Pre-bid Meeting : **23.11.2026. 3)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Documents: **05.12.2026 upto 04.00 p.m. 4)** Opening of Technical bids: **08.12.2026 at 11.30 a.m.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture,
Bommanahalli Zone-2

A ND-NDE

Elusive peace

Restoration of Statehood is essential for peace in Jammu and Kashmir

Three months of lull established by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir was rattled by the back-to-back incidents of violence in the past six days. On November 11, a terror attack on a checkpoint manned by the personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Kulgam left three jawans injured. On November 16, a local, whom the police suspected of having joined the terror ranks a few days ago, was killed after six days of a siege-like anti-terror operation in residential areas of Kulgam. In Jammu's Kishtwar, two Special Police Officers (SPOs) of the J&K Police were found dead with bullet wounds, a day after they were reported missing in a forest range on November 11. The police and the Army, however, remain tight-lipped about the circumstances around the killing of these SPOs, and there are conflicting reports on the circumstances that led to their deaths. The anti-terror operation in civilian areas of Kulgam has raised concerns. Former J&K Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti described the operation, spread over six days, as "collective punishment that only breeds alienation and resentment," while NC spokesman Imran Nabi Dar suggested that entire villages were put under prolonged restrictions for days. The Omar Abdullah government, because of limited powers and no jurisdiction over the police in J&K, a Union Territory since 2019, finds itself hamstrung. The iron hand policy to stamp out terrorism and separatism has been effective from a strictly security perspective – terror attacks as well as local recruitments into terror ranks have declined. According to the police, local recruits have come down to single digit or fewer than 10 in Kashmir.

That said, the decline in terrorist incidents and the silence of the streets should not be mistaken for peace. The current situation demands a political reach-out by the Centre to all the stakeholders of J&K. It has to begin with the much-promised restoration of Statehood, which will give the voters a sense that their mass participation in the 2024 Assembly elections allowed their elected leaders to hold institutions accountable, and they were able to work freely to protect the interests of the region. Though the security agencies need to be focused on Pakistan-backed terrorism, it should not come at the cost of re-inflicting psychological scars within Kashmir, which could turn into a powder keg if left unattended. Healing through both political and security processes has to be complementary rather than conflicting. Allowing the political class of J&K to establish its writ and providing room to security agencies to combat challenges are not contradictory.

All-too fallible

Death penalty requires a near-infallible criminal justice system

India's vote against a proposed global moratorium on the death penalty at the UN is consistent with its position at the forum; it has defended its retention of the penalty as a sovereign decision backed by judicial safeguards, including the "rarest of rare" condition and sessions courts' sentences requiring a High Court's confirmation. At the same time, the Supreme Court has increasingly restricted capital punishment and research has failed to find evidence of additional deterrence over life imprisonment. India's distinction between judicial executions and extrajudicial killings is legally valid but its further claim that due process protects people facing execution is less so. While India last executed convicts in 2020, for the Delhi gang-rape and murder, Parliament expanded the number of capital offences under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita – a form of penal populism that projects the political attractiveness of the state's response to public outrage, especially in cases of sexual violence, without addressing the poor policing and low conviction rates that actually undermine deterrence. The country had 574 people on death row on December 31, 2025, the highest since 2016, thanks to trial court rulings, challenging claims about judicial safeguards in practice. The report of the 2015 Law Commission headed by Justice A.P. Shah said the death penalty "fails to achieve any constitutionally valid penological goals" and recommended abolishing it for all crimes except terrorism and waging war.

Only a small group of countries worldwide are executing more people. In India, per Project 39A, the Supreme Court released 38 persons from death row in 2016-2025 after they had spent eight years there on average. Some have endured more than two decades. The punishment requires a measure of infallibility that the criminal justice system cannot supply. The safeguards neither deter convictions in cases with flawed evidence, false testimony, and so on nor remedy unequal access to competent legal representation among those facing the penalty. India should formally suspend executions and commission a review of penalty statutes and the treatment of prisoners on death row. Second, it should spare offences that do not involve intentional killing from the penalty. Research suggests meting out excessively harsh punishments for non-fatal crimes could incentivise offenders to escalate their violence, including to kill potential witnesses. The greater goal should be to abolish the practice in law while improving investigative and prosecutorial practices and access to legal aid.

Transgender rights, healthcare should not be compromised

Anand Zachariah

Sudharshini Subramaniam

Swati Jayant Pawar

L. Ramakrishnan

Gargi Dhananjayan

C. Meena

K.S. Jacob

Authors are physicians, public health practitioners and activists working to advance LGBTQIA+ health and rights, and promote greater equality, inclusion and social justice for transgender persons

Parliament passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026 earlier this year. The new Act represents a significant shift from the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. The 2026 amendment removes the principle of self-identification and demands a medical board's recommendation; a selection from prescribed categories; and certification by a District Magistrate. It fundamentally changes legal recognition for transgender persons from self-identification to medical assessment. While the 2026 Act does increase protection, it changes the philosophical foundation of transgender rights – from recognition based substantially on autonomy and self-identification towards recognition mediated by medical and administrative authorities.

Creating medico-legal hurdles

The definition of "transgender" as introduced in the Amendment Act is in contradiction to established international evidence and guidelines laid down in the World Health Organization ICD-11 and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health Standards of Care Version 8.

The new Act conflates two different issues: whether a person's gender identity is legally valid and a person's eligibility for social welfare benefits. It also makes a medical authority the gatekeeper of gender identity. The Supreme Court had held that gender identity is part of one's personal autonomy and dignity under Article 21, and had rejected the idea that gender identity should be dependent on medical intervention. This new definition resurrects the discredited psychiatric model in which a deeply felt internal and social identity becomes a matter for professional certification.

It raises the broader question of whether the law is protecting transgender persons or deciding which transgender identities are sufficiently medically recognisable to deserve protection. The new amendment defines 'transgender' very narrowly – it removes trans men, trans women and genderqueer persons from its statutory definition and introduces a restricted set of categories, which include certain socio-cultural identities and persons with specified variations in sex characteristics. For transgender persons excluded from this definition, it would create a mismatch between the gender incongruence experienced by the individual and that recognised administratively. It also excludes people who previously fell within the protection of the 2019 Act by medicalising some identities and culturally recognising some others (identities such as *kinner*, *hijra*, *aravani*, *jogta*, eunuch). It mandates medical certification of even such cultural categories. While the medical board can recognise biological characteristics (which may or may not co-occur with a transgender identity), how will it determine membership within a socio-cultural community? The new Act does not provide an effective appeal mechanism nor independent review.

> Clinical understanding of the care needs of a transgender person remains rudimentary in India. Doctors, nurses and hospital administrators need to be trained in basic transgender health

The *NALSA* judgment strongly articulated a rights and autonomy approach while the 2026 Act supports a paternalistic model with reduced autonomy. Should the state protect a marginalised group by introducing medico-legal hurdles or by maximising individual autonomy while providing strong protections against exploitation? The Act creates potential tensions with the constitutional reasoning of *NALSA*, risks excluding many gender-diverse people, and leaves important procedural questions about certification and appeal unresolved.

The consequences

The new Act has many negative public health consequences. The lack of an appeal process is particularly important as the certificate has implications for access to statutory rights and entitlements. It introduces multiple barriers to gender affirming care, documentation, employment, education, social-security schemes, insurance and mental health services. The ambiguity regarding the legality of gender-affirming and supportive care has resulted in uncertainty among care providers and has led some of them to delay, suspend, or withdraw services. This is likely to drive individuals toward unregulated and informal sources of care, including private, unqualified providers operating outside established medical systems. The shift towards the "grey market" for hormones and surgical interventions may increase the risk of self-medication, post-operative complications, infections, side-effects and morbidity. The bureaucratic requirements may lead to significant out-of-pocket expenditures and delays in accessing care. There is also emerging field-level evidence from helplines, community consultations, and hearing sessions indicating an increase in distress calls from transgender individuals, including reports of suicidal ideation, depression, sleep disturbance, and anxiety following the introduction of the amendment.

India has come a long way in recognising the rights of transgender persons. The 2014 *NALSA* judgment recognised transgender persons' right to identity and dignity, and the Government has since introduced laws, welfare schemes, identity certificates, shelter homes, insurance and healthcare initiatives for the community. And yet, transgender people and communities face massive discrimination in nearly all sectors. The National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) 2026 advisory identifies continuing concerns involving education, healthcare, property and inheritance, employment, documentation, and policing and grievance redressal. The Act goes against the NHRC's recommendations particularly with respect to self-identification, independent grievance mechanisms and reducing documentation barriers.

Transgender healthcare

Many transgender persons hesitate to enter hospitals because of previous experiences, fear of being judged, lack of understanding among healthcare workers, concerns about privacy, cost, or dignified care. These become powerful barriers to seeking healthcare for people who have faced discrimination in environments that cater to cisgender people.

Some hospitals have dedicated transgender clinics that provide specialised care, counselling, hormone therapy, and gender-affirming services. Nevertheless, transgender persons can develop other illnesses such as diabetes or hypertension and may need the full range of care – primary, preventative, emergency, specialist, surgery, dental etc. They should not have to search for a "transgender-inclusive hospital" every time they fall sick. Transgender healthcare should become part of general healthcare.

Clinical understanding of the care needs of a transgender person remains rudimentary in India. Doctors, nurses, receptionists, security staff and hospital administrators need to be trained in basic transgender health. While the Madras High Court's *Sushma* (2021) verdict mandates such education, curriculum changes proposed by the National Medical Commission have failed to incorporate such training. Hospital forms and records should allow appropriate recording of a patient's preferred name and gender identity while retaining clinically relevant information. A mandate of the 2019 Act to designate a Complaints Officer in every establishment has not been complied with in most hospitals. There is an urgent need for inclusive mainstream healthcare, supported by specialised services when necessary.

The passage of the 2026 Act is contributing to a public health emergency. India should focus on the humanity of all people rather than divide them on the basis of bigotry and prejudice. One's humanity should be judged by the people we include rather than by those we exclude.

India needs a comprehensive doctrine on space security



Advitya Madan

Analyst of geopolitics, international affairs and defence. Commanded 15 Punjab in Lebanon under the United Nations flag, commanded 27 Sector as DIG in Churachandpur, and served as Brigadier, Operational Logistics, at HQ Western Command

Space has transformed from a specialised domain of scientific exploration into an area which hosts essential infrastructure underpinning everyday life, economic activity and national security. Communications, navigation, weather forecasting, disaster management, agriculture, banking, logistics and critical infrastructure are increasingly dependent on satellites and space-enabled services. In India, space capabilities support the armed forces through communications, positioning, surveillance, timing and situational awareness. Space is therefore no longer a separate technological sector but an essential component of national resilience and strategic autonomy. As dependence expands, disruption can have consequences for markets, governance, security and society at large.

The character of threats in space is changing. Competition extends beyond the destruction of satellites to the disruption of the services they provide. Space systems can now be affected by jamming and spoofing that interfere with communications and navigation. Cyber interference can target satellite networks, ground stations and supporting infrastructure, while electronic warfare can degrade signals and reduce the reliability of space-enabled systems. Such methods can produce effects without physically damaging a spacecraft, making attribution and response more complex. The vulnerability lies not only in the satellite itself, but in the wider architecture connecting space assets to users on Earth. This shift from destruction to disruption has made space security a more complex challenge for states.

Changing threat landscape

This changing threat environment matters particularly for India, whose dependence on space-based services is expanding across military and civilian domains. The interconnected nature of these systems also means that disruption in one part of the space architecture can have consequences elsewhere on the ground. Therefore, resilience becomes essential.

As India's dependence on space grows, greater clarity is needed about how different forms of interference should be understood and assessed. What constitutes an attack on a space system? Is physical destruction of a satellite fundamentally different from jamming, spoofing or cyber interference that degrades or temporarily disables a system? How should responsibility be attributed when interference originates through complex networks or involves multiple actors? What if disruption is temporary but has significant effects on military operations, critical infrastructure or essential services? How should decision-makers distinguish accidental interference from deliberate attack? And, when attribution remains uncertain, how should a response be determined without inadvertently escalating a crisis?

India is not starting from a policy vacuum. The Indian Space Policy 2023 provides an overarching framework for space activities, while ISRO's Indian Space Situational Awareness Report for 2025 (ISSAR-2025) documents India's efforts in space situational awareness, collision avoidance and space-debris mitigation. The strategic question is how the existing policy framework and space situational awareness can better inform decision-making on hostile disruption, attribution and crisis response. India needs a clearer framework establishing thresholds, attribution standards and response principles for different forms of space disruption.

> India's objective should not be to turn outer space into another arena of conflict, but to ensure that disruption in space does not translate into vulnerability on Earth

Interconnected network

Space security cannot be treated solely as a military or government responsibility. An increasing part of the space ecosystem is operated and serviced by commercial entities. Private satellite operators and service providers support communications, navigation, and other activities underpinning civilian infrastructure and economic functions. Disruption affecting a commercial system can therefore have consequences for public services, businesses and national security. Security depends on the resilience of the wider ecosystem, not simply on protecting government-owned assets. Sustained government-industry coordination is important for information sharing, identifying vulnerabilities, responding to disruptions and maintaining essential services.

A comprehensive Indian space-security doctrine should begin with resilience: multiple systems, redundancy, and sufficient flexibility to sustain essential functions when individual components are disrupted. Equally important is space-domain awareness – the ability to understand activity around Indian assets, identify anomalies and strengthen the basis for attribution. A credible framework must also address reconstitution and recovery, ensuring that essential capabilities can be restored rapidly. This requires partnerships among government agencies, the armed forces, ISRO, commercial operators and other stakeholders. A space-security doctrine need not mean an unrestricted push towards weaponisation. Its purpose should be to ensure that India can deter, withstand, attribute and recover from disruption while preserving the peaceful use of outer space.

India's objective should not be to turn outer space into another arena of conflict, but to ensure that disruption in space does not translate into vulnerability on Earth. As space-enabled services become embedded in defence and economic activity, their continuity is inseparable from protecting national interests. The measure of space security should not be the accumulation of capabilities alone, but the capacity to preserve functions, withstand shocks and recover quickly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Redraw poverty line

While there may have been a decline in extreme poverty levels, obtaining a clear and consistent picture of poverty remains difficult because of gaps in the periodicity of conducting the necessary surveys, alongside delays in collection and publication of data (Opinion page, "A poverty line that falls short", November 17). Even as extreme poverty has declined, economic inequalities in India have remained high as the fruits of economic development have not percolated to the bottom rungs of society. There is a need to redraw the poverty line based on hard and reliable data and ensure that the benefits of economic growth are distributed more equitably.

Kosaraju Chandramouli
Hyderabad

Avoid distortions

The Census 2027 had surprisingly listed 287 entries under 'other religions' including ISKCON, Shri Ram, Sanatan, Pentecostal, Methodist, Shia, Sunni etc. (Front page, "287 other religions briefly listed on the census portal", November 17). This strange classification raises serious questions. A denomination, spiritual movement or religious tradition cannot automatically be treated as a separate religion. Such confusion risks distortion of demographic statistics and fuels divisive political narratives. The Census must record individual religious identities without imposing categories. India needs accurate statistics, not artificial divisions.

P. H. Hema Sagar
Secunderabad

Caste discrimination

The report titled "Caste-neutral hair salon set up in Munnar to counter bias faces closure" (November 17 edition) has made for sad reading. A symbol of protest against caste discrimination, the "caste-free" hair salon represented the ideals of fraternity and human dignity underpinning the Constitution. The inability of the local panchayat body to trace the records allowing rent-free allotment for the building from which the salon operates cannot be an excuse for its closure. Social barriers based on caste cannot be allowed to continue.

G. David Milton
Tamil Nadu

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name.

Field staff inform health research



Parthesarathy Rajendran

Executive Director, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)/ Doctors Without Borders South Asia

Ask a health worker in a humanitarian setting in South Asia what does not work in the setting, and they will have examples ready. They know where the patient referral system breaks down, which communities remain out of reach, and where protocols fail to account for ground realities.

Yet, these are rarely the people documenting the gaps or analysing why they persist. The research is done by professionals distant from the ground work, and the voices of field workers who know the gaps often do not make it to journals. As a result, the gaps persist in the next emergency. A field worker knows which question matters, while a researcher brings the systematic approach and methodological rigour needed to investigate it. Neither can do the other's job, nor should try. The task here is not to turn health workers into academics but develop knowledge applicable to different ground realities.

Humanitarian health workers spend days with people in communities that are struck by conflict, displaced from home, ground down by poverty and diseases. Standard models of care often do not work in such constrained settings. Hence, the workers improvise and find practical solutions. That experience is worth way more than we give credit for. They see barriers that never show up in routine data. They identify an approach that could work well beyond its place of origin.

Research should be carried out in a way where field staff are pushed to the margins when it comes to data collection. The people who run the operations should help shape the questions, have a say in how the study is designed and stay involved when the findings are interpreted and acted on. When that happens, their experience is no longer just an anecdote. It becomes evidence that can improve treatment, strengthen services and where data supports it, change policy.

In Gaza, between August 2024 and December 2025, a Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) surgical field hospital treated around 5,550 trauma patients. A retrospective study looks at the injuries, the operations and how the patients fared. It addresses the shortage of systematic clinical data from a conflict setting where much of the available information has come from witness accounts. Although the findings are preliminary, the work has already produced practical tools, including standardised case definitions, reporting forms, and a data platform to support further analysis. These are important steps towards building a stronger evidence base from trauma care provided in conflict settings.

In Bihar, India, clinical studies led by MSF, alongside research conducted by the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) in Ethiopia, examined treatment for people living with HIV who were also affected by Visceral Leishmaniasis, commonly known as Kala-Azar. The studies found that combination therapy performed better than treatment with a single medicine. This body of evidence contributed to the World Health Organization's updated recommendations on treating HIV and Visceral Leishmaniasis for co-infection.

If we want more of this to happen, research should reach out to people running humanitarian operations. While research should maintain its rigour, there should be room for pragmatic study designs and real-world data and also backing practitioners so they can use both well.

Field workers also need mentorship, protected time, proper funding and the opportunity to work alongside experienced researchers. They require support to publish their findings, so that what is learned in one place can inform work in another.

Platforms such as 'MSF Scientific Days', initiated in London in 2004 and started as 'MSF Scientific Days South Asia' in New Delhi in 2015 which became MSF Scientific Days Asia in 2019, assist in collating these voices. Practitioners present their work, receive feedback, meet academic researchers and begin collaborations across projects and organisations. Such platforms can bring research within reach for frontline teams and encourage more of them to question and investigate what they see in work and build partnerships to find answers.

The knowledge to improve humanitarian healthcare is already being generated every day. Our responsibility is to develop partnerships to ensure it reaches practical applications, informs better decisions, and ultimately makes a difference in the lives of people who depend on the care we provide.

Standard modes do not often work in humanitarian settings. Health workers at the ground level improvise and find practical solutions

Fearmongering around fake drugs



Dinesh S. Thakur

Co-author of *The Truth Pill: The Myth of Drug Regulation in India* (Simon & Schuster)



Prashant Reddy T.

Co-author of *The Truth Pill: The Myth of Drug Regulation in India* (Simon & Schuster)

Recent news from Karnataka regarding the seizure of fake cancer drugs from a licensed distributor during a raid has understandably sparked concerns. Counterfeit drugs for serious conditions like cancer are a sensational and emotive issue, often provoking a demand for severe action, including death sentences for those involved in the distribution.

However, in this case, there is a serious reason to doubt the authenticity of the news reports about the recent seizure since the Government of Karnataka has not confirmed that indeed counterfeit cancer drugs were seized in the raid. While a purported list of the drugs seized was circulated on social media, it only contained antibiotics, not cancer drugs. The silence of the State Health Department on the news reports about the counterfeit drugs is insensitive to the dread and uncertainty being faced by patients receiving cancer treatment, not to mention the doubts of those wondering whether they lost their loved ones to cancer because of counterfeit drugs. The Department should clear the air on the matter by issuing a press release or holding a press conference. If counterfeit cancer drugs were indeed seized, the government should release the names of the drugs and the hospitals possibly affected. If not, it should at least communicate the same to the public. Letting the uncertainty hang without authoritative answers is not in public interest.

On the broader issue of whether counterfeit drugs are a significant problem in India, it should be noted that as per the last National Drug Survey published in 2017, the volume of counterfeit drugs in the Indian market detected in the survey was at a miniscule 0.0245%. This figure reflects the negligible number of drugs detected during routine sampling by drug inspectors across the country. This figure is also a far cry from the mythical figure of 25% which was circulating in the press once upon a time. That figure was attributed to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and had a long shelf life before disappearing from the press but not before conjuring up a scare among policymakers.

The figure of 0.0245% of counterfeit drugs in the Indian market can be ascribed to the fact that those with advanced counterfeiting skills are more likely to apply them to cosmetics or fast-moving consumer goods since legal risk is much lower in counterfeiting such items and their supply chains are more porous. On the other hand, drug trade comes with legal requirements for record keeping on all purchases, which is a necessity if pharmacies or distributors want to invoke the immunity provided to them by law under Section 19(3) of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Despite the low prevalence of counterfeit drugs in India, the issue gets disproportionate attention in the press, not least because it is sensational and attracts readership. The attention to counterfeiting issues is higher also due to the huge lobby of anti-counterfeiting solution-providers who look to profit from the sale of expensive technological solutions. This industry is constantly lobbying the Union government for the adoption of their preferred technologies as the legal standard to be adopted by all pharmaceutical companies.

The cost of these technologies will result in more expensive drugs because pharmaceutical companies will certainly pass these costs onto patients. The Ministry of Health would be well advised to tread lightly in response to such lobbying, which can take many insidious forms, including disguised Public Interest Litigation (PIL) before the courts. Any policy proposal to combat counterfeiting should be proportional to the problem that it seeks to address with a minimal impact on drug prices.

Transportation loophole

Besides, there is a legal loophole that needs to be closed. It is the lack of a licensing framework for those involved in transporting drugs between manufacturers and distributors or retailers. This is an old issue first raised by the Supreme Court in the 1970s and has never been addressed by the government. Similarly, a pending proposal to adopt Good Distribution Practices (GDP) proposed by the WHO to better regulate the storage and distribution of drugs within the country has been pending for more than a decade on the Health Minister's desk. Fixing these issues may go a longer distance than any technology in narrowing the possibilities for counterfeiters to enter India's drug supply chain.

As per the last National Drug Survey published in 2017, the volume of counterfeit drugs in the Indian market detected in the survey was at a negligible 0.0245%

Every third transgender elector deleted during SIR

Their number has dropped by 31.4% from 45,610 to 31,300 in the States analysed; it has gone even below their enrolled number during 2019 LS elections

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis

Concern over mass disenfranchisement has loomed large ever since the Election Commission of India launched the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls first in Bihar in mid-2025, with protests intensifying in the last couple of months after allegations of serious procedural lapses were raised.

However, the transgender community has remained largely absent from the discourse. Among the most marginalised in the country, the transgender electorate has shrunk by roughly one-third in the States and Union Territories that have either completed the SIR or where the exercise is under way. In other words, every third transgender elector on the rolls has been deleted during the SIR exercise.

This is after the country made considerable progress between 2014 and 2024 in enrolling more number of transgender electors, who are more prone to migrations due to stigma they often face within their families and in society, lack of employment opportunities and difficulty in finding housing.

Though the ECI first recorded transgender electors under "Others" category in 2009, it was due to the Supreme Court's ruling in the *National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) versus Union of India (2014)* that everyone has the right to a self-perceived gender identity and be officially identified as "Third gender", which led to more persons getting enrolled as "Third gender" instead of having to identify themselves as male of female.

Chart 1 shows the sharp jump in their numbers since 2014, in terms of enrolled electors and those who voted. (Please refer to the note in the graphic for the States and Union Territories excluded from the analysis).

The enrolled numbers nearly doubled from 28,046 to 45,610 between the 2014 and 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Importantly, albeit being low, their participation jumped manifold, as reflected in the number of electors.

In 2014, just 7.8% of the enrolled transgender persons voted in the Lok Sabha election. This jumped to 27% in 2024, in which 12,331 transgender persons from the States and Union Territories included in the analysis voted.

Though the enrolment and participation increased, it is to be noted that the enrolment was far below their actual population, which according to Census 2011 was about 0.04%, or roughly 4.84 lakh. It is against this backdrop that the SIR exercise seems to have rewound the clock with a high number of deletions.

In the States analysed, the number of transgender electors has dropped by 31.4% from 45,610 to 31,300. As shown in **Chart 2**, their numbers are not just below their 2024 electorate, but even below their enrolled numbers during 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Among the major States with at least 1,000 transgender electors in 2024, Tamil Nadu was an outlier. The transgender electorate shrunk only by 10%, which is smaller than the share of electors dropped in the overall electorate.

Table 1 shows the 15 States and U.T.s with the highest number of electors in 2024 and the drop in the numbers during SIR. Delhi saw nearly 64%, or roughly two out of every three transgender elector, getting deleted in the draft SIR rolls. It is yet to release the final SIR rolls.

Beyond the SIR exercise, the process of procuring a voter ID that identifies an elector as transgender has become stringent, after the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act. The amendment removed the right to self-identification of gender identity and enforced mandatory institutional and medical validation for persons to have a transgender certificate. This exposed the trans community to higher scrutiny, according to academician and trans activist Agni Pradeep, which made obtaining the certificate more difficult. "(Because of this scrutiny) trans people are not putting in the effort to get their health insurance, let alone their voter IDs," she said.

The certificate is mandatory for a transgender person to be recognised as such by the government of India and allows them to avail ration cards, voter ID card, and other welfare schemes. This ID card can be applied using the National Portal for Transgender Persons or the mobile application. A large part of the transgender populace is unaware of this process, according to Ms. Agni.

Data from the portal show that as of November, 48,707 persons have registered for transgender certificates. Barring any potential increase in population, this is a little over 10% of the 4.8 lakh trans persons recorded in the 2011 Census. The number of registered persons is below the number of electors post the SIR.

Further, the portal states that more than 9,000 applications for the certificate are still pending, with nearly 1,600 applications pending for more than four months to a year. This indicates a good number of applicants would not have been able to register as transgender in their voter's ID, due to the pendency.

Ms. Agni was able to get her name on her voter list as her family helped her enrol. "Trans persons are most often abandoned by their families, due to which they have no proper documentation," she said. "Even for cisgender, heterosexual persons, the process of changing one's name in the voter ID has been complicated," she elaborated. "So, with the scrutiny, and the fact that most trans people are unable to visit their hometowns, or visit their parents' house, where their voter ID may be stuck, how will they ensure that their name is on the roll?"

Rendered invisible

The data for the charts were sourced from the Election Commission of India, websites of Chief Electoral Officers of respective States and Union Territories and Census 2011



CHART 1 : While the number of transgender persons on the rolls doubled between 2014 and 2024, the number of those who voted increased nearly six-fold

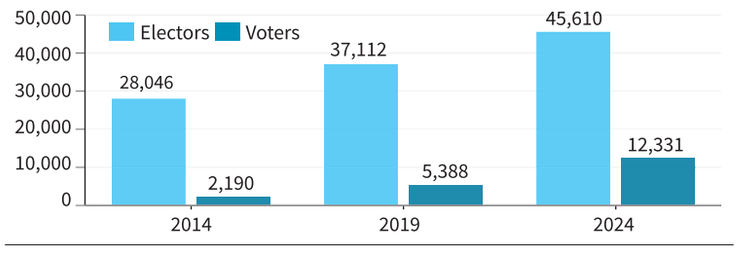


CHART 2 : Post the SIR exercise across States/U.T.s, the number of transgender electors declined by about 15,000. Many saw deletions of more than 30% of transgender electors

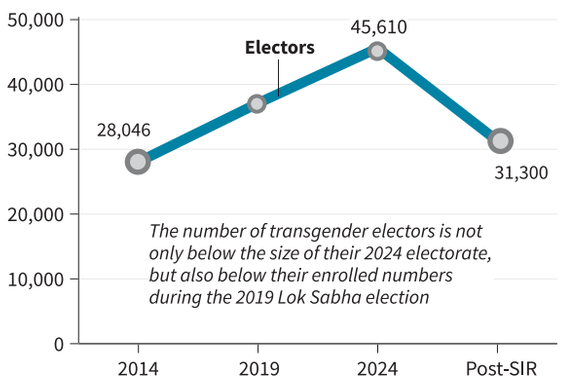


TABLE 1 : Fifteen States and U.T.s with the highest number of transgender electors in 2024 Lok Sabha elections and their numbers post-SIR

The analysis includes States and U.T.s for which gender-wise after SIR were available. Draft SIR roll numbers were taken for States / UTs which are yet to release final rolls. States excluded: Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, where SIR has not happened. Tripura is yet to release draft SIR rolls. Data was not available for Gujarat, Haryana, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu

State / U.T.	2024	Post-SIR	% Change
Tamil Nadu	8,467	7,617	10.0
Uttar Pradesh	6,633	4,206	36.6
Maharashtra	5,720	3,087	46.0
Karnataka	5,013	2,841	43.3
Odisha	3,464	2,774	19.9
Andhra Pradesh	3,423	2,736	20.1
Telangana	2,761	1,542	44.2
Bihar	2,219	1,275	42.5
West Bengal	1,773	1,152	35.0
Delhi	1,228	447	63.6
Madhya Pradesh	1,221	904	26.0
Punjab	773	506	34.5
Chhattisgarh	732	412	43.7
Rajasthan	628	562	10.5
Jharkhand	421	260	38.2

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 18, 1976

PSCs asked to send results quickly

New Delhi, November 17: The Minister of State for Home, Mr. Om Mehta, has asked the Public Service Commissions to reduce to the minimum the period needed to communicate results to applicants for jobs.

Addressing a conference of Chairmen and members of Public Service Commissions here to-day, Mr. Mehta said, "delay is an irritating attribute of governmental organisations."

But it was frustrating to the job seekers who had to wait endlessly in suspense to know the results, he said.

The Minister urged utmost caution to avoid any discrimination among the candidates, since the proceedings of the Commission were treated as secret and there was no appeal against its verdict. Methods and procedures adopted by the Commission should be therefore, correct, foolproof and fair.

Mr. Mehta referred to the fact that for nearly half of the posts, the method adopted for recruitment was interviews. He wondered whether the Commission could not think of some innovative methods, including psychological tests adopted elsewhere.

The Minister also spoke of a feeling among senior members of the Government that the weaker sections like the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes were not perhaps getting their due and their poor representation might be due to the defect in the present system.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 18, 1926

Protection during air raids

London, November 17: "'Funk Holes' for the civilian population during air raids are at present engaging the attention of the War Office, which is secretly earmarking a number of underground cellars tunnels and tubes for the purpose of ascertaining what cover is available in case of future emergency. Supplied with books and papers to pass the time, selected guardsmen who had first been rigorously medically examined yesterday spent several hours in an underground chamber adjoining the General Post Office tube. Scientists closely watched their behaviour and directed the supply of fresh air through the shaft as the soldiers showed signs of wilting in the stuffy atmosphere.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Decline recorded in wheat sowing so far this year

15 in per cent. Wheat — the main rabi crop — has been sown on 50.07 lakh hectare so far this year, down by 15.27 per cent from 59.10 lakh hectare a year ago, according to data released by the Union Agriculture Ministry. The wheat crop is usually sown in October-November and harvested in March-April. PTI

Persons sentenced in illegal gold mining crackdown in Guinea

200 A court in Guinea sentenced 22 former local officials and 202 miners to prison over illegal gold mining in the country's northeast. The government announced a crackdown on unauthorised gold mining earlier this month, saying it aims to curb environmental damage, including the destruction of farmland. AP

Increase in population of black-necked crane in Ladakh

25 in per cent. The population of the 'near threatened' black-necked crane, the State bird of Ladakh, has increased to 108 in 2026, a nearly 25 per cent rise from the 87 recorded last year, marking a significant achievement in wildlife conservation. The 2026 breeding-season survey recorded 86 adult cranes and 22 juveniles. PTI

Share of GDP spent by States on cash transfer schemes in 2026-2027

1 in per cent. States' spending on subsidies and transfers rose from 16 per cent of their revenue receipts in 2018-19 to 21 per cent in 2023-24. The report, 'State of state finance 2026-27', said States are estimated to collectively spend about 1 per cent of GDP (about ₹4 lakh crore) on cash transfer schemes in 2026-27, up from 0.6 per cent in 2022-23. PTI

Challans issued by Delhi Police under GRAP in one week

3,048 Delhi Traffic Police issued 3,048 challans for pollution violations in a week-long special enforcement drive across the Northern Range under the Graded Response Action Plan, officials said on Tuesday. PTI

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The battle for responsible microfinance

Is the RBI drawing a necessary line between financial inclusion and reckless lending? Is the microfinance industry prioritising loan growth over borrower protection? Are existing credit checks enough to assess a household's actual repayment capacity? Is pseudo-consent becoming a wider banking-sector concern?

EXPLAINER

Santosh V. Perumal

The story so far:

The firm stand of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on the microfinance industry has sent out strong messages that financial inclusion cannot be at the cost of household over-indebtedness, and responsible lending begins even before a loan is sanctioned. After two years of contraction, stability appears to have returned in the country's microfinance sector – which primarily targets unbanked or under-banked individuals, informal workers, and rural households living below or near the poverty line – but recovery remains fragile.

Industry-wide early-stage delinquency (30-179 days past due) fell to 1.9% in June 2026 from 6.1% a year earlier. However, loans overdue by more than 180 days were high at 17.4%, implying the extent of legacy stress.

What is microfinance's footprint?

The SIDBI-Equifax Microfinance Pulse Report, covering June 2026, shows that the outstanding microfinance portfolio fell 12% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹2.69 lakh crore. The sector had 7.15 crore active loan accounts. Disbursements during April-June 2026 however grew 17% YoY to ₹62,302 crore.

The Sa-Dhan Quarterly Microfinance report gives a somewhat broader picture, with the industry's outstanding portfolio at ₹3.26 lakh crore in June 2026, down 7.6% YoY. Banks' direct microfinance portfolio was about ₹83,080 crore in June 2026, accounting for one-fouth of the industry's portfolio, according to Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) data, it represented less than 0.4% of total scheduled commercial bank credit.

Direct financial footprint is relatively small, but microfinance's influence on rural consumption, women's entrepreneurship, informal businesses and household livelihoods is substantial. The sector's cumulative contribution to India's Gross Value Added (GVA) was 2.03% in 2018-19, projected to rise to 2.7% by 2025-26.



RBI Deputy Governor emphasised that lenders must provide the Key Facts Statement regarding loans and obtain an acknowledgement that the borrower understands the commitment. GETTY IMAGES

What are the industry demands?

One of the key demands is an upward revision of the ₹3 lakh annual household income threshold, which was introduced in 2022. According to the MFIN, the threshold does not adequately reflect increases in wages, household incomes and inflation. Consequently, borrowers whose incomes improved marginally may be out of the regulatory definition, although they may continue to require small-ticket credit.

Another demand is on the 50% fixed-obligation-to-income ratio (FOIR) as the industry seeks a rational review from the banking regulator as they view that a uniform 50% repayment ceiling may not adequately capture regional differences in household income, consumption expenditure, cost of living and repayment capacity.

Divergence over FOIR, income eligibility and lending practices could create uncertainty and discourage fresh capital in the sector. It could also push financially vulnerable households towards informal moneylenders, potentially exposing them to higher interest rates. The microfinance industry wants certain repayment obligations to be assessed more flexibly, including proposals to consider only the interest component of some loans rather than the entire principal and interest repayment.

What did the RBI say?

On FOIR, the RBI instead viewed excluding principal repayments as understating actual household indebtedness. In this regard, it cites a study that showed an average microfinance borrower spends just 18.7% of her monthly household income on loan repayment, while about two-thirds goes towards consumption.

On the threshold, the RBI's sights are on industry developments, hinting that regulatory flexibility will depend on demonstrable improvements in household income assessment, credit reporting and responsible lending. "It is imperative for the industry to strengthen its lending practices, uphold responsible credit standards and build greater resilience to withstand emerging challenges," RBI Deputy Governor Shirish Chandra Murmu had said.

For the RBI, it is a tight-rope walk, balancing the financial inclusion and due diligence. It has to ensure that tighter credit discipline does not become a barrier to financial inclusion. At the same time, it shouldn't undermine the purpose of microfinance.

What is pseudo-consent?

Highlighting possible instances in which borrowers sign documents without adequate information about what they contain, Mr Murmu distinguished between mindful consent and pseudo-consent. He emphasised that lenders must provide the Key Facts Statement (KFS), explain its contents in a language understood by the borrower and obtain an acknowledgement that the borrower understands the commitment.

With expanding digital lending, instant personal loans, credit cards and other retail products, pseudo-consent could become a wider banking-sector problem.

Elevated crude oil prices, costlier transportation and high inflation in essential commodities, can squeeze household disposable incomes, which translate into additional borrowings. In such a scenario, financial inclusion could inadvertently deepen household indebtedness, turning credit into a source of financial distress.

Is there a conflict of interest?

The two RBI-recognised SROs or Self-Regulatory Organisations – MFIN and Sa-Dhan – are industry associations whose members are also the institutions they are expected to monitor. MFIs may market additional financial products such as insurance, savings-linked products and other services alongside microcredit, creating a potential conflict between the borrower's actual financial needs and the institution's revenue-generating interests.

What is the underlying ethos?

The RBI's June 2026 directions on advertising, marketing and sale of financial products seek to prohibit deceptive practices and ensure explicit customer consent. These requirements are scheduled to take effect from January 1, 2027.

THE GIST

- The RBI's firm stand on the microfinance industry sends a message that financial inclusion cannot come at the cost of household over-indebtedness
- The microfinance industry wants certain repayment obligations to be assessed more flexibly, including by considering only the interest component of some loans
- Elevated crude oil prices and inflation in essential commodities can squeeze household incomes, leading to additional borrowings. In such a scenario, financial inclusion could inadvertently deepen household indebtedness

Making learning more inclusive for tribal students

Keralam's Community Study Centres help tribal students navigate a competitive education system

Amruth G. Kumar
Binesh Narayanan

Samoohya Patana Muri or Community Study Centres (CSC) is an initiative of the Keralam government started in 2018 to support the learning needs of children from tribal communities. In a tribal hamlet in Kasaragod district, CSC can be inventoried quite easily: a few computers, learning materials, a room open even after school hours, and light refreshments for ₹20 per student per day. What cannot be inventoried is: whether a tribal student who has failed an exam feels confident to walk in the next day and ask for help or are they pushed away?

Our education policies speak the fluent language of inventories. It counts enrolment, sq ft. of buildings, equipment, and pass percentages, among other things, and these are not trivial. But access alone does not ensure achievement without students' active participation in learning. Policies usually consider only access, not participation. A child can be enrolled in school and given basic learning resources, yet remain unable to use what is on offer. Persisting after failure and believing that school wants us to progress are not merely individual acts of will, but social acts.

Beyond infrastructure

Keralam's CSCs are an ideal site to test this argument. Run by the Scheduled Tribes Development Department, CSCs serve Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste students from Classes V to XII with tutoring, learning materials, and refreshments. Every CSC employs an educated young person from the local community. There are currently 364 CSCs, as per the 'Economic Review' 2023, published by the Kerala Planning Board.

It is easy to understand this as a tuition-and-hardware scheme of the government. But this understanding misses its most powerful feature: the staff belong to the same community as the students, which formal schooling so often misses. Results of a study published in the Taylor and Francis Q1 Journal, *Diaspora, Indigenous, and Minority Education*, has insightful findings in this direction.

The study was conducted on 462 tribal school students in Kasaragod district. Findings show that students who viewed their CSC positively had stronger achievement motivation: they demonstrated better social skills, the capacity to express, read, and manage emotions in social situations as well. This means that the value of the CSC cannot be judged only by the number of tabletop computers, internet bandwidth, learning resources, and other facilities. The social skills these students develop through interactions with the facilitator and other peers also deserves serious attention.

Scheduled Tribe (ST) students gaining 'social skills' through CSC can be misunderstood. It does not imply that tribal children lack social skills and the CSC delivers it to them. The better reading is the reverse. Tribal students hail from communities that value cooperation and interdependence. On the other hand, schools reward competitive individualism. This appears to be a juxtaposed reality for the tribal students.

CSC plays a critical role in equipping the tribal students to navigate this demanding situation. The local facilitator at the CSC supports them in reaching the school and sustaining them at school. But this raises a more serious question: What role do schools play in helping these students adjust to school practices? A CSC that helps tribal students cope with a school that does not understand them is doing work the school should share. The more efficiently the CSC functions, the easier it becomes for the system to leave the school unchanged.

The path forward

At the national level, the lesson is not to copy Keralam's CSC equipped with computers and other resources. Some key points are proposed based on the evidence emerging from the study:

While evaluating such welfare schemes, the system must look beyond quantified outcomes. It should assess whether students freely seek help, feel comfortable at the CSC, progress to higher levels confidently (without liberal moderation and grace marks), and feel respected there, alongside learning outcomes. At the national level, such schemes should continuously observe the interests, attitudes and motivation that lead students to attendance, retention and higher achievements.

The facilitator appointed at such centres should be treated as an educator, not merely a custodian of equipment or a disciplinarian. They should be trained in adolescent development, learning strategies, academic and personal guidance, and counselling skills, and receive regular pay commensurate with their work.

Peer tutoring opportunities can be organised in CSCs, with senior students supporting younger ones and engaging them in mixed-age-group projects. None of this is an argument against computers, learning resources, and refreshments available for the students in CSC, and they must continue. The argument is against mistaking the inventoried items for real educational support for tribal students.

(Amrut G. Kumar is a Professor at School of Education, Central University of Kerala [CUK]. Binesh Narayanan is a Senior Research Fellow of UGC at CUK)

FULL CONTEXT

Balancing AI-driven estimates and ground-level evidence in official statistics

While AI and Machine Learning promise to make India's official statistics faster and comprehensive, they cannot automatically replace ground-level evidence; synthetic data with inherited limitations may lead to misallocation of public resources and distortion of economic indicators

Santosh V. Perumal

A statement reading: "Mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war," was signed by 350 technology and industry leaders including Geoffrey Hinton and Yoshua Bengio, Demis Hassabis (Google DeepMind), Sam Altman (OpenAI), Dario Amodei (Anthropic), and Bill Gates. It warns of scenarios including loss of human control over machine optimisation goals, illustrating the risks of man-made invention.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are positioned as core pillars in the newly approved Viksit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics & Research (VISTAR), which is set to overhaul India's official data architecture.

In statistics, the distinction between observation and estimation is fundamental. An estimate, however sophisticated, cannot automatically substitute for evidence collected from the ground.

While AI/ML promises to make both the Centre's and States' official statistics faster, more granular and comprehensive, they also raise an important question: should the technology manufacture information for data gaps, which are due to the inefficiencies in the statistical system.

To address the primary bottleneck of data silos, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) seeks to use AI/ML algorithms to ingest, clean, and harmonise high-volume, alternative digital data; but possibly exposing the country's statistical system more to the risks of synthetic data – AI generated, simulated or hybrid.

Synthetic data is artificially generated using statistical algorithms, mathematical models or AI/ML techniques. It is designed to reproduce the patterns, relationships and distributions found in actual datasets without necessarily reproducing the original observations.

"Synthetic data is becoming an essential tool in the data ecosystem, addressing many of the limitations of real-world data, from data scarcity to privacy," the World Economic Forum (WEF) had said in a special publication in 2025.

Synthetic data need not be rejected in toto since it has legitimate applications in research, privacy protection, testing algorithms and exploring scenarios in situations of scarce observations.



Reality check: AI can process several records in seconds, but it cannot automatically establish whether they represent the economic realities. GETTY IMAGES

The pitfalls of synthetic data

The demand for increasingly granular statistics at the district, block and village levels; the cost and difficulty of collecting primary data from millions of informal economic units; and the ability of AI/ML models to produce estimates quickly using incomplete data may tempt policymakers to adopt synthetic data, even as VISTAR proposes increasing the number of major surveys from 43 to 59 during the 16th Finance Commission cycle, suggesting a strengthening of primary data collection.

Generative AI models, including Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), can learn patterns in existing datasets and generate new records that resemble them.

Mathematical models can generate estimates for districts or population groups where actual survey observations are insufficient and existing datasets can be expanded artificially to improve the training and testing of statistical models.

Actual observations on household consumption or employment surveys could be used to train statistical models to generate additional, artificial observations.

Poorly governed use of AI/ML in VISTAR may heighten the risks of synthetic data influencing India's official statistical estimates.

The difficulty of capturing enormous economic and demographic diversity may lead to AI setting its own path. A synthetic model trained mainly on data from urban households may fail to capture the consumption patterns of informal workers, migrant labourers or economically weaker sections.

Synthetic data inherits the limitations of data on which it is trained. If original information about informal employment, women's unpaid work or farm distress is underestimated, such deficiency will be duly reflected in the synthetic data.

Real-life simulation

Possible consequences could be the misallocation of public resources, distortion of economic indicators and the erosion of public confidence.

If a district-level employment survey has paucity of observations, then the statistical model may generate synthetic household records based on the employment, income, age and demographic patterns observed in neighbouring districts or the larger State dataset.

These additional data records, however, are not based on actual interviews.

If polished datasets for micro-level mapping are relied upon, then welfare schemes such as VB-G RAM G [Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar & Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)] or direct cash transfers could see distortion in funding.

Suppose a district has inadequate employment data; a model generates a certain number of artificial observations based on the available State-level employment patterns.

The resulting estimate might be comprehensive, but could fail to capture the local unemployment, seasonal migration or even the collapse of a particular industry.

India's informal economy has rather put the statistical system in a tight spot as a vast part of economic activity remains outside the organised corporate structures, formal accounting systems and regular digital reporting.

The Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) shows the challenge. For 2025, it collected information from more than 6.7 lakh establishments across 24,153 surveyed first-stage units.

Moreover, the recent moves to introduce MDR (Merchant Discount Rate) on UPI may lead to higher cash transactions, which again makes the data collection more intriguing.

'Model collapse and liar's dividend'

The WEF specifically highlights "model collapse", in which repeated training on synthetic outputs can progressively degrade the diversity and quality of model-generated information.

As synthetic content proliferates, it said, public scepticism about data authenticity grows - even for organic data. This "liar's dividend" threatens societal trust and is worsened by poor disclosure or traceability practices.

AI can process several records in seconds, but it cannot automatically establish whether they represent the economic realities.

Economists, international agencies, and state governments may challenge the numbers if they lack an empirical audit trail.

The greatest danger is not that AI will generate incorrect data, rather it could generate a picture that looks sufficiently credible to be accepted as correct. The challenge is to ensure that it does not substitute for ground-level evidence.

Taking a cue from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 2025 Framework on Responsible AI for Official Statistics – which provides a global benchmark, emphasising fairness, accountability, transparency and validity, India must factor in human oversight, ground verification and source transparency while preserving statistical independence.

Primary surveys must be the bedrock of official statistics. Model-generated estimates must be separately identified from actual survey-based estimates.

Gauss-Markov's celebrated BLUE (Best Linear Unbiased Estimator) principle represents a key benchmark for estimation under specified statistical assumptions.

Every modern statistical problem need not satisfy the conditions required for BLUE, but the broader objective should be the same: producing estimates that are unbiased, reliable and supported by evidence.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the difference between "tasty" and "tasteful"? (B. Lakshmi Chandrasekhar, Vijayawada)
The word "tasty" is generally used when one is talking about food. When you say that something is "tasty" what you mean is that it smells and tastes good; it is appetising. Here are a few examples.

Try the sambar, Vinod. It is very tasty.

The food that was served at the party was very tasty.

The word "tasteful", on the other hand, is not used in the context of food. When you say that something is tasteful what you are implying is that it is very elegant or attractive. It is in good taste. This is a word that is normally used when referring to the manner in which something has been furnished or decorated. Here are a few examples.

The hotel has been tastefully furnished.

Though Vibha spent a lot of money, she has a tastefully decorated home.

What is the meaning and origin of the idiom, "Don't count your chickens before they hatch"?
Some people, as soon as they buy a lottery ticket think they are going to win. They begin to make plans as to what they are going to do with the money when they get it. When you tell such a person "not to count your chickens before they hatch" what you are doing is warning him.

You are telling the individual not to celebrate prematurely; you are advising him not to count his profits before he has the money in his hand. You are asking him to wait for the lottery results to be announced before he starts making plans. Here are a few examples.

Ask Suresh. He may be willing to lend you some money. But don't count your chickens before they hatch.

Stop talking about the places you are going to see. You still haven't got your visa yet. Don't count your chickens before they hatch.

This is an expression which comes from a story in Aesop's Fairy Tales. In the story a woman is carrying a basket of eggs. While she is walking, she begins to think about .... how many chicks she will soon have... how much money she'll make by selling the chicks... the things she'll buy with all the money... As she is thinking about all this, she drops the basket of eggs!

Result? The woman is left with no eggs and no chicks. Hence the expression, "don't count your chickens before they hatch".

Which of the following sentences is correct? "I am busy the next week" or "I am busy next week"? (S. Janakiraman, Chennai)
Both are correct. When you say that you are busy next week what you mean is that you are busy the week after this one. You are going to be busy from Monday onwards.

But when you say that you are busy "the next week" what you are implying is that starting today you are going to be busy for the next seven days. Today is Tuesday. So you are going to be busy till next Monday.

When you say that you are going to be busy "the next month" what you are implying is that you are going to be busy the next thirty days.

Published in The Hindu on July 30, 2002

THE DAILY QUIZ

Magnus Carlsen, arguably one of the best chess players ever, fell to his lowest rating in 15 years this week and risks losing his number one spot. A quiz on top-rated chess players

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

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
Carlsen holds the record of achieving the highest-ever FIDE rating in classical format with 2,882. Who has the second highest, and what was his peak rating?

QUESTION 2
A chess computer module released in 1989 was named after a sister-trio. One of them is the first and only woman till date to cross 2,700 rating and enter the top 10 in classical format. Name the computer and the grandmaster.

QUESTION 3
This grandmaster, known as the 'magician from Riga' and feared for his attacking abilities, once said: "You must take your opponent into a deep, dark forest where 2+2=5, and the path leading out is only wide enough for one".

QUESTION 4
X, a Cuban player who earned the nickname 'chess machine' once went eight years without a competitive defeat. Name X who is not officially a grandmaster, since he died before the title was formalised in 1950, but considered one for his abilities.

QUESTION 5
This player, also considered a grandmaster in the same way as X, ended X's unbeaten streak in 1924. Name the player who has a 'hypermodern' opening named after him where the centre is pressured through the flanks?



Visual question: Name this 2014 movie and the chess legend, played by Tobey Maguire, who became a Grandmaster in 1958 at the age of 15, setting a record at the time. FILE PHOTO

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The International Tolerance Day was proclaimed by the UNGA in this year. **Ans: Resolution 51/95 in 1996**
2. The purpose of observing International Tolerance Day. **Ans: Combating extremism**
3. The purpose of UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize and the year it was created in. **Ans: Significant contributions to promotion of tolerance and non-violence; 1995**
4. The recipient of the UNESCO-Mandanjeet Singh Prize in 2026. **Ans: Samoa Victim Support Group**
5. The organisation that got the first UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize. **Ans: Pro-femmes Twest Hamwe, association of 32 Rwandan NGOs**
Visual: The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize was given for his rememberance. **Ans: Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi**
Early birds: Tamal Biswas| Ashraf Basha Yakub| Prem Raj P.

Word of the day

Jettison:
to throw away something that is encumbering

Synonyms: discard, fling, toss

Usage: *The government jettisoned its plan to privatise the company.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/jettison

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈdʒɛtɪsn̩/

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

From Page One

World needs peace and predictability, says Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with ASEAN leaders at the 23rd India-ASEAN Summit in Manila on Tuesday. ANI

The East Asia Summit members also issued a joint declaration on tackling cybercrime, given the number of online fraud cases originating from Southeast Asian countries. India will host a summit on the issue at the National Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar and an East Asia Summit University Heads Conclave at Nalanda. The ASEAN engagements were important as Mr. Modi had skipped the summits in Malaysia last year.

Quad leaders meet

Shortly before he left Manila, the Prime Minister met the leaders of the U.S., Australia, and Japan for the Quad Summit, which was last held in 2024. This was the first time that all the Quad leaders have met since the U.S.-Israel attacks on Iran and the blockade in the Strait of Hormuz began more than nine months ago – in a war where at least 23 Indians, mainly seafarers, have been killed.

In remarks pointed toward China, the Quad countries opposed "destabilizing or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo, including by force or coercion, which escalate tensions and undermine regional peace and stability", as well as "economic coercion, including through arbitrary export restrictions". China has recently put new restrictions on the export of critical minerals and heavy equipment like tunnel boring machines that affect Indian development activity.

The Quad leaders also announced the launch of the Quad Business Forum, which will be held in Mumbai, to bring industry leaders from the U.S., India, Australia, and Japan together.

Impromptu interaction

Just before the Quad Summit, Mr. Trump unexpectedly spoke to the media and answered several questions, even as Mr. Modi, Mr. Albanese, and Ms. Takaichi stood silently next to him.

The U.S. President said he expected to have a "very good meeting" with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping on his next stop in Shenzhen for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit, scheduled for Thursday. He said he would push for Mr. Xi and Mr. Putin to also "get involved" to end the Russia-Ukraine and Iran conflicts.

The first three-way summit of global powers, dubbed the "G-3", will be closely watched, with Trump, Xi, and Putin expected to discuss nuclear arms control, artificial intelligence governance, and ending conflicts.

China's remote access to AI chips blocked by U.S.

The APEC summit will see meetings between the Presidents of the U.S. and China on its sidelines along with a rare trilateral leaders' summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

China hit out at the moves, calling it "yet another case of the U.S. overstretching the concept of national security, and abusing export control measures to interfere in normal trade and tech cooperation between China and other countries and go after China's high-tech industry."

'Economic coercion'

"Such typical economic coercion and long-arm jurisdiction run counter to the common understandings between the two countries, harm the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies, and disrupt global supply chains," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said. "China will do what is necessary to firmly safeguard its legitimate and lawful rights and interests."

China's Ministry of Commerce in a statement said the new rule would affect the stability of the global semiconductor industry, adding that the U.S. was "misusing export controls to interfere indiscriminately in normal trade cooperation between Chinese enterprises and companies from other countries." "The U.S. approach runs counter to the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, undermines market rules and the international economic and trade order, and affects the stability of the global semiconductor industry and supply chain," the statement said.

Nearly 75 lakh names added in draft SSR rolls

Unlike the now contentious SIR process, when enrolling through the SSR, voters do not need to provide any documentation proving citizenship or be mapped with earlier electoral rolls.

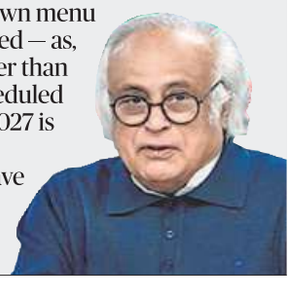
Among the firsts, in this year's SSR, the ECI has directed that, at the time of the polls, a "readable PDF" of the alphabetically arranged electoral rolls can be provided to the contesting candidates in a pen drive or any other electronic storage device.

Brief listing of 287 religion options on Census portal draws questions

Opposition leaders cite *The Hindu's* report to term religion classification 'bizarre'; they slam 'backdoor software changes' to the Census portal, drawing parallels to conduct of SIR; the leaders ask why drop-downs are not being used for caste query

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> Where a drop-down menu should be provided — as, for instance, for castes other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes — it is not. Census 2027 is turning out to be a farce in many respects. This will have grave implications
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress general secretary



Opposition leaders and the All India Other Backward Classes Students' Association on Tuesday raised questions about the way in which the 2027 Census is being conducted, reacting to *The Hindu*'s report on the self-enumeration portal listing as many as 287 options in a drop-down box for "Other" religions, including 'ISKCON', 'Ramkrishna Paramhansa', Shia, Sunni, and 'Pentacostal'. This list vanished from the portal within hours of *The Hindu*'s queries about it, posed to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

While Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh called the religion classification "bizarre", saying that it "defies any understanding", Mamata All India Trinamool Congress leader Saket Gokhale questioned the way changes were being made to the Census portal "using backdoor software changes", comparing it to the controversial special intensive revision (SIR) of voter lists.

The All India OBC Students' Association, which is demanding a drop-down box for all castes to be included under the question on caste in the second phase of the 2027 Census, reacted to *The Hindu*'s report by condemning the "utterly absurd, inconsistent and irresponsible approach of the Union Government towards Census 2027".

Both Mr. Ramesh and the AIOBCSA questioned how the government justified not having a drop-down box for the caste question but having one for "Other" religions. "Where drop-down menu should be provided as, for instance, for castes other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it is not. Census 2027 is turning out to be a farce in many respects. This will have grave implications," Mr. Ramesh said. In a statement, the AIOBCSA said, "The continued absence of a dedicated drop-down menu for all castes, particularly OBCs, raises serious concerns about the credibility of the caste enumeration process?"

These comments came in response to *The Hindu*'s reporting that the self-enumeration portal for the Population Enumeration phase of the Census, which went live on Monday for four poll-bound States, listed 287 entries under a drop-down box for "Other" religions. Hours after *The Hindu* sent queries on the matter to the MHA, however, the list was removed from the portal, with officials from the Office of the RGI and Census Commissioner claiming that the "Other" religion column remains as it has in previous Censuses.

However, a government official told *The Hindu* that the list had initially been prepared as "predictive text entries" for the 'Other' religions category to help enumerators fill in the forms without "spelling variations and mistakes" when a respondent mentions any faith other than the six major ones. How these appeared as options in a drop-down box is being inquired into, the official said.

Just as in previous Census exercises, there are seven main categories in the religion column: Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, and Others. In a first, the 'Others' category had been expanded into at least 287 further options that had not been recorded before, such as 'Ramdev', 'Khalsa', 'Tirupati Balaji', 'Gorak Nath', 'Basaveshwara', 'Baldev', 'Devi Bhakt', and 'Dev Samaj', among others.

PM leads ceremony in Philippines gurdwara

Press Trust of India
MANILA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday visited the oldest gurdwara in the Philippines and led the foundation stone-laying ceremony for its redevelopment.

Mr. Modi, who is on a three-day visit to the Philippines, said he felt "very blessed" to visit the century-old Gurdwara Khalsa Diwan in Manila. "Inspired by the teachings of the Guru Sahibs, the Sikh community has made a mark globally, being at the forefront of serving others and building a better planet," he said in a post on X.

Several dignitaries were present at the occasion, including Senator Francis Joseph Escudero and Mayor of Manila City Francisco Isko Moreno.

"The Khalsa Diwan Gurdwara has stood as a testament to the vibrant India-Philippines cultural ties," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

Nine killed as bus plunges into gorge in Uttarakhand

Press Trust of India
NEW TEHRI



Police and SDRF personnel conduct a rescue operation after a passenger bus from Haridwar plunged into a deep gorge . ANI

A passenger bus with 34 people on board crashed through an iron roadside railing and plunged into a gorge, approximately 100 metres below the Gular bridge, in Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal district early Tuesday, killing nine people and injuring 25 others, officials said.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi expressed their condolences to the families of the accident victims.

Tehri Garhwal SSP Shweta Chaubey said the bus departed from Haridwar around 3.15 a.m. with 34 passengers on board. At around 4.50 a.m., it suddenly plunged into the Gular Gad river near the Gular bridge. The bus was travelling from Haridwar to Joshimath.

The deceased have been identified as Vicky (37) and Rohit Kashyap (35), both from Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal; Raj Roy (56), from West Bengal's Jalpaiguri; bus driver Rajendra Singh (48), from Rudraprayag; conductor Anuj Bhandari (27), from Tehri Garhwal; Punnu (55) of Kirtinagar; Sushil Pratap Silodi (55) from Chamoli; and Deepak Gupta (55) and Vikas Gupta, both natives of Madhya Pradesh.

SDRF Inspector Kavindra Singh Sajwan said around 60 government personnel were involved in the rescue and relief operation.

Sajwan said the bus had crashed through an iron roadside railing before plunging into the deep ravine. It struck the ground head-first, causing extensive damage to its front portion.

Shriloy Mohanty, PRO at AIIMS Rishikesh, said 25 people were undergoing treatment at the hospital, while nine had been confirmed dead.

Mr. Modi, who is in Manila for the ASEAN Summit, said he was "deeply disturbed" after learning about the accident.

No funds to shift animals from highways, says NHAI

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI



The Solicitor-General said that the responsibility for removing stray animals from highways rested with State governments. FILE PHOTO

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that it lacked the statutory authority and financial resources to remove stray cattle and other animals from highways and arrange for their rehabilitation in shelters.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the NHAI, submitted before a Bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N.V. Anjaria that the responsibility for removing stray animals from national and State highways, where they pose a risk to motorists, rested with the respective State governments and local authorities. He submitted that compliance with the court's directions (in November 2025) would entail an expenditure exceeding ₹5,000 crore, which the NHAI could not bear.

"The solution would be to let the State governments do it," Mr. Mehta submitted and sought modification of the order passed by the Bench in November last year.

In that order, the court had directed that stray animals found on highways be relocated to shelters or cattle pounds. It had also ordered the States, the Union Territories, and the NHAI to ensure strict enforcement of the directive.

Justice Mehta, however, questioned how the toll revenue collected by the NHAI was utilised, stressing that the court's directions were intended to protect motorists from accidents. He observed that even if the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988, did not expressly authorise such expenditure, the directions were issued in the interest of public safety.

Justice Nath said the court would shortly pass orders on the NHAI's application, but asked the authority to consider the extent to which it could comply with the directions, suggesting that shelters could be set up near toll plazas or in individual districts.

Contempt plea against lawyer over remark on CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Tuesday conveyed to the Supreme Court its intention to seek contempt action against a lawyer who made deprecatory remarks about Chief Justice of India Surya Kant in open court on Monday.

SCBA secretary Praghya Baghel made an oral mentioning before the CJI that Attorney General R. Venkataramani had already given the necessary statutory consent to file the contempt petition .

The office bearers urged the court to tag the petition along with pending contempt pleas against journalist Nikhil Wagle and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut, who are also facing contempt proceedings.

The CJI agreed to list the petition if all procedural necessities were completed, on November 18.

CBI secures extradition of Ukrainian fugitive in ED case

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI



Oleksandr Zapichenko

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) facilitated the extradition of a Ukrainian citizen from Romania to India on Tuesday. He was wanted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for his alleged involvement in defrauding investors on the pretext of offering phenomenal returns.

Extradition of the Interpol Red Notice subject Oleksandr Zapichenko was secured in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the ED.

'Defrauded investors'

"The subject was wanted in connection with a case registered by the Enforcement Directorate under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The subject, along with other accused persons, allegedly defrauded investors by inducing them to invest money on the false promise of exorbitant returns ranging from 6% to 11% per week," the agency said. The money-laundering investigation pertains to Platinum Hern Private Limited, which operated under the brand name 'Torres Jewellery' and allegedly lured several small and gullible investors into a fraudulent investment scheme by promising exceptionally high returns and referral bonuses. Low-value jewellery items were sold at grossly inflated prices, the ED said.

Alpesh Pravinchandra Khara, who allegedly acted on the instructions of Mr. Zapichenko, was arrested by the ED on March 26, 2025. The ED has quantified the proceeds of crime in the case so far at ₹177.12 crore.

Based on the ED's request, a non-bailable warrant was issued against the Ukrainian national by a special Mumbai court on November 3, 2025. He was provisionally arrested in Romania on May 23, 2026.

Ponzi scheme

The investigation revealed that the company concerned was operating a multi-level marketing-based Ponzi scheme, and had collected huge amounts of money in cash from investors without obtaining the requisite approval from the Reserve Bank of India. The funds collected from investors were laundered through various 'hawala' channels and subsequently used to purchase USDT cryptocurrency. The accused was directly involved in converting cash deposits collected from investors into cryptocurrency.

HC grants interim bail to Azam Khan, says arrest *mala fide*

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday granted interim bail to former Uttar Pradesh Minister and Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Mohammad Azam Khan, observing that the his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) was "motivated and *mala fide*". A Division Bench of Justices Rajiv Gupta and Devendra Singh directed Mr. Khan's release, noting that the Central agency had *prima facie* failed to follow the mandatory procedure while arresting him in a money laundering case. "....the petitioner was taken into custody moments after he was physically released from the jail in another case (PAN Card Case)... which clearly underlines the motivated and malafide nature of the proceedings," the High Court said. The relief will remain in force until the next hearing on December 10.

APPEAL



Prakatheesh is 16 years old suffering from "T - Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia". He needs Radiation and Chemotherapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is **Rs. 8,00,000/-.** His father works as driver on a daily basis. The family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please support him for the treatment and give him a new lease of life. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your mail id is requested.

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

WWS

Rising prices reflect govt.'s anti-people policies: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday accused the Union government of fuelling inflation through its "economic mismanagement and anti-people policies".

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh cited a survey which found that, for 61% of families across the country, monthly household expenditure had risen by more than 20% over the past year.

He also claimed that 200 garment factories had shut down in Noida over the past year, citing the impact of U.S. tariffs, high input costs, and government apathy.

"People's plates are shrinking, and factories are being locked down. Yet, the Prime Minister's only concern remains politics," he said, accusing the government of failing to acknowledge people's hardships or offer relief.

Bilkis Bano to fight SC order for bail to gang-rape convicts

She expresses pain, disbelief over decision to give bail to two men convicted of gang rape, murder; says she was neither informed nor heard by the court before the order was passed on October 28

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bilkis Bano, who survived gang rape and the murder of her family during the 2002 Gujarat riots, has issued a statement conveying her "pain, shock and disbelief" at the Supreme Court's decision to grant bail and suspend the life imprisonment of two men convicted of the crimes that changed her life forever.

Ms. Bano, through her counsel, senior advocate Shobha Gupta, stated she was neither informed nor heard before the order was passed on October 28.

"I still cannot believe that once again, for the second time, an order has been passed by the Supreme Court without calling me up and without hearing me. I learnt of this through press reports," her statement read.



> I will fight this order. I must. I do this for my children, who do not deserve to live haunted by these fears and scars for the rest of their lives... I do this for women everywhere. Because no woman, no survivor, no citizen should have to endure this eternal test of belonging and equality, and fight for justice for the rest of her life
> BILKIS BANO

Suspended life sentences

A Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Prasanna B. Varale had suspended the life sentences of Bipinchand Kanaiyalal Joshi and Pradip Ramanlal Modhiya, who were two of the 11 men convicted of gang-raping the then 19-year-old Ms. Bano and murdering 14 members of her family, including her infant daughter, in 2002.

The short order, published recently on the court website, had reasoned that the two men had already undergone more than 17 years in prison and one of them suffered a severe handicap.

"How could the Honourable Supreme Court simply suspend the sentence of the men who did this to me? How could they not even inform me? How could they not even make sure my voice was heard in their courtroom?" Ms. Bano asked.

In her statement on Tuesday, Ms. Bano said she had "rebuilt from the rubble of my life... learned to smile", but the October 28 order has made her scared, once again.

Ms. Bano stated she would fight the order. "I must. I do this for my children, who do not deserve to live haunted by these fears and scars for the rest of their lives... I do this for women everywhere. Because no woman, no survivor, no citizen should have to endure this eternal test of belonging and equality, and fight for justice for the rest of her life," she said.

Bilkis Bano is being made to endure fresh trauma: Opposition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders on Tuesday questioned the suspension of sentences of two convicts in the Bilkis Bano case, with the Congress saying the rape survivor was being made to endure "fresh humiliation and trauma".

Congress leader Pawan Khera said Ms. Bano had learnt about the court's decision through media reports and was not heard before the order was passed.

"She has announced that she will challenge the bail. As if the cruel and gruesome crime committed against her was not enough, she is now being made to endure fresh humiliation and trauma. That is the price one has to pay for being a woman, and even more so for being a Muslim," Mr. Khera said on social media platform X.


Pawan Khera

CPI(M) general secretary M.A. Baby termed the court order "shocking and reprehensible".

In a post on X, he said the court is yet to grant bail to youth activists who have been behind bars for years without trial, "effectively as political prisoners, yet finds it appropriate to release convicts found guilty of the ghastliest of crimes", citing their long incarceration.

"The Supreme Court has delivered injustice. Bilkis Bano's struggle for justice concerns every one of us. We stand with her," Mr. Baby added.

BJP criticises Cong. 'double standard' over SIR exercise

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday accused the Congress of double standard on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, stating that the party was backing the process in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and southern States but opposing it elsewhere.

In a video statement, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia cited a letter dated November 14 from the Andaman and Nicobar Congress Campaign Committee to the Chief Electoral Officer, reportedly demanding that the 2027 municipal and panchayat elections be held on the basis of the latest SIR electoral rolls.

"Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan described SIR as good, while Karnataka Minister Satish Jarkiholi called it constitutional. Why then is Rahul Gandhi opposing it?" he asked.

Seat-sharing talks for U.P. polls put off after Rahul, Akhilesh meet

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A meeting that had been scheduled for Tuesday for the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP) to discuss seat-sharing in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections has been deferred following talks between the top leadership of the two parties.

No fresh date has been set for the meeting, with sources saying that it is expected to take place "in a few days".

Sources indicated that the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and SP president Akhilesh Yadav had a word on the sidelines of the launch event of Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi's memoir, *Belonging: A Journey of Love*, held in New Delhi on Monday.

Last week, Mr. Yadav had revealed that the Congress had asked to contest 181 seats out of the 403 in the Assembly. However, he has consistently maintained that the INDIA bloc will contest the elections together, a point that he reiterated on Monday.


Akhilesh Yadav

The Congress has yet to confirm that it asked for 181 seats, though it insists that its share has to be respectable. It has argued that it is its presence that is purportedly pulling Dalit voters and even forward-caste voters towards the bloc. At the same time, both sides have also insisted that seat allocation will be determined based on "winnability".

Rajendra Pal Gautam, Congress in-charge for Uttar Pradesh, said that the talks have not been deferred but have, in fact, commenced at the level of Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Yadav. Both leaders have issued certain instructions, and "homework" on these matters is currently underway. Further discussions will take place soon, he said.

SC agrees to hear Rahul, INDIA bloc's plea against ECI, SIR on December 9

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to have a detailed hearing of an application filed by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and INDIA bloc leaders, who have posed 48 'interrogatories' directly to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, and senior poll officials regarding the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.


The application was filed as part a petition claiming the SIR was the product of a unilateral exercise of power by the CEC. FILE PHOTO

The interrogatories challenge the veracity of "bare assertions" made by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in an institutional affidavit filed on October 26. One of these assertions was that the decision to hold a nationwide SIR, which saw around 13 crore voters excluded from the electoral rolls, was "unanimous".

'Support with proof'

The interrogatories intend to compel the two Election Commissioners to individually state on oath whether they had objected to the SIR orders.

The interrogatories require the CEC, the Election Commissioners, and poll officials to support every answer with documentary proof in court.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant posted the case for December 9 after senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the ECI, enquired if the court would have enough time to hear the multiple petitions in the post-lunch session.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal, A.M. Singhvi and advocate Prasanna S., for the INDIA bloc leaders, urged the Bench, which was about to rise for lunch after the morning session when Mr. Salve intervened, to issue notice on the application containing the interrogatories.

Though, initially, the court agreed to issue notice to the ECI for a response, Mr. Salve, along with senior advocate Maninder Singh, opposed the issuance of any notice before a preliminary hearing on the application. "We will then hear the application and pass necessary orders," the CJI said.

The application was filed as part of the Opposition leaders' writ petition claiming the nationwide SIR exercise, the manner and extent of its conduct, was the product of a unilateral exercise of power by the CEC without the knowledge, approval or concurrence of the Election Commissioners.

Rahul invokes Hindu faith to defend his remark on parents

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Invoking his Hindu faith, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday defended his comments that "mama would sit on papa's lap during meals" by pointing to a temple sculpture depicting Goddess Parvati sitting on Lord Shiva's lap.

After Mr. Gandhi's remarks about the affectionate relationship between his parents at the launch of Sonia Gandhi's autobiography, *Belonging: A Journey of Love*, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma was among the BJP leaders who claimed that the Congress leader had embarrassed his mother.

He said fear, anger, and hatred had woven a web in the hearts of BJP and RSS supporters, preventing them from experiencing and expressing love.


Rahul Gandhi

"As a true Hindu, it is my duty to free them from this web, so that they too can start to experience the breathtaking beauty and joy of love and belonging in their lives. Satyam Shivam Sundaram," he said.

The Congress backed Mr. Gandhi, saying he had opened up a much-needed conversation on love, affection, and equality in relationships. "Love need not be hidden, affection is not a weakness, and equality begins with treating your partner as an equal," the party said.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS - TIRUPATI
SRI PADMAVATHI CHILDREN'S HEART CENTRE | SRI VENKATESWARA PRANADANA TRUST
Roc.No,TTD-117021(31)/63/2024-SPCHC Date:16-11-2026

WALK-IN RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION | WALK-IN INTERVIEW ON 21.11.2026

Eligible candidates professing Hindu religion and possessing the requisite educational qualifications and experience, as detailed below, are hereby informed to attend the Walk-in Interview on **21-11-2026 AT 3.00 PM AT THE CONFERENCE HALL, SRI PADMAVATHI CHILDREN'S HEART CENTRE, SRI VENKATESWARA PRANADANA TRUST, TTD, TIRUPATI**, for recruitment to the following vacant posts on a contract basis. Candidates shall attend the interview with the original certificates and one set of self-attested photocopies of all relevant documents. **PAEDIATRIC INTENSIVIST, PAEDIATRICIAN, DUTY MEDICAL OFFICER, SENIOR PAEDIATRIC CARDIOTHORACIC SURGEON AND PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGIST.** For detailed qualifications, remuneration, reservation particulars and prescribed application form, candidates may visit the official TTD **website: www.tirumala.org.**

TTD-40021(31)/1/2026-PRO SEC(Adv.No.248) Date:17-11-2026 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. : NIT/2026-27/9445 - 57 **निविदा सूचना/2026-27** Date : 16/11/2026

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

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की कुल अनुमानित लागत (रू.)	निविदा सूचना संख्या
Road Repair work on Jaipur-Bhilwara Road. UBN: RRC2627WSOB00751	243.14 Lakh	अल्पकालीन ई-463/26-27
Construction of Multipurpose Indoor Hall at Stadium, Dungarpur. UBN: RRC2627WSOB00765	356.74 Lakh	अल्पकालीन ई-466/26-27
Construction of Synthetic Athletic Track at Dungarpur. UBN: RRC2627WSOB00766	482.14 Lakh	

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

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PARADESH
2nd FLOOR, KISAN BAZAR, VIBHUTI KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW, U.P.
No. ME-3/2026/ 2023 Lucknow: Dated 17 November 2026

Time-line for the Stray Vacancy round of online counselling under UP NEET MDS-2026

In continuation of the time-table issued by Medical Counseling Committee (MCC), New Delhi for counseling of NEET MDS course, the time-table of Stray Vacancy round of online counseling for admission of state quota seats of MDS course in Government/Private Dental Colleges/Universities of the State is as follows :-

S.No.	Description	Dates
1.	Date of online registration	18 November, 2026 (From 11:00 AM) to 20 November, 2026 (Till 11:00 AM)
2.	Date of depositing registration fee and security Fee	18 November, 2026 (From 11:00 AM) to 20 November, 2026 (Till 02:00 PM)
3.	Date of declaration of merit list	20 November, 2026
4.	Date of online choice filling	20 November, 2026 (From 05:00 PM) to 23 November, 2026 (Till 11:00 AM)
5.	Date of declaration of result of seat allotment	23 November, 2026
6.	downloading allotment letters and admission process	25 November, 2026 to 28 November, 2026

All information related to UP NEET MDS-2026 counseling will be uploaded on Departmental website **https://upneet.gov.in** and **www.dgme.up.gov.in** **DIRECTOR GENERAL**

Help Line Numbers-8189011696, 8189011697, 8189011698, 8189011699, 8189011700,(Timing-From 11:00 AM to Till 05:00 PM)

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2697/MSETCL/CO/Projects/ Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001580) (7th Call)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Construction 400kV D/C line from LILO on 400kV Waluj Bhusawal line Circuit **II** to 400kV Thaptitanda Substation (Route Length-22.16km) under Ch. Sambhajinagar Zone, MSETCL, Maharashtra."

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 06.11.2026.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2694/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001620)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Establishment of 132/33kV Shirsoli Substation along with construction of 132kV D/C LILO Line on 132kV Bambhori-Erandol line for 132kV Shirsoli Substation (RL-23.546 km) Dist. Jalgaon under Nashik Zone, MSETCL, Maharashtra on turnkey basis."

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from **03.11.2026**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

RAJASTHAN URJA VIKAS AND IT SERVICES LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd.) (A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - U40104RJ2015SGC048738
Regd. Office - Vidyut Bhawan, Janpath, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005
Work Office at: 1st Floor, HUDCO Building, Jyoti nagar, Jaipur- 302005
E-mail:ce.RUVNL@rajasthan.gov.in; Website: www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/RUVNL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online bids are invited to procure upto 500 MW power from 01st April 2027 to 30th September 2027 (1900 to 2300 Hrs) on short term basis from various Generators/ State Utilities/ CPPs/ Distribution Licensees/ SEBs/ Trading Licensees as per specification under TN-36/RUVITL/FY 2026-27. May visit website **www.mstcecommerce.com/ www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/ruvks/#/home/dptHome** for further details.

Raj.Samwad/C/26/13295 RUVITL-PR-134 (2026) Superintending Engineer (PP)
For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bengaluru – 560064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/S/P2/19/2026-27 Dated 16.11.26

On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager invites E-Tenders from manufacturers for **Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of the 15/2 T EOT Crane of 25.45m span for extension of new forge complex Bloom yard, (including Spares) as per RWF Technical Specification** through IREPS E-Portal www.ireps.gov.in. **Tender No: P2265950; Qty: 1 Nos; Tender Closing Date & Time: 21.12.26 @ 14:00 Hrs. Pre-Bid: 30.11.26 @ 15:00 Hrs.**
Detailed tender document, specification & corrigendum (if any) can be viewed on IREPS E-Portal/RWF website.

Principal Chief Materials Manager

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

SRM E-Tender Notice

Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Ltd, EHV PC O&M Zone Vashi invites bids through SRM e-Tender in two bid system (Techno-commercial Bid & Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for following works:

RFx No./ Tender No.	Particulars	Estimated Cost
7000042151 T-15/2026-27	Augmentation of Transformer capacity through addition of Power Transformers at various 220kV & below EHV Substations under Vashi Zone (Transformer will be supplied by MSETCL).	Rs 9999.73 Lakhs excluding GST Rs 11799.69 Lakhs including GST

E.M.D. in Rs 99,99,738/-, **Tender Fees:** Rs 25,000/- excluding GST, **Sale period:** 17.11.2026 to 08.12.2026, **Last Date of Submission:** 08.12.2026 up to 15:30 Hrs, **Date of opening (Tech. bid):** 08.12.2026 at 15:35 Hrs. (if possible).
Contact person: Executive Engineer, EHV PC O&M Zone, Vashi. Phone No. (022) 27666010 (P) / 27665994. For further details please visit to **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
EHV PC (O&M) Zone, MSETCL, Vashi

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking), Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005, India Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064
Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in, CIN : U24232RJ2011SGC035067, E-mail: edprmsc@rajasthan.gov.in

Ref. No. :- F.02 (452)/RMSCL/PROCUREMENT/DRUG/NIB-14/2026-27/5435 Dated :- 12/11/2026

Corrigendum

In reference to the NIB provided below, Corrigendum is issued for date extension in bid. All details may be seen on **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & https://www. rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in**

Sr.	NIB No.	UBN No.	Tender ID on E-Proc	Existing Date			Amended Date		
				Last date and time of submission of online bids	Bid security, bid form fees, RISL fees and Empanelment fees deposited and submitted physically as per bid conditions	Date and time of opening of Online technical bids	Last date and time of submission of online bids	Bid security, bid form fees, RISL fees and Empanelment fees deposited and submitted physically as per bid conditions	Date and time of opening of Online technical bids
1	NIB 12/2026	MSC2627 GLOB00053	2026_RMSCL_601277_1	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	20.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M
2	NIB 14/2026	MSC2627 GLOB00054	2026_RMSCL_601385_1	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	20.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M
3	NIB 16/2026	MSC2627 GLOB00055	2026_RMSCL_601406_1	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	20.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M
4	NIB 17/2026	MSC2627 GLOB00056	2026_RMSCL_601413_1	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	20.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M
5	NIB 18/2026	MSC2627 GLOB00062	2026_RMSCL_602015_1	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	20.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M
6	NIB 19/2026	MSC2627 GLOB00060	2026_RMSCL_601878_1	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	20.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M
7	NIB 20/2026	MSC2627 GLOB00057	2026_RMSCL_601480_1	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	20.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M
8	NIB 21/2026	MSC2627 GLOB00061	2026_RMSCL_601887_1	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	20.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M
9	NIB 22/2026	MSC2627 GLOB00064	2026_RMSCL_602481_1	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	19.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	20.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M

Raj.Samwad/C/26/13300 **Director (Proc.), RMSCL, Jaipur**

INBRIEF



Rajnath Singh to visit Japan today for Ministerial dialogue

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will visit Japan on November 18 and 19 to participate in the fourth edition of the India-Japan Foreign and Defence Ministers' Dialogue (2+2) and hold bilateral discussions with his Japanese counterpart, with a focus on strengthening defence cooperation, maritime security and defence industrial partnerships. The 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, scheduled to be held in Tokyo, will be co-chaired by Mr. Singh and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, along with Japan's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi. The meeting between Mr. Singh and Mr. Koizumi will be their third this year.

INS Sahyadri participates in naval exercise JAIMEX 2026

INS Sahyadri participated in the bilateral maritime exercise JAIMEX 2026 with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) on November 13 and 14, strengthening operational cooperation and interoperability, while providing an opportunity to exchange professional experiences. According to the Indian Navy, during the exercise, *INS Sahyadri* operated alongside JMSDF ship *JS Ise*, undertaking a series of coordinated maritime engagements, including tactical manoeuvres, communication drills, and cross-deck landings. It reaffirmed the commitment of both navies to maintain peace, security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Clashes erupt during Assam elephant rescue mission

Eight people were detained in central Assam's Hojai district after they clashed with Forest Department personnel on Monday night during an operation to guide a female elephant back to the jungle it came from. The Forest officials fired "sera bullets" (pellets) from a pump-action gun to divert the elephant away from a human settlement. Five people were injured in the firing, triggering the mob violence and leaving two personnel injured. Forest officials claimed three people sustained pellet injuries. The injured, including one of the two personnel, were admitted to a local hospital for treatment.

15,000 Assam dancers set Guinness World Record

About 15,000 dancers representing different communities of Assam's Karbi Anglong district set a Guinness World Record on Monday evening, the second such feat for folk music and dance in the northeastern region within a week. Garo community drummers in Meghalaya set a world record on November 14 by playing 1,000 *damas* (elongated drums) during the Wangala Festival in Tura, the State's second-largest urban centre. The record was set at the Karbi Anglong Sports Association Stadium in Diphu, about 250 km east of Guwahati, during the district's 75th anniversary celebrations organised by the KAAC. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma congratulated the participants.

Gen Z is the torchbearer for global change: Prince William

At the 2026 Earthshot Prize ceremony, Britain's prince reflects on achievements of the finalists and the global movement behind environmental innovation; Bhutan, Mahindra Last Mile Mobility were among the five winners of this year's awards

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
Yohaan Varghese
MUMBAI

Young people from around the world are not waiting for someone else to find the solution, they are the torchbearers of the global movement for change, Britain's Prince William said here on Tuesday.

He was speaking at the 2026 Earthshot Prize awards ceremony, which was held in India for the first time.

Winners of the Earthshot Prize were declared under five categories in a glittering ceremony. The awardees include the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan and Mahindra Last Mile Mobility.



Prince Williams and Princess Catherine with the winners of the 2026 Earthshot Prize in Mumbai on Tuesday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

'Shaping the future'

"They (Gen Z) are bringing fresh ideas and showing what is possible when optimism is matched with action. Their ideas, their energy, and their determination are helping to shape the future," he said.

"India is a nation of extraordinary innovation, ambition, facing immense environmental pressures, yet moving ahead with determination. Not because the challenge is simple, not because the path is easy. But because millions of people have decided that progress simply cannot wait," he said.

During his address, Prince William reflected on the achievements of this year's finalists and the growing global movement behind environmental innovation.

The ceremony was attended by environmental innovators, philanthropists, business leaders, government representatives and global figures from sport, entertainment and culture.

Mahindra Last Mile Mobility won the Earthshot Prize in the 'Clean Our Air' category. Accepting the award, the company's CEO, Suman Mishra, said it showed how urgent optimism worked. The company has won £1 million for its efforts, which have resulted in more electric three-wheelers plying on India's roads.

In the 'Revive Our Oceans' category, Niue Ocean Wide Trust was chosen for protecting the oceans, especially the vast Pacific region.

Coral Pasisi, vice chair and co-architect of Ocean Conservation Commitments, expressed gratitude for indigenous, people-led sustainability efforts being honoured.

"It is collective responsibility in action. We want to protect the oceans that protect us all," she said while accepting the award.

The Earthshot Prize to Protect and Restore Nature was awarded to Bhutan for the country's work in protecting the Himalayan forests, which help the water systems that sustain 1.6 billion people downstream across South Asia.

While accepting the award, Bhutan's Princess Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck said: "Long before environmentalism become a global priority, Bhutan made a national commitment. 60% of our land must remain under forest cover at all times. A duty enshrined in our Constitution. Deeply honoured to accept this prize."

The Earthshot Prize in the 'Build a Waste-free World' category was declared for PFAS - Free France. The initiative is a national, cross-party movement to ban toxic forever chemicals in consumer products and to make polluters pay for the clean-up.

"This victory belongs to all those who stood by us and said, 'We will not be poisoned in silence'. Thank you," said Nicolas Thierry, French politician and lead spokesperson of the firm, while accepting the award.

Orsed was declared the winner in the 'Fix Our Climate' category for transforming its business from coal-intensive utilities to renewable energy.

The ceremony was hosted by director Karan Johar. Among the celebrities who took to stage were British actress and musician Simone Ashley, actor and previous Earthshot Awards presenter Rami Malek, Indian cinema stars Alia Bhatt and Sonam Kapoor, and cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar.

'PM's journey in governance focused on citizens'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

At a national workshop on 'Leadership as Mission', Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister P.K. Mishra called for seamless coordination across government departments and a stronger focus on citizens' experience, rather than merely the number of programmes administered.

Mr. Mishra was delivering the keynote address at the event organised by Niti Aayog to draw on the learnings from 25 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as 'Head of Government'.

The workshop was the first in a series of five such events announced by Niti Aayog to mark Mr. Modi assuming office as Chief Minister of Gujarat in October 2001.

Mr. Mishra said India's governance journey has been marked by defining milestones that demonstrate the power of decisive leadership.

In his remarks, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri said strong political and administrative leadership is crucial in driving India's development journey.

Horticultural production shows 4.36% growth: govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



The rise in production came despite a reduction in the area under horticultural cultivation, says Union Agriculture Minister. FILE PHOTO

India's total horticultural production is expected to reach 3,869.15 lakh tonnes in 2025-26, an increase of 161.77 lakh tonnes (4.36%) over the production recorded in 2024-25, according to the third advanced estimates of area and production of horticultural crops released by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in New Delhi on Tuesday. In the previous crop season, horticulture production stood at 3,707.38 lakh tonnes.

Mr. Chouhan expressed satisfaction over the projected growth and said the significant increase in horticultural production reflected the hard work of India's farmers and the impact of the Union government's farmer-friendly policies. "This record production would not only strengthen the country's nutritional security but also directly contribute to higher incomes for horticulture farmers," the Minister said, congratulating farmers across the country for their efforts.

Farmers were increasingly moving beyond traditional crops towards the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices, and plantation crops, including cashew, coconut and cocoa, as well as aromatic and medicinal plants, he said.

"This growing interest in commercial and high-value crops is opening up new avenues of income for farmers while creating fresh opportunities for self-reliance and growth in the agricultural sector," Mr. Chouhan said.

He added that one of the most significant aspects of the latest estimates was an increase in production despite a reduction in the area under horticultural cultivation.

President hails country's progress in malaria control

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



President Droupadi Murmu visiting an exhibition stall at the ICMR National Institute of Malaria Research on Tuesday. X/ANI

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the golden jubilee celebrations of the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Malaria Research (ICMR-NIMR) here on Tuesday.

The President highlighted India's progress in malaria control, noting that malaria cases and deaths had declined by nearly 80% between 2015 and 2025, while the number of high-burden districts fell from 155 to 33. She also noted that 160 districts reported zero indigenous malaria cases during 2022-2025.

Appreciating India's exit from the World Health Organization (WHO)'s High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) group in 2024, she acknowledged the collective efforts of scientists, healthcare workers, and citizens. She also recognised ICMR-NIMR's contribution over five decades to research on malaria parasites, mosquito vectors, vector control, insecticide resistance, and community surveillance.

Continued vigilance

Emphasising the need for continued vigilance and effective interventions, Ms. Murmu called for strengthened malaria diagnosis, treatment and surveillance, mosquito control, development of new medicines and vaccines, greater public awareness, and community participation.

She stressed that scientific research and its outcomes should reach villages and communities where they are most needed. She also expressed satisfaction over ICMR-NIMR's contribution to the indigenous malaria vaccine being developed in Bhubaneswar and voiced confidence that it would support India's malaria elimination efforts.

TH CROSSWORD + 14951

(set by Arden)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Teases child, like getting very loud (6)
4 Brand of foreign drink — one called after the other (8)
9 Embarrassed observer with cheap whiskey (6)
10 Couple allowed a piece of jewellery (8)
12 Destroyer keeps woman far away (3-2-3)
13 Pressure let out — becomes flatter (6)
15 Lost the clash, lost the position to be in charge (4,3,5)
18 A whirl of social activity — happy nothing is buried (5-2-5)
21 Best reduce a penny on cost (6)
22 He makes a bowler smile openly on board (8)
24 A rapidly moving profession of a diamond worker (8)
25 Novelties getting uniform, interested? (6)
26 Grant on a platter — it's in the blood (8)
27 The odd essay on woman shows dissent (6)

Down

1 Rice scam engineered by China, perhaps (8)
2 Seldom scratching head over medical specialty, seriously (8)
3 Be furious that they fell off hand somehow (3,3,3,6)
5 The atmosphere in the restaurant (4)
6 It's meant for people's upliftment — purpose is to include a line as part of the contract (9,6)
7 Shining silverline, not in the morning (6)
8 Last of the cigarette butts rejected — gets respect (6)
11 Wine and cheese set up by the fighters (7)
14 After a drink show you're happy or your displeasure? (7)
16 Putting copper on notice — action won't have any effect (3,2,3)
17 Probably yes, a raid is possible (1,4,3)
19 Scoop on party before upcoming election (6)
20 On deputation — tend to go for an ideal place (6)
23 Irish part of the universe (4)

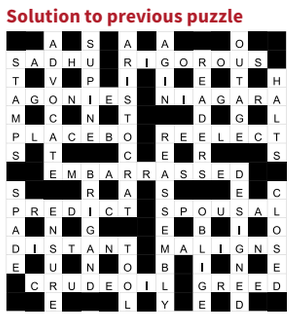
SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS7064 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

The glory of Nachiyar Koil

Thirunaraiyur, popularly known as Nachiyar Koil, is one of the important Divya Desams (108 Kshetras) situated near Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu.

The presiding deity of this temple is Lord Srinivasa, accompanied by Goddess Vanjulavalli Nachiyar.

The sacred name Thirunaraiyur is associated with beautiful spiritual meanings, Dr. Venkatesh said in a discourse. The word 'Thiru' refers to Sri Mahalakshmi, while 'Narai' is associated with honey. One explanation is that Goddess Vanjulavalli considers Lord Srinivasa sweeter than honey. Another interpretation is that she regards this sacred kshetra as sweet and delightful as honey.

Unique Garuda

The temple is especially renowned for its Kal Garudan (stone Garuda). According to temple tradition, the weight of Kal Garudan progressively increases as He is carried in procession away from the sanctum and becomes lighter again as He returns.

The temple is called Nachiyar Koil because Goddess Vanjulavalli Nachiyar is accorded greater prominence than Lord Srinivasa, also known as Thirunaraiyur Nambi. The name Nambi (Purnan) signifies the Lord's completeness and perfection and His boundless grace towards devotees. The sacred Vimanam is Srinivasa Vimanam, and the holy water source is Manimukta Pushkarini.

This Divya Desam holds special significance in the life of Thirumangai Azhvar, who is traditionally believed to have received the sacred Thiruvilachchinai (Pancha Samskaram) directly from Lord Srinivasa Himself.

INBRIEF



India may limit leveraged stock bets to curb volatility

India's markets regulator is considering curbs on leveraged stock purchases as margin-funded bets swell to record levels, two people with direct knowledge of the matter said. The regulator is weighing restrictions on new margin-funded purchases when leverage in a stock crosses a threshold linked to its free float, the sources said. The move reflects growing unease among regulators over the rapid expansion of leveraged retail trading. REUTERS

DRI searches Cipla's office, depot over imported drugs

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Mumbai zonal unit, conducted searches at Cipla's office in Vikhroli and its depot in Bhiwandi, Thane, over the classification or exemption of an imported pharmaceutical finished product. In a regulatory filing, the company said the search was conducted on Monday under Section 105 of the Customs Act, 1962, and was related to the classification or exemption of an imported pharmaceutical finished product. PTI

BPCL set to tap local debt market after 4-year hiatus

India's Bharat Petroleum Corp (BPCL) is set to tap the local corporate debt market after a gap of almost four years, looking to fund large planned capital expenditure, two merchant bankers directly aware of the matter said on Tuesday. BPCL has plans to raise around ₹90 billion ($961.08million) through the sale of debt, but could approach the market in tranches, with the quantum on the said issue still under discussion, they said, declining to be identified. REUTERS

Amazon to invest $7 billion in India renewables by 2030

The fresh investment is in addition to the $4 billion already contracted in renewable energy investments in the country, the e-com company says

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amazon on Tuesday announced plans to invest an additional $7 billion in renewable energy projects in India by 2030, significantly expanding its clean energy portfolio as it seeks to support the country's energy transition.

The investment will be over and above the $4 billion already committed to renewable energy projects in India, making Amazon one of the country's leading corporate purchasers of carbon-free energy, the Washington-based technology and e-commerce major said in a statement.

"Our renewable energy investments in India reflect years of sustained effort, planning, and collaboration across the industry. This additional investment of $7 billion underlines our long-term commitment, helping bring additional wind and solar capacity online while contributing to India's energy security and long-term renewable energy ambitions," said Kara Hurst, Chief Sustainability Officer, Amazon.

By expanding access to renewable energy at scale, Amazon aims to help meet India's growing electricity demand, strengthen energy security and support the country's target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, Mr. Hurst added.



Amazon aims to help meet India's growing electricity demand and support its target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. REUTERS

Four new projects

Amazon also announced four new utility-scale wind and solar projects with a combined capacity of 934 megawatts (MW). These include a 234 MW wind farm in Karnataka, its largest wind project contracted in Asia so far; a 200 MW hybrid wind and solar project, also in Karnataka; a 300 MW solar project in Madhya Pradesh; and a 200 MW solar project in Rajasthan.

Secured through power purchase agreements (PPAs), the projects form part of Amazon's existing $4 billion contracted investments in India.

Once operational, its contracted renewable energy projects will have a combined capacity of more than 2 gigawatts (GW), generating electricity equivalent to the annual consumption of over 3.5 million Indian households.

Welcoming the fresh investment, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said, "Such investments play an important role in advancing India's clean energy ambitions, strengthening energy security and supporting sustainable economic growth."

"They also demonstrate the growing confidence of global companies in India's renewable energy sector and its potential to attract long-term investment, create economic opportunities and accelerate the country's energy transition," he added.

Amazon said its investments in India would also contribute to its global target of reducing the carbon intensity of electricity powering its operations by 65% by 2030, against a 2019 baseline.

Reliance plans to invest about $1.6 bn in new biogas plants

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Reliance hopes to produce about 5 million cubic metres per day of gas using agricultural residue

India's Reliance Industries plans to set up about 100 compressed biogas plants by 2030 costing about ₹150 billion ($1.6 billion), the chief financial officer of its Bio Energy Business said.

The conglomerate hopes to produce about 5 million cubic metres per day of gas using agricultural residue by 2030, Vikas Rathi said at an industry event. He said Reliance is currently producing 3,50,000 metric tonnes per day of biogas from 45 plants, which are operating at lower capacity.

The company plans to add 10 more plants by the end of March 2027, raising the overall output to 1.1 million metric tonnes, equivalent to about 1.5 million to 2 million cubic metres per day.

Reliance sells biogas to distribution companies supplying gas to households and small industries.

IOC gets govt. nod for commercial supply of SAF from Panipat

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI


A.S. Sahney

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has secured government approvals to commercially supply sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from its Panipat refinery in north India, with the facility capable of producing enough fuel to meet the country's 1% blending target for international flights in 2027, Chairman A.S. Sahney said on Tuesday.

The state-run refiner plans to enter into supply agreements with airlines before committing investments to additional SAF projects, he said at an industry event, signalling a demand-led approach to expanding production capacity as India prepares to introduce low-carbon fuel requirements for international aviation.

IN-SPACe picks three firms to develop 3D reconstruction of Indian cities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has selected three Indian space companies to develop High-Resolution Indian Human Settlement Layers (IHSL) across Indian cities.

The three companies, SpacePixxel Technologies Pvt. Ltd., KaleidEO Space Systems Pvt. Ltd. and Azista Industries Pvt. Ltd. have been selected under IN-SPACe's Seed Fund Scheme for Use Case Demonstration by Non-Government Entities (NGEi) to develop IHSL across Indian cities.

These companies will collectively receive seed funding of ₹1.46 crore to develop and demonstrate an indigenous satellite-based system for 3D reconstruction of India's built environment using monocular imageries.

IN-SPACe said that the initiative aims to address the NITI Aayog's requirement of having an accurate and detailed geospatial data on human settlement which can be used for urban planning, infrastructure development and disaster risk assessment in addition to population assessment.

The selected companies will develop models using Earth Observation data to generate three integrated outputs covering built-up surface and building type, building height, and built-up volume.

RBI's reply to Tata Sons triggers debate over suo motu power

Aneesh Phadnis
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India's latest communication to Tata Sons has raised questions over the regulator's reliance on the firm's internal board meeting proceedings to frame its position on the need for a listing though the firm had not sought clarification on any specific regulatory provision, legal experts said.

The proceedings, not formally disclosed to the RBI or any other regulator, later found their way into the public domain.

"From a legal and regulatory standpoint, it is not customary for a regulator to take a suo motu view based solely on a private company's internal board discussions," said Nazneen Ichhaporia, partner, ANB Legal. "While publicly available information may come to the regulator's notice, any supervisory action must be anchored in applicable regulations and formal compliance needs rather than board-level deliberations alone." In a letter to Tata Sons, the RBI said no clarification was sought on particular norm, guideline or direction but it was inferred from board's discussions the request concerned listing.

'Can't compel to list'

While the RBI could frame policies and issue directions to NBFCs under Section 45JA of the RBI Act, it did not have the authority to compel a company to list its shares, said senior lawyer H.P. Ranina. He described the RBI's communication to Tata Sons as a case of regulatory overreach. "If the RBI continues to insist on listing, the directive can be challenged before a court of law."

Letter to Tata Sons

On Monday, the RBI wrote to Tata Sons, asking it to comply with all regulations governing Upper Layer NBFCs, "including the requirement of listing". The letter was sent in response to a Tata Sons query dated October 6, seeking guidance on compliance with regulations applicable to Upper Layer NBFCs.

"Section 45JA empowers the RBI to issue directions on income recognition, accounting standards, provisioning, capital adequacy and deployment of funds. These provisions govern how an NBFC manages money, not who owns it. In fact, Section 45L(3) requires the RBI to have due regard to the objectives for which an institution was established. Tata Sons was created to serve philanthropic purposes, not capital markets," said Nitin Potdar, senior corporate and M&A lawyer.

However, not everyone feels the same. "There is no overreach by the RBI if it is asking Tata Sons to be compliant with its regulations," said Shriram Subramanian of InGovern.

Listing rift

The listing issue triggered divisions within the group. Tata Trusts chairman Noel Tata has been leading the effort to retain the firm's private status, arguing listing could dilute the group's philanthropic character. However, this was opposed within the family.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Digital lender Fibe to tap repeat borrowers

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Digital lender Fibe is banking on repeat borrowers to drive growth as technology-enabled credit distribution gains traction in India's expanding personal lending market.

Fintech-led personal lending in India grew at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 41.4% in value and 36.7% in volume between FY20 and FY26, reflecting rising adoption of digital lending solutions, particularly among younger and under served borrowers, according to a 1Lattice report.

"We have been leveraging technology and building a granular understanding of customer behaviour to address diverse borrowing needs of new-age customers," said Akshay Mehrotra, CEO, Fibe which filed draft IPO papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

"Fibe uses internal scorecards for periodic credit assessment of existing customers to support repeat loans," it added.

Personal loan AUM

Fibe's personal loan assets under management (AUM) rose to ₹6,656.76 crore in FY26 from ₹3,483.03 crore in FY24. Disbursements stood at ₹12,702.24 crore in FY26 with existing customers accounting for 61.47% of monthly personal loan disbursements by value.

Fibe's average loan ticket size is ₹86,547.

NMDC eyeing 24 MT pellet capacity: CMD

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD


Amitava Mukherjee

NMDC is building an integrated iron ore-to-pellet production ecosystem with plans to scale up pellet capacity to 24 million tonne (MT), said CMD Amitava Mukherjee.

Commissioning of a 135-km-long slurry pipeline and 2 MT pellet plant at Nagarnar in September was a step in this direction. The pellet plant is to be upgraded to 6 MTPA in near term and 13 MTPA later on, he said on NMDC's 69th foundation day celebrations.

Pellet output is likely to be about 24 MTPA when NMDC reached its targeted iron ore production of 100 MT, helping position it as India's largest pellet producer. Mr. Mukherjee said infrastructure would play a crucial role in NMDC's growth journey.

Infrastructure investments, diversification into coal and technological capabilities to position it for significantly larger operations in the coming years figure in the next phase of expansion, NMDC said.

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

A Business Initiative

Yogi releases book marking 50 weeks of 'Yogi Ki Pati'



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath released a coffee table book marking 50 weeks of 'Yogi Ki Pati', an initiative aimed at strengthening communication between the government and the public. The book was released at the Chief Minister's official residence. Mr. Adityanath also virtually inaugurated an exhibition organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations at the 1090 campus in Lucknow. The exhibition showcases the initiative's journey through photographs, letters and creative displays, highlighting issues such as agriculture, employment, women's safety, education, healthcare, infrastructure and cultural heritage. The coffee table book brings together key messages from the Chief Minister's letters and documents the themes addressed over the past 50 weeks. A week-long cultural programme has also been organised, with each evening dedicated to a specific theme. The programme began with 'Mitti Ki Pati', focusing on farmers and agriculture. Subsequent events will highlight women's safety and empowerment, youth employment, religious heritage, infrastructure development, security, healthcare and education.

From Rural Problems to Entrepreneurial Possibilities: LBSIM's Internal Hackathon 2.0 Brings Together 200+ Students Across 44 Teams



Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management (LBSIM), Delhi, in collaboration with IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP), successfully organised Internal Hackathon 2.0 on 30–31 October 2026, bringing together more than 200 students across 44 teams for an intensive 28-hour innovation and entrepreneurship challenge. The hackathon was designed as a follow-up to LBSIM's Rural Immersion Programme, during which first-year PGDM students visited rural communities, interacted with local stakeholders and experienced grassroots challenges firsthand. Building on these observations, participants were encouraged to identify real-world problems and develop entrepreneurial solutions with the potential to create sustainable business opportunities. Moving beyond conventional ideation exercises, the 28-hour challenge required teams to work on comprehensive business propositions. These included problem identification, solution development, customer and beneficiary identification, business models, marketing strategies, financial and revenue plans, operational feasibility and implementation requirements. The event culminated in the selection of ten finalist teams, all of whom received cash awards, with nearly ₹1 lakh in total prize money distributed among the finalists.

Signing of MoU by GAIL (India) Limited & Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited with Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board for exploring the opportunity to setup a gas-based fertilizer project in the State of Andhra Pradesh



In a significant step towards strengthening India's fertilizer self-sufficiency, GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) and Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) in the 31st CII Partnership Summit 2026 to explore the opportunity of establishing a gas-based urea plant in Andhra Pradesh. The MoU was formally signed by Shri Sagili Shan Mohan (IAS), Chief Executive Officer (CEO), APEDB, Shri Sanjay Agarwal, ED (BD, Start-up & R&D), GAIL and Shri C. S. Azad, Executive Director (Technical), KRIBHCO in the august presence of Shri N. Chandra Babu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. During the signing ceremony, Shri R. K. Singhal, Director (Business Development), GAIL, Shri V Sudhakar Chowdary, Chairman, KRIBHCO & Shri S. S. Yadav, Managing Director, KRIBHCO were also present. The urea production facility is envisaged to have a capacity of 1.27 Million Metric Tons Per Annum (MMTPA) at Mulapeta, Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh along GAIL's Srikakulam Angul Natural Gas Pipeline (SAPL).

Banasthali Vidyapith to Hosts BRICS Women Leaders Summit

Banasthali Vidyapith is organizing the first BRICS Women Leaders Summit at its campus from 19-23 November2026 in partnership with Eurasian Women's Forum, Federation Council, Senezh Management Group, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Russian Federation and BRICS Youth Alliance. This Summit will focus on nurturing women leadership across BRICS countries, humanitarian coordination and global trade diplomacy. Galina Karelova, First Deputy Chair of the Federation Council Committee on Federation Structure; Anna Nesterova, Chair of the Russian Section of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance; Ekaterina Torubarova, Head of the Public Diplomacy; Department of Rossotrudnichestvo are few of the distinguished delegates of the Summit. The Summit will bring together over 140 international delegates: the visionary women, entrepreneurs, academicians, diplomats, parliamentarians, representatives of international organizations, policymakers, thought leaders, pioneers and futurists, from over 20 countries to shape the future of transformational leadership and to inspire generational impact and global change. More than 2000 participants will participate in the Summit. It will begin on Thursday, 19 November with global welcome reception and inauguration at Banasthali's campus. On 20, 21 and 22 November the main sessions of Summit will take place followed by valedictory on 23 November 2026.

NSUT's Team Kalpana Earns 'Excellent' Grade at CANSAT India 2026, Showcases Indigenous CanSat Technology



Students from Netaji Subhas University of Technology develop a GPS-guided parafoil-based CanSat featuring autonomous precision landing, real-time telemetry and crop-health monitoring.

Team Kalpana from Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT), Delhi, received 'Excellent' remarks from the judges at CANSAT India 2026, evaluated by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), an organisation under the Department of Space, Government of India and ISRO. The achievement recognises the team's efforts in designing, developing and demonstrating an innovative CanSat system incorporating advanced aerospace engineering, embedded systems and autonomous flight technologies.

The occasion was graced by the esteemed presence of Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shri Shashank Mani jii, Dr. Pawan Goenka, Chairman, IN-SPACe, Dr. VInod Kumar, Director, Promotion Directorate, IN-SPACe, and distinguished scientists from ISRO.

LONDON

U.K. sanctions Israeli firms helping build settlements in West Bank



AFP

Britain on Tuesday announced a slew of sanctions against eight Israeli companies helping to plan and build West Bank settlements, in a bid to halt new construction. “Do not bid, do not build, and do not profit from the destruction of the two-state solution,” Foreign Minister Ed Miliband urged Israeli companies. AFP

WASHINGTON

Measles is no longer considered eliminated in the U.S. and Mexico



REUTERS

The U.S. has lost its measles-free status, international health officials said on Tuesday, as the highly contagious virus once relegated to medical textbooks has spread — largely among the unvaccinated — at the highest rate in more than 30 years. Mexico and Bolivia also lost their measles-elimination status. AP

WASHINGTON

Jensen Huang signals interest in returning to Nvidia as its CEO



AFP

Nvidia's former CEO Jensen Huang, who resigned from the chipmaker last week under a cloud of scandal, said on Tuesday he "would be honored" to come back as CEO if the board decided his return would be in the best interest of shareholders and employees, He said he received an “outpouring” of support for his return. AP

MANAMA

Nabeel Rajab, prominent Bahraini human rights activist, dies at 62



REUTERS

Nabeel Rajab, a prominent democracy activist in Bahrain who helped lead the island nation’s 2011 protests known across the wider region as the Arab Spring and who spent years in prison for challenging its monarchy, died on Tuesday. He was 62. His family found him unresponsive at their home in Turkiye, activists said. AP

Iran targets Bahrain, criticises ‘fabricated’ dirty-bomb report

Explosions reported in Manama while Bahrain says it ‘intercepted and destroyed’ incoming attacks; Iran’s Guards say the strike targeted a U.S.-operated radar system at Sheikh Isa Air Base; this was the third Iranian attack on Bahrain in five days

Agence France-Presse
MANAMA

Iran launched a fresh drone attack against Bahrain on Tuesday and dismissed a report alleging a dirty-bomb plot against the United States, which President Donald Trump said he took “very seriously”.

Mediator Qatar urged “all parties” to show restraint following an uptick in hostilities, with Bahrain targeted three times in five days after a lull in Iranian attacks on Gulf countries since September.

Mr. Trump was speaking after *CNN* cited seven anonymous U.S. officials as saying Iran was plotting to target senior administration figures with a “dirty” bomb, laced with chemical or radioactive materials.



Commuters in Tehran travel past a billboard with a logo that reads in Farsi: ‘The sky is a place for our pride and loyalty’. AFP

“If there is [such a threat], they will pay a price the likes of which no other country has ever paid before,” Mr. Trump said after arriving for a summit in the Philippines. “I hope it’s not, but we take it very seriously because they happen to be crazy.”

Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei dismissed the report as “fabricated”.

“Those who initiated the aggression against Iran are now seeking to lay the media groundwork for their sinister designs by manufacturing and disseminating baseless allegations” including “the fabricated media narrative surrounding an alleged ‘dirty bomb’ propagated by CNN”, he posted on X.

Earlier on Tuesday, explosions boomed across Bahrain’s capital as a mobile-phone alert warned residents to seek safety.

Bahrain’s armed forces said they “confronted, intercepted and destroyed a number of treacherous Iranian aerial attacks today... before they could achieve their objectives”, while Iran’s Revolutionary Guards said they targeted a U.S.-operated radar system at Sheikh Isa Air Base.

The attack was in response to the “repeated violations of Iranian airspace by U.S. military drones”, it added.

The Guards also said they had intercepted and captured a U.S. drone south of Qeshm island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Israel set to select new Speaker in Parliament

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel’s Parliament is set on Tuesday to select a new Speaker opposed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a first step in rolling back the legacy of the country’s divisive veteran leader even though he is still trying to stay in office.

Gadi Eisenkot, a former military chief who has until next month to form a government to replace Mr. Netanyahu, has put forward his ally Matan Kahana to be the next Speaker.

Mr. Netanyahu’s Likud party is expected to try to draw out debate to scuttle Mr. Kahana’s election in Parliament, known as the Knesset.

Likud in a statement demanded that lawmakers hold off on “severe, unilateral measures” and on “replacing the Knesset Speaker at a time that negotiations are ongoing to form a national-unity government”.



Matan Kahana

Likud has said it will put forward Ofir Katz as its own candidate for Knesset Speaker, but Mr. Kahana is the favourite ahead of the vote.

The Parliament Speaker is an important office given that it sets the timetable for parliamentary business and can therefore speed up or delay debates or votes on proposed laws.

Neither Mr. Eisenkot nor Mr. Netanyahu won a majority in the 120-member Knesset in October 27 elections.

But Mr. Kahana can easily reach the 61-vote threshold in Tuesday’s vote thanks to votes by the Arab-Israeli parties, which made historic gains in the election on the back of anger over Mr. Netanyahu’s hard-right government.

Mr. Netanyahu’s and Mr. Eisenkot’s parties met on Sunday on the possibility of joining a unity government but the meeting appeared to be largely a formality, with both men saying they should be Prime Minister.

Rooppur nuclear plant begins trial

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Bangladesh’s first nuclear power plant at Rooppur in the country’s northwest Pabna district began supplying electricity to the national grid on a trial basis on Tuesday, according to officials.

The 2,400 MW Russian-assisted facility is expected to meet more than 10% of Bangladesh’s electricity demand once fully operational, helping the country diversify its energy sources.

“We have become the 33rd country in the world to produce and generate nuclear power,” Science and Technology Minister Fakir Mahbub Anam told reporters at the plant site.

The development comes as the South Asian nation of 170 million people grapples with a fuel crisis triggered by the conflict in West Asia.

The plant comprises two units, each with a generation capacity of 1,200 MW, officials said, adding that the first unit has begun supplying 350 MW of electricity to the national grid.

Construction on the facility began in 2017 during the Hasina administration.

U.S. court dismisses fixed terms for student visas

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

A U.S. federal court has struck down a Trump administration proposal to cap the amount of time foreign students, scholars, and journalists can spend in the country on their respective visas.

In July, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) proposed a policy aimed at preventing international students from staying in the country for more than four years unless they obtained federal approval.

The judge ruled that the DHS proposal as “arbitrary, an abuse of discretion, and not in accordance with law”.

PM Burnham delays tabling of options for U.K.-EU ties

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

U.K. Prime Minister Andy Burnham has delayed unveiling options for long-term ties between the U.K. and EU. The Prime Minister had said in September that he would set out options – including the option of a complete return to the EU – around the U.K.-EU Summit, which is scheduled for Friday.

“This will take time and we will present those options and our assessment of them to inform decisions in the next Parliament,” Mr. Burnham said on Monday at the annual City Hall banquet in the capital’s financial hub.

“At every stage, the British people will be the boss,” he added.

At Friday’s Summit, Mr. Burnham said he seek to finalise an agreement with Brussels for closer U.K.-EU ties, based on the groundwork laid by his predecessor Keir Starmer. Mr. Burnham suggested this deal could increase the U.K.’s GDP by 0.4%.

Legislation for the deal will be presented to the U.K. Parliament next week, the Prime Minister said, as he ruled out crossing red lines, i.e., ruling out joining the EU, allowing the “free movement” of EU citizens across the border or taking the U.K. into the EU Customs Union and Single Market during this Parliament (which ends in 2029).



Andy Burnham delivers a speech during the annual Lord Mayor’s Banquet at the Guildhall in London, Britain, on Monday. REUTERS

EU Affairs Minister Hamish Falconer said that a U.K.-EU agreement would involve an “exit clause” in case a future U.K. government run by the Conservatives or Reform U.K. undid the deal, the *BBC* reported. These two Opposition parties have said they would undo any agreement reached by Labour. The exit clause it is likely to involve payments to Brussels to set up border infrastructure.

During his speech Mr. Burnham also spoke of reviving the Commonwealth (of which India is also a part) group of nations.

“It is a unique geopolitical forum, not including either the U.S. or China, and yet we have failed to invest energy in modernising the Commonwealth,” he said.

The Prime Minister said Britain would offer countries a structured dialogue in 2027 on its historical role in slavery but would not make financial reparations for it.

“It is basic good manners, if a friend wants to talk about something that is unjust and unresolved, to listen and engage,” he said. Longstanding calls from Caribbean nations for reparations and apologies grew louder in recent weeks, around a visit of King Charles III to the region.

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

E-TENDER NOTICE

MSETCL invites online bids (E-Tender) from registered contractors / agencies on Mahatransco E-Tendering website **http://srmetender.mahatransco.in**; for following works. **Tender No :** CE/EHV PC O&M Zone/Pune/T-56/2026-27 **RFX No. 7000042142. Subject: 1st call** for work of S/s augmentation by providing additional TF at 110kV Pandharpur, 132kV Choncholikati, 132kV Sangola, 132kV Nimboni, 132kV Mundhawa, 132kV Andhralake, 220kV Urse, 220kV VSNL S/s under Pune Zone (TF will be supplied by MSETCL). **Tender Amount:** Rs. 54,88,22,084/- Incl taxes & Rs. 46,51,03,461/- Excl GST. **EMD :** Rs. 46,51,034/-, **Tender Fees :** Rs. 25,000/- + GST. **Download of tender Documents:** From dtd. 17/11/2026 to dtd. 02/12/2026 up to 11:00 Hrs. **Bid Opening:** Dtd. 02/12/2026 after 12:00 Hrs (Tech.); Dtd. 04/12/2026 after 12:00 Hrs (Price). For further details visit our website **http://mahatransco.in** and open **above RFX** for downloading tender document, schedules, and annexures.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
EHV PC O&M Zone, Pune

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMILNADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD
BUILDINGS (CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE 2, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI - 600 005.

e-Tender Notice No. 13 BCM/2026-2027/dated: 16.11.2026.
NOTICE FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE SELECTION OF ARCHITECT / ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL(RFP)
FOR
ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANCY FIRM FOR SPECIALIZED ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY FOR RENOVATION AND UPGRADATION OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU INDOOR STADIUM, CHENNAI.

1. For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (Construction & Maintenance) Circle 2, Chennai invites e-tenders from the leading Architect / Architectural Firms / consortium registered in the Council of Architecture in India / Equivalent to provide comprehensive Architectural Consultancy Services and PMC services for Renovation and upgradation of Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai. E.M.D. Amount: Rs.1,00,000/- (through online only).
The last date for receipt of e-tender through online is upto **15.00 hours on 21.12.2026.**
For further details visit **https://tntenders.gov.in:**

Superintending Engineer, PWD.,
Buildings (Construction & Maintenance) Circle-2
Chepauk, Chennai – 600 005

DIPR/3613/Tender/2026

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMILNADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD
BUILDINGS (CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE 2, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI - 600 005.

e-Tender Notice No. 11 BCM/2026-2027/dated:16.11.2026.
NOTICE FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE SELECTION OF ARCHITECT / ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL(RFP)
FOR
ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANCY FIRM FOR SPECIALIZED ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD HIGH - RISE MULTI SPORTS CENTRE AT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU INDOOR STADIUM COMPLEX, CHENNAI

1. For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (Construction & Maintenance) Circle 2, Chennai invites e-tenders from the leading Architect / Architectural Firms / consortium registered in the Council of Architecture in India / Equivalent to provide comprehensive Architectural Consultancy Services and PMC services towards Master planning for a total land area of about 1.5 Acres and detailed architectural and Structural design for establishment of an International Standard high – rise Multi Sports Centre at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium Complex, Chennai. EMD Amount: Rs.2,00,000/-(through online only).
The last date for receipt of e-tender through online is upto **15.00 hours on 21.12.2026.**
For further details visit **https://tntenders.gov.in:**

Superintending Engineer, PWD.,
Buildings (Construction & Maintenance) Circle-2
Chepauk, Chennai – 600 005

DIPR/3612/Tender/2026

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
Phone-0674-2540742 : E-mail- se_ccrw@yahoo.co.in

No. 6789/ Date: 03.11.2026 **"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work**
T.C.N No.Tender- Online-C.C-30 of 2026

1.	Name of the Work	:	Road works under Periodical Renewal work of 5 years Completed PMGSY (POST DLP) roads for the year 2026-27.
2.	Total No. of Packages	:	25 No. of Packages
3.	Estimated Cost of the Package	:	Varies from Rs.58.82 lakhs to Rs.148.74 lakhs
4.	Class of Contractor	:	
	a) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 Lakhs up to Rs. 3.00 Crores.		B Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	b) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crore up to Rs.20.00 Crores.		A Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
5.	Period of Completion	:	As mentioned in Column-8 of Annexure
6.	Offered rates by bidder	:	The offered rate by the contractor shall be excluding GST.
7.	Other details		
	i) Officer Inviting tender	:	Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar
	ii) Availability of Tender	:	Dt.20.11.2026 from 11.00 hours to Dt.05.12.2026 up to 5.00 PM
	iii) Seeking clarification of tender	:	Dt.04.12.2026 Up to 5.00 PM
	vi) Date of Opening of Technical Bid	:	Dt.07.12.2026 at 11.00 AM
	v) Date of Opening of Financial Bid	:	To be intimated later on

Further details can be seen from the web site : www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Chief Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar.
25001/1592/2627 OIPR-25001/25194/1/26-27/0013

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
ANUGOLA IRRIGATION CIRCLE, ANUGOLA, ODISHA, PIN-759143
E-mail:aceangulirrigationcircle@gmail.com
Government of Odisha **"e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE**
Bid Identification No. ACEAIC-09/2026-27

Sl. No.	Name of work	Tendered Amount	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	Last date/ time for receipt of bid in the portal	Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid
01.	Improvement to service road of Santri Minor from RD 0.00 Km to 7.25 Km and Barsingha Distry. of Derjang Irrigation Project	Rs.508.38 lakh	"A"	10 (Ten Calendar Months)	18.11.2026 at 10.00 AM	02.12.2026 up to 05.30 PM	Additional Chief Engineer, Anugola Irrigation Circle, Anugola
02.	Improvement to service road of Sakosingha Distry. from RD 0.00Km to 0.90 Km & 4.75 Km to 5.750 Km. Ghunchapal Minor from RD 0.90 Km to 2.00 Km. Jarasingha Minor and Angul Main Canal from RD 5.00 Km to 6.00 Km of Derjang Irrigation Project.	Rs.508.12 lakh	"A"	10 (Ten Calendar Months)	18.11.2026 at 10.00 AM	02.12.2026 up to 5.30 PM	

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal : http://tendersodisha.gov.in
Any corrigendum/ addendum/cancellation will be displayed in the **Govt.Website only.**
Additional Chief Engineer, Anugola Irrigation Circle, Anugola
32001/1370/2627 OIPR-32001/32081/1/26-27/0010

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BOLANGIR.
e - Procurement NOTICE

1.	Name of Work	:	Construction of Dangartal to Kurenbahali Road in the district of Bolangir under MMSY- Unconnected Habitations including Bridge for the year 2026-27 (Open Foundation)
2.	No. of Works	:	1 (One) work
3.	Time for Completion	:	12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
4.	Approximate Estimated Cost	:	Rs.375.50 lakhs
5.	Mode of Submission of tender	:	Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in
6.	Other details are as follow		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Bolangir.	BLGR-Online-32/2026-27	21.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	05.12.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	04.12.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	07.12.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated later on

- Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir
25001/1607/2627 OIPR-25001/25118/1/26-27/0035

FACE OF THE TEAM

There's no CSK without Dhoni, says franchise owner Srinivasan



FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

There is no Chennai Super Kings without M.S. Dhoni. For nearly two decades, we have walked and grown alongside each other, through triumphs, setbacks and everything in between. Dhoni will always be a part of our identity. This will always be his home — N. Srinivasan, Chennai Super Kings owner.

BROTHERS IN ARMS

Some legends never truly retire: Dhoni's former teammate Raina



FILE PHOTO: K. PICHUMANI

Some partnerships go beyond cricket. Some bonds go beyond the boundary. And some legends never truly retire. From sharing the dressing room to lifting trophies together, every moment with you, Mahi (M.S. Dhoni) *bhai*, has been a memory for life — Suresh Raina, Dhoni's former India and CSK teammate.

TAKING A LEAF

Learnt simplicity through Dhoni when I joined CSK, says Ruturaj



FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

CSK captain Ruturaj Gaikwad said he learnt the meaning of "simplicity" from M.S. Dhoni. "I got to learn the exact meaning of this word when I first joined CSK in 2019 by watching you, that was the biggest lesson I learned despite of all the achievements that you have accumulated over the years," Ruturaj wrote.

DREAM COME TRUE

From a fanboy to sharing dressing room with my idol: Pathirana



FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd go from watching you on TV as a fanboy to sharing the dressing room with my idol. Getting to know you beyond the game and sharing those little moments in the dressing room is something I'll always cherish — Matheesha Pathirana, former CSK fast bowler.

Sundown on Dhoni the player, arise the mentor

The 45-year-old former Chennai Super Kings skipper leaves behind a rich legacy; his immediate task will be to pick the right squad alongside head coach Zaheer in next month's mini auction

IPL

S. Dipak Ragav

It is a day that the Chennai Super Kings fans and the cricket-watching public had been dreading. On Tuesday, the deadline for the IPL 2027 retentions, Mahendra Singh Dhoni announced his retirement from the league and brought the curtain down on his career as a player. He will take over the role of team mentor for the five-time champion.

Dhoni's journey began in 2008 when he became the costliest buy at the inaugural IPL auction as CSK shelled out $1.5 million. Since then, the two have become synonymous. Apart from guiding the team to five IPL titles and two Champions League Twenty20 crowns, he is also the second-highest run-scorer for Super Kings (5,314 runs) and the franchise's most-capped player (272 appearances).

For the last few years, there has been constant speculation about when Dhoni will eventually call it quits. In recent times, it had become increasingly clear that the end was near.

Like his international retirements that took everyone by surprise, the 45-year-old's decision to close his IPL chapter came in inimitable style.







Au revoir: Dhoni brought down the curtains on a storied 19-year IPL career, where he guided Chennai Super Kings to five titles with his astute leadership, explosive batting and magical glovework. FILE PHOTOS: K.R. DEEPAK, SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR & K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

The revelation

In a video shared by the team's social media, Rupa Gurunath, team owner of CSK, revealed how Dhoni broke the news to the management.

"When I met him a few months ago, he told me that he wasn't sure he would be able to play the upcoming IPL season. We were on a call on Saturday, discussing our team's player releases. We had gone through a lot of discussions, we were thinking about the strategy for the next season, who we should be picking... Kasi (Viswanathan, CSK MD) was reading the list of releases when MS very quietly said, 'maybe you should add my name in it'.

Despite retiring from international cricket in 2020, Dhoni continued to play in the IPL and led CSK to two more titles (2021, 2023). However, as age caught up, the wicketkeeper-batter's prowess with the willow began to wane. He could only play a few overs lower down the order, and with mixed results.

Injury troubles

Dhoni had been battling a recurring knee issue since 2023 and, in 2026, he missed the entire season due to a calf-injury.

His downturn also coincided with the team's free-fall over the last three years as Super Kings failed to qualify for the playoffs.

Earlier this year, the outfit underwent a complete overhaul of its coaching staff, with Zaheer Khan replacing Stephen Fleming, who was at the helm for 16 editions.

Now, Dhoni's decision to hang up his boots is a step in the same direction, giving the team a new look and a fresh start for 2027.

Big role

Going forward, one of the most successful captains in the league will have a huge role to play in getting the Men in Yellow roar again, but in a different avatar. A major reason for CSK's slump has been the not-so-satisfactory choices made at the auction table.

CSK has historically got the best out of players who were not fancied when they were bought. The recipe for success was skipper Dhoni, who was clear about the players' roles and extracted the best out of them. His reassuring presence on the field won't be easy to fill.

Dhoni leaves behind a rich legacy, a glittering trophy cabinet and memories for a lifetime.



Lion king: Dhoni striding out to bat at the MAC Stadium was a majestic sight. FILE PHOTO: M. VEDHAN

Your legacy will live on forever

A leader, a finisher, calm and composed under pressure, and one of the most influential figures in Indian cricket. MS Dhoni, the legacy you have created will be hard to match
IRFAN PATHAN

Your leadership, calmness and impact on the game have inspired generations
SHIKHAR DHAWAN

What a phenomenal career and an extraordinary journey! Your contribution to the game has been immense and your legacy will live on forever
AMIT MISHRA

Thank you, skipper. Your legacy will live on forever
DWAYNE BRAVO

8 ka 7 ke liye respect forever (forever respect for No. 7 from No. 8)
RAVINDRA JADEJA

You gave me my India debut cap, a moment I will cherish for a lifetime. Your guidance, mentorship and unwavering belief have played an invaluable role in shaping my journey
YUZVENDRA CHAHAL

You didn't just lead a squad, you raised the standards of leadership, made calmness and coolness your strengths. and turned every challenge into an opportunity
MAYANK AGARWAL

From seeing you lead Chennai with unmatched calmness to witnessing the magic behind the stumps, the unforgettable finishes, and the countless memories in yellow... every moment felt special
S. BADRINATH

From being a little boy in Chennai, watching you from the stands and having the privilege of sharing the same field with you... some dreams do come full circle
SAI SUDHARSAN

This, genuinely, is the end of an era. MSD & CSK were meant to be. The IPL grows stronger every year but today, it is sadder, smaller
HARSHA BHOGLE

Who stays, who goes

How the 10 IPL franchises firmed up their strategies for the mini auction scheduled to be held on December 16

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Retained: Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sanju Samson, Ayush Mhatre, Urvil Patel, Dewald Brevis, Shivam Dube, Kartik Sharma, Sarfaraz Khan, Rahul Chahar, Noor Ahmad, Shreyas Gopal, Anshul Kamboj, Mukesh Choudhary, Gurjapneet Singh, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Jamie Overton, Akeal Hosein, Liam Livingstone (traded in), Jack Edwards (traded in)

Released: M.S. Dhoni, Spencer Johnson, Matt Henry, Zak Foulkes, Matt Short, Aman Khan, Prashant Veer, Kuldip Yadav, Dian Forrester, Akash Madhwal, Macneil Noronha, Khaleel Ahmed (traded out), Nathan Ellis (traded out)

***Purse remaining:* ₹28.05 crore; Slots Remaining: 6; Overseas: 2**

MUMBAI INDIANS

Retained: Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Tilak Varma, Naman Dhir, Ryan Rickleton, Sherfane Rutherford, Quinton de Kock, Corbin Bosch, Will Jacks, Shardul Thakur, Raj Bawa, Mitchell Santner, Ashwani Kumar, Raghu Sharma, Arshdeep Singh (traded in)

Released: Trent Boult, Deepak Chahar, A.M. Ghazanfar, Mahipal Lomror, Robin Minz, Krish Bhagat, Ruchit Ahir, Atharva Ankolekar, Keshav Maharaj, Danish Malewar, Mayank Markande, Mayank Rawat, Mohammed Izhar, Hardik Pandya (Traded out)

***Purse remaining:* ₹32.6 crore; Slots remaining: 9; Overseas: 2**

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU

Retained: Rajat Patidar, Virat Kohli, Phil Salt, Devdutt Padikkal, Jitesh Sharma, Tim David, Krunal Pandya, Romario Shepherd, Josh Hazlewood, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Suyash Sharma, Abhinandan Singh, Rasikh Salam, Venkatesh Iyer, Jacob Duffy, Jordan Cox, Vicky Ostwal, Kanishk Chouhan, Yash Dayal, Nuwan Thushara

Released: Mangesh Yadav, Jacob Bethell, Richard Gleeson, Swapnil Singh, Vihaan Malhotra, Satvik Deswal

***Purse remaining:* ₹14.15 crore; Slots remaining: 5; Overseas: 1**

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Retained: Cameron Green, Sunil Narine, Rinku Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Harshit Rana, Finn Allen, Manish Pandey, Rovman Powell, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Ramandeep Singh, Tim Seifert, Sarthak Ranjan, Anukul Roy, Vaibhav Arora, Saurabh Dubey, Karthik Tyagi, Prashant Solanki

Released: Matheesha Pathirana, Mustafizur Rahman, Rachin Ravindra, Ajinkya Rahane, Blessing Muzarabani, Navdeep Saini, Rahul Tripathi, Tejasvi Dahiya, Umran Malik, Luvnith Sisodia, Daksh Kamra, Akash Deep

***Purse remaining:* ₹41.65 crore; Slots remaining: 8; Overseas: 3**

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

Retained: Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram, Nicholas Pooran, Josh Inglis, Ayush Badoni, Abdul Samad, Mukul Choudhary, Akshat Raghuwanshi, Shahbaz Ahmed, Digvesh Rathi, Prince Yadav, Mohsin Khan, Mayank Yadav, Akash Singh, Arjun Tendulkar, Arshin Kulkarni, Kuldeep Yadav (traded in), Sam Curran (traded in)

Released: Avesh Khan, Wanindu Hasaranga, Anrich Nortje, George Linde, Matthew Breetzke, Naman Tiwari, Himmat Singh, Rishabh Pant (traded out), Mohammed Shami (traded out), M. Siddharth (traded out)

***Purse remaining:* ₹47.45 cr, Slots remaining: 7; Overseas: 3**

PUNJAB KINGS

Retained: Shreyas Iyer, Priyansh Arya, Prabhsimran Singh, Shashank Singh, Musheer Khan, Vishnu Vinod, Cooper Connolly, Marcus Stoinis, Azmatullah Omarzai, Marco Jansen, Suryansh Shedge, Xavier Bartlett, Ben Dwarshuis, Yash Thakur, V. Vijaykumar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Harpreet Brar, Harnoor Singh, Hardik Pandya (traded in)

Released: Nehal Wadhera, Mitchell Owen, Lockie Ferguson, Pyla Avinash, Praveen Dubey, Vishal Nishad, Arshdeep Singh (traded out)

***Purse remaining:* ₹18.6 crore; Slots remaining: 6; Overseas: 2.**

GUJARAT TITANS

Retained: Shubman Gill, Sai Sudharsan, Rahul Tewatia, Kumar Kushagra, Anuj Rawat, Jos Buttler, Tom Banton, Glenn Phillips, Washington Sundar, R. Sai Kishore, Manav Suthar, Rashid Khan, Jayant Yadav, Jason Holder, Kagiso Rabada, Mohammad Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Ashok Sharma, Arshad Khan, Nishant Sindhu, Harshal Patel (traded in)

Released: M. Shahrukh Khan, Ishant Sharma, Luke Wood, Kulwant Khejroliya, Prithvi Raj Yarra, Connor Esterhuizen

***Purse remaining:* ₹8.75; Slots remaining: 3; Overseas: 2**

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Retained: Riyan Parag, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Dhruv Jurel, Nandre Burger, Shubham Dubey, Aman Rao, Lhuan Dre Pretorius, Donovan Ferreira, Dasun Shanaka, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravi Bishnoi, Yash Raj Punja, Jofra Archer, Brijesh Sharma, Sandeep Sharma, Sushant Mishra, Mohammed Shami (traded in), M. Siddharth (traded in)

Released: Shimron Hetmyer, Tushar Deshpande, Adam Milne, Kwena Maphaka, Vignesh Puthur, Yudhvir Singh Charak, Kuldeep Sen, Ravi Singh, Emanjot Chahal, Sam Curran (traded out)

***Purse remaining:* ₹27.05 crore; Slots remaining: 6; Overseas: 3.**

DELHI CAPITALS

Retained: Axar Patel, K.L. Rahul, Prithvi Shaw, Sameer Rizvi, Ashutosh Sharma, Tristan Stubbs, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Mukesh Kumar, Auqib Nabi, Vipraj Nigam, Madhav Tiwari, T. Vijay, Kyle Jamieson, Rishabh Pant (traded in), Zeeshan Ansari (traded in)

Released: Nitish Rana, Ben Duckett, Karun Nair, Pathum Nissanka, Sahil Parakh, Ajay Mandal, Abhishek Porel, Dushmantha Chameera, Rehan Ahmed, Mitchell Starc, T. Natarajan (traded out), Kuldeep Yadav (traded out)

***Purse remaining:* ₹39.5 core; Slots remaining: 9; Overseas: 4.**

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Retained: Pat Cummins, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Salil Arora, Aniket Verma, R. Smaran, Heinrich Klaasen, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Eshan Malinga, Brydon Carse, Praful Hinge, Sakib Hussain, Harsh Dubey, Shivang Kumar, Krains Fuletra, T. Natarajan (traded in), Khaleel Ahmed (traded in), Nathan Ellis (traded in)

Released: Travis Head, Kamindu Mendis, Jaydev Unadkat, Dishan Madushanka, Onkar Tarmale, Amit Kumar, Shivam Mavi, Gerald Coetzee, David Payne, R.S. Ambrish, Harshal Patel (traded out), Zeeshan Ansari (traded out), Liam Livingstone (traded out), Jack Edwards (traded out)

***Purse remaining:* ₹40.15 crore; Slots remaining: 7; Overseas: 3**



India to go in with four fast bowlers on a green top

The think-tank will have to choose three among Siraj, Prasidh, Akash, Gurnoor and Kamboj in its playing XI; New Zealand remains a formidable opponent despite all-rounder Santner's absence

INDIA IN NZ

Amol Karhadkar
WELLINGTON

The Basin Reserve, New Zealand cricket's spiritual home, is often described as the largest roundabout in the Southern Hemisphere. But with India finding itself at a crossroads on multiple fronts, there will be no room for it to go around in circles. Instead, the visitor will have to get its combination right when the first Test begins at the picturesque venue in the heart of Wellington on Thursday.

One wrong turn could effectively end India's hopes of qualifying for the World Test Championship (WTC) final. Another could jeopardise its chances of winning a series that, having been truncated to just two Tests in keeping with the demands of modern-day cricket, offers little room for recovery. It could also mean that the 17-year wait for a Test series victory in New Zealand continues.

India will take confidence from the extensive preparations it has undertaken ahead of the series. The top six in India's batting order – Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.L. Rahul, Devdutt Padikkal, captain Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja – along with pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, are virtually assured of their places. It is the remaining four slots that are likely to keep the team management occupied.

With the 22-yard strip, which remained covered for large parts of Tuesday amid intermittent drizzle, sporting a generous covering of grass, Gill said during the pre-series media interaction that India would go in with four pace-bowling options. Yet, given its preference for batting depth, it would not be a surprise if Dhruv Jurel is preferred as a specialist batter at No. 7 over the all-round abilities of Nitish Kumar.

That would leave India needing to choose three from Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Gurnoor Brar and Anshul Kamboj.

Siraj brings experience to the table, while Prasidh offers pace and bounce. Akash, returning after a lengthy lay-off, and Kamboj, a nippy swing bowler, can contribute valuable runs down the order. Then there is Gurnoor, whose impressive showing in the ODI series earned him a place in the Test squad. The lanky pacer has the X-factor.

While the bowlers will have to contend with the challenge of operating into or against the wind, the batting line-up will be expected to deliver the goods. The gutsy Pant could hold the key despite lack of match practice and being the least acclimatised member of the touring party.

New Zealand has suffered a setback with Mitchell Santner ruled out of the series after fracturing his hand in the final one-dayer. But with a potent bowling attack and a proven batting line-up, the home team remains a formidable opponent.

The teams (from): New Zealand: Tom Latham (Capt.), Tom Blundell (wk), Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Nathan Smith, Blair Tickner, Will Young, Dean Foxcroft.

India: Shubman Gill (Capt.), K.L. Rahul (Vice-capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Devdutt Padikkal, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Anshul Kamboj, Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Sai Sudharsan, Nitish Kumar, Washington Sundar, Mohammed Siraj, Gurnoor Brar.

Match starts at 3.30 a.m. IST (Thursday).

World Test Championship standings

TEAM	M	W	L	D	PTS	PCT
New Zealand	6	4	1	1	52	72.22
South Africa	7	5	2	0	60	71.43
Australia	13	9	4	0	108	69.23
India	**11**	**5**	**4**	**2**	**68**	**51.52**
Bangladesh	8	3	3	2	44	45.83
England	16	7	8	1	74	38.54
West Indies	14	3	8	3	46	27.38
Sri Lanka	7	1	2	4	13	15.48
Pakistan	10	2	7	1	4	3.33

Note: England (14), West Indies (two), Sri Lanka (15) and Pakistan (24) have had points deducted for slow over rates

The big challenge

India, which has had a fairly tough time in New Zealand in the longest format, will be keen to reverse its fortunes

INDIA'S VISITS

Year	Matches	India	NZ	Drawn
1968	4	3	1	0
1976	3	1	1	1
1981	3	0	1	2
1990	3	0	1	2
1994	1	0	0	1
1998-99	2*	0	1	1
2002	2	0	2	0
2009	3	1	0	2
2014	2	0	1	1
2020	2	0	2	0

*A game in the 1998-99 three-match series was abandoned without a ball being bowled

INDIA'S VICTORIES

1968	By five wickets, Dunedin
1968	By eight wickets, Wellington
1968	By 272 runs, Auckland
1976	By eight wickets, Auckland
2009	By 10 wickets, Hamilton



INDIA-NEW ZEALAND H2H IN TESTS

	MATCHES	INDIA		NZ	DRAWN
OVERALL	65	22		16	27
IN NEW ZEALAND	25	5		10	10

THE SCHEDULE

FIRST TEST: November 19 to 23, Wellington

SECOND TEST: November 27 to December 1, Christchurch

Both matches start at 3.30 a.m. IST

DOWN MEMORY LANE

- India's maiden away Test series victory came in New Zealand in 1968 when Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi led the team to a 3-1 triumph
- In 1956, Vinoo Mankad (231) and Pankaj Roy (173) put on 413 for the first wicket in Chennai, the highest partnership for India in Tests
- India recorded its lowest Test score on home soil as it was bundled out for 46 in the first innings of the opening Test in Bengaluru two years ago
- Nearly five years ago, Kiwi left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel became only the third bowler in Test history to bag all 10 wickets in an innings (10 for 119). He achieved the feat in Mumbai, his city of birth
- Brendon McCullum became the first New Zealand batter to hit a triple century in the longest form, scoring 302 against India in Wellington in 2014
- While Team India has just one win from eight long-format outings in Wellington, it did not taste success in any of its five games in Christchurch (at both Hagley Oval and Lancaster Park)

Gautam Gambhir, India's current head coach, battled for nearly 11 hours in a match-saving innings (137, 436b) in Napier in 2009

Compiled by **S. SHRIVATHSAN & NEHA SURANA**
SOURCE: CRICINFO & ICC

'We will miss Santner as an overall package'

Amol Karhadkar
WELLINGTON

New Zealand will miss more than just Mitchell Santner's left-arm spin when it takes on India, with Rachin Ravindra admitting that the white-ball captain's leadership and presence in the dressing room will be equally difficult to replace.

Santner was ruled out of the series after fracturing his right hand while batting in the fifth ODI against India. Central Districts all-rounder Dean Foxcroft has been drafted into the squad as his replacement. "He (Santner) is such a big part of our team. That's probably where we will miss him the most. He is a leader in the environment and such a great guy to have around. Obviously, his skillset is unique, and he is amazing at what he does," Rachin said.

Rachin is looking forward to making his international comeback at his home ground, the Basin Reserve, after recovering from a dislocated shoulder. The all-rounder last played competitive cricket for Welsh Fire in The Hundred in August. "It's great to be back. It's been a while since I played. Watching the guys play on TV, you get a little bit of FOMO (fear of missing out). You want to be out there".



Key player: Gill believes Pant's experience and ability will stand India in good stead. CREIMAS/BCCI

Gill backs Pant to come good with the willow

Amol Karhadkar
WELLINGTON

India captain Shubman Gill has backed Rishabh Pant to fire in the two-Test series against New Zealand despite the wicketkeeper-batter's lack of match practice, while confirming that the visitor will field four fast-bowling options in the series-opener at the Basin Reserve on Thursday.

Having recovered from a side-strain he suffered during Irani Cup, Pant arrived in New Zealand less than a week before the start of the series. Gill believes the 29-year-old's experience and ability to score runs in challenging overseas conditions make him an automatic choice.

"He is probably one of the most experienced and senior contenders in the team. He has played over around Test matches (52), which is a lot," Gill said on Tuesday.

Pointing to Pant's Test hundreds in England, Australia, and South Africa, Gill said the series presents an opportunity for the left-hander to complete the SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand, Australia) set.

"As a wicketkeeper, he has scored hundreds in Australia, South Africa and England. So he would also be looking forward to that (scoring a ton in New Zealand)."

Meanwhile, Gill admitted that choosing the right combination from six pacers has given the team management a selection headache.

'Good headache'

"Honestly, it is a bit of a headache, but a good kind of headache to have. All the fast bowlers stepped up in the ODI series."

Gill indicated that the ability to extract bounce with the older Kookaburra ball would be a key consideration, particularly at a venue where wind can make a fast bowler's task even more demanding.

Preferred format

He also made no secret of his preference for the longest format, despite India having already clinched the T20I and ODI series. "If someone had asked me a month ago which of these three series I would have liked to win, it would definitely have been the Test series. If we are able to win this as well, it will be a perfect tour".

Fils downs Jodar, keeps semifinal hopes alive

ATP FINALS

Agencies
TURIN

Arthur Fils came from a set down to beat Rafael Jodar 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 at the ATP Finals on Tuesday and keep his semifinal hopes alive.

Fils had lost his John McEnroe group opener against Ben Shelton on Sunday.

Jodar started well but faded midway through the second set, and a medical timeout did not turn things around for him. The Spaniard, who has enjoyed a meteoric debut Tour season, kept stretching the Frenchman with his elegant yet powerful and precise baseline play in a strong first set. Fils, however, kept his composure, cruising through the second and third sets.

On Monday, former champion Daniil Medvedev was made to work hard for one set before beating local hope Flavio Cobolli 7-6(4), 6-3 in the Ivan Lendl group.

Off the court, Alexander Zverev received his ATP year-end No. 1 crown. "It is a great honour to be holding this trophy," said Zverev, who won his first two Grand Slam titles at Roland Garros and the US Open.



Fils... pumped up. AP

Bagga topples Dhiraj, wins maiden crown



Stunning show: Bagga pulled off a surprise. RITU RAJ KONWAR

NATIONAL ARCHERY

Y.B. Sarangi
SHILLONG

An unheralded Dhruv Bagga banked on his gains from a recent exposure trip to Korea to upset Olympian B. Dhiraj and win his maiden recurve men's individual title on the concluding day of the National archery championships at the Parade Ground here on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old Bagga from Delhi stunned World Cup Finals gold medallist Dhiraj 6-5 (shoot-off: 10-9) via tie-breaker in a thrilling roller-coaster final. "I don't look at other players. I focus on my shooting process," said Bagga.

Olympian Ankita Bhakat performed with clarity and rallied to beat her Asian Games team gold winning team-mate Kumkum Mohod 6-4 to bag the recurve women's gold.

In the compound men's final, Priyansh, who topped the qualification round, relied on his impeccable composure to beat the seasoned Rajat Chauhan 148-145 and collect his second individual gold after four years. He also helped Delhi win the mixed team title.

Punjab archers took the compound men's and women's team titles. It was the first gold medal for the Punjab men after seven years.

The results (finals): Individual: Recurve: Men: Dhruv Bagga (Del) bt B. Dhiraj (SSCB) 6-5 (29-27, 29-29, 28-30, 27-29, 29-28) (shoot-off 10-9); **Women:** Ankita Bhakat (Jha) bt Kumkum Mohod (Mah) 6-4 (28-29, 30-27, 26-26, 28-27, 29-29). **Compound: Men:** Priyansh (Del) bt Rajat Chauhan (AIP) 148-145; **Women:** Taniparthi Chikitha (Tel) bt Madhurvarshini Muruganantham (TN) 147-141.

Team: Recurve: Men: Maharashtra (Parth Salunkhe, Sairaj Hamne, Sahil) w.o. Services (B. Dhiraj, Sukhchain Singh, Bhagwat Porte); **Women:** Maharashtra (Kumkum Mohod, Sharvari Shende, Gatha Khadake) bt Haryana (Ridhi Phor, Priyanka Thakran, Shweta Singh) 5-4 (shoot-off: 27-25); **Mixed:** Maharashtra (Kumkum Mohod, Parth Salunkhe) bt Railways (Mrinal Chauhan, Ruma Biswas) 6-2.

Compound: Men: Punjab (Sangampreet Singh Bisla, Uday Kamboj, Gurnoor Singh) bt Madhya Pradesh (Dikshant Karole, Chirag Vidyarthi, Raghav Patidar) 231-225; **Women:** Punjab (Parneet Kaur, Jasveer Kaur, Avneet Kaur) bt Uttar Pradesh (Sandiya, Sakshi Chaudhary, Nishtha Gupta) 230-229; **Mixed:** Delhi (Priyansh, Kumud Saini) bt Uttar Pradesh (Anil Kumar, Nishtha Gupta) 156-155.

Wirtz has fun as Germany runs riot over Netherlands

NATIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

Florian Wirtz scored twice and Brajan Gruda contributed a goal and two assists as Germany cruised to a 5-0 victory over the Netherlands to reach the Nations League quarterfinals here on Monday.

Derry Scherhant and Nico Schlotterbeck also got on the scoresheet as the Germans cut the visitors to shreds in the most impressive match of Jurgen Klopp's six-game stint as the head coach.

It was Germany's biggest win over its neighbour since a 7-0 win in 1959.

The Dutch defeat was the first since its coach Xavi Hernandez took charge.

Despite Greece's 1-0 victory over Serbia on Monday, the Netherlands also qualified for the final eight although the last Germany goal dropped it to second in the group.

Important results: Group A2: Germany 5 (Scherhant 41, Witz 60, 71, Schlotterbeck 65, Gruda 78) bt Netherlands 0; Greece 1 (Masouras 69) bt Serbia 0.
B1: Switzerland 4 (Ferguson 22-og, Ballet 47, Sanches 51, Amdouni 89) bt Scotland 0.



Wirtz... the star. REUTERS

SNAPSHOTS



Reigning supreme: The Blue Tigers also completed a hat-trick. AIFF

India strikes late against Pakistan, wins 10th SAFF title

DHAKA: India beat Pakistan 2-1 in a thrilling final to clinch a record-extending 10th SAFF Championship title on Tuesday.

Pakistan took the lead in first-half stoppage time but India struck twice after the break to turn the match around, capitalising on its opponent being reduced to 10 men after Junaid Shah was red-carded in the 58th minute. Suhail Ahmad Bhat (60th) and Sandip Nandi (88th) were on target as the Blue Tigers completed a third straight triumph.

The result: Final: India 2 (Suhail Ahmad Bhat 60, Sandip Nandi 88) bt Pakistan 1 (Alamgir Ghazi 45+1).

Blue Colts thrash Palestine in under-17 Asian Cup qualifiers

KUALA LUMPUR: India trounced Palestine 4-1 to remain unbeaten in Group E of the AFC under-17 Asian Cup 2027 qualifiers on Tuesday.

The result: India 4 (Kamgouhao Doungel 8, Mukundo Singh Ningthoujam 52, Dallalmoun Gangte 59, Zoramdinthara Lalhunmawia 89) bt Palestine 1 (Yazan Khalifah 32).

Vipanshi shines for Juba Sangha FC

KOLKATA: A brace from 18-year-old forward Vipanshi (37th and 66th minute) helped Juba Sangha FC secure a 2-0 victory over HOPS FC in the Indian Women's League at the Kalyani Stadium on Tuesday.

Bavuma retires hurt on truncated day

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa reached 386 for seven in its first innings at close of a rain-curtailed third day of the first Test against Bangladesh on Tuesday, trailing the touring side by 14 runs.

Play was only possible in the morning session before heavy rain and hail washed out the remainder of the day.

Captain Temba Bavuma retired hurt on 49 with a calf problem but will bat again in the innings.

The scores: Bangladesh 400 in 101.2 overs vs South Africa 386/7 in 90 overs (Ackerman 157, Hamza 83, Bavuma 49 retd. hurt, Rickelton 56 batting, Mahmud 4/72).

Pakistan bowlers rule the roost

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's pace trio of Mohammad Abbas, Razaullah and Aamer Jamal bundled Sri Lanka out for 98 before the home team reached 121 for three on the opening day of the second Test on Tuesday.

The scores: Sri Lanka 98 in 35.3 overs (Kusal 32, Abbas 3/14, Razaullah 3/21, Jamal 3/24) vs. Pakistan 121/3 in 37.2 overs (Awais 47 batting, Arif 46).

Toss: Pakistan.

OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

Corporate India slamming the brakes on workplace breaks?

A new study by Compass Group India notes that 63% of employees believe breaks remain undervalued within their organisation



Today's employees want more personalised and experiential dining environments.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Opportunities Desk

One of the most effective enablers of workplace performance – the workday break – may be increasingly overlooked. Compass Group India's latest Global Eating at Work (GEAW) study shows that 95% of Indian employees report feeling more productive after taking a break, yet 63% believe breaks remain undervalued within their organisation.

The study indicates that while awareness around wellbeing is increasing, opportunities to pause, recharge and disconnect during the workday are becoming less common. Employees taking regular breaks three to five times a week have declined from 46% in 2023 to 38% in 2025, while nearly a quarter of employees admit they rarely take a meaningful break during the day, said a release.

The findings are significant as organisations across India are reassessing productivity, workforce engagement and employee wellbeing. While technology and flexible work models continue to reshape how work gets done, employees increasingly view breaks, nutrition, movement and social connection as critical contributors to performance.

The research found that 76% of employees prefer multiple shorter breaks over a single long break, reflecting the rise of more dynamic, fast-paced working patterns. However, 45% say they only take breaks when circumstances allow, suggesting that workload pressures continue to influence everyday wellbeing behaviours.

Nearly one in four employees continues to eat lunch at their desk, while longer breaks are becoming increasingly rare.

Beyond pay

The study suggests employee expectations are evolving beyond traditional compensation and benefits. More than 90% of employees say they are actively changing what they eat and drink to improve their long-term health, while 90% want healthier food choices available in the workplace. Nutrition, physical activity and quality sleep emerged as the three most important drivers of long-term wellbeing among Indian employees, said the release.

The report also states that India remains one of the world's most sleep-deprived populations, with 39% of employees reporting fewer than six hours of sleep per night.

Food and experience

India significantly outperforms global averages in workplace dining infrastructure. As per the report, 51% of employees have access to on-site dining facilities compared with a global average of 29%. In addition, 93% of Indian employees report sharing meals with colleagues at least a few times each month, which highlights the continued importance of food in building culture and workplace relationships.

Employees are also seeking more personalised and experiential dining environments. Nearly 87% want workplace restaurants to reflect the experience and ambience of modern high-street dining destinations, while growing demand for regional cuisines, healthy snacking and digital ordering solutions is transforming expectations of workplace food services.

In a communication, Rahul Shinde, Managing Director, Compass Group India, said: "Our research shows that people clearly understand the value of taking breaks, eating well and having opportunities to connect during the workday, yet many struggle to prioritise them amid growing workloads. For employers, this is no longer simply a wellbeing conversation. It is increasingly a productivity, engagement and talent-retention imperative. Organisations that design workplaces around human performance, not just operational efficiency, will be better positioned to build resilient and high-performing teams."

GENERAL

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- High-Performance Computing – Admin
- Incubation – Team Lead
- Senior Software Programmer

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Aviation Engineering	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	4
Maritime Engineering	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
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INBRIEF



Advani opens campaign with a victory over Mengorio

Pankaj Advani won his opening Group-L match against Filipino Michael Mengorio at the IBSF World snooker championships in Indore on Tuesday. Advani rifled in a break of 100 in the opening frame and fired a break of 109 in the fifth to close out a 4-1 victory. Compatriot S. Shrikrishna earned a 4-0 win over Abdullah Alyousef of Kuwait. In the women's section, Amee Kamani began with twin wins, outclassing fellow Indian Afeefa Fakhrudeen and Ireland's Ella O' Connor by similar 2-0 margins. Defending champion Anupama Ramachandran also began with a 2-0 win, over Ophelie Laval of France.

Velavan storms into Qatar squash semifinals

India's Velavan Senthilkumar moved into the semifinals of the QSF 3 PSA Copper squash tournament with a straight-game victory over Egypt's Omar Said in Doha on Tuesday. Velavan beat his fifth-seeded opponent 11-9, 11-1, 13-11 in the quarterfinals of the $40,500 prize money tournament for men.

Satwik-Chirag advance in Hong Kong Super 500

The men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty prevailed over Taiwan's Jhe-Huei Lee and Po-Hsuan Yang 15-21, 21-17, 28-26 at the Hong Kong Super 500 badminton tournament on Tuesday.



Manu elected to ISSF Athletes Committee for 2026-30 term

Double Olympic medallist and pistol shooter Manu Bhaker has been elected to the International Shooting Sport Federation's (ISSF) Athletes Committee for the 2026-2030 term. She was among the 10 candidates who contested for two elected positions representing the discipline. Abhinav Bindra had served on the ISSF Athletes Committee from 2010 to 2020, including as its chairperson from 2014 to 2018, becoming the first Indian to hold that position.

Diallo claims support from outside Europe for FIFA job

France's Philippe Diallo said on Tuesday that he had the backing of countries beyond Europe in his bid to depose Gianni Infantino in the upcoming FIFA presidential election. "To beat him you need 106 votes, which is a majority," Diallo, the president of the French Football Federation who already has the "unanimous" backing of UEFA, said. "I have received spontaneous signs of strong support which will be revealed in the coming days".

SYED MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY — WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Elite: Group A: At Mumbai: Bengal vs. Jharkhand, Chandigarh vs. Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh vs. Baroda, Karnataka vs. Mizoram.
Group B: Indore: Delhi vs. Bihar, Punjab vs. Railways, Tamil Nadu vs. Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir vs. Saurashtra.
Group C: Mohali & New Chandigarh: Kerala vs. Andhra, Maharashtra vs. Himachal Pradesh, Assam vs. Pondicherry, Madhya Pradesh vs. Tripura.
Group D: Kolkata: Chhattisgarh vs. Odisha, Hyderabad vs. Vidarbha, Goa vs. Mumbai, Uttarakhand vs. Gujarat.
Plate: Sovima: Sikkim vs. Nagaland, Services vs. Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya vs. Manipur.

LIVE TELECAST

SMAT: JioHotstar, 9, 11 a.m. 12.30, 1.30 & 4.30 p.m.
Australia vs. England: Third ODI, FanCode, 9,a.m.
Pakistan vs. Sri Lanka: Second Test, Day 2, VETO App, 10 a.m.
South Africa vs. Bangladesh: Second Test, Day 4, Eurosport & FanCode, 1.30 p.m.
Tennis: ATP Finals, FanCode, 4 p.m. onwards
New Zealand vs. India: First Test, Day 1, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Thursday)

My aim is to just stay focused, says Vivaan

He feels there is no pressure on him to make the cut for the 2028 LA Games, credits training camps under Olympic champion Cernogoraz for his quota-winning performance at Worlds

SHOOTING

Neha Surana



Target locked: Vivaan's next big objective is to perform well at the National trials and represent India at the sporting spectacle. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Focus, precision and razor-sharp reflexes are the bedrock of shooting. India's Vivaan Kapoor, however, believes the game is as much about one's mindset.

The Jaipur-born shooter calls himself a "glass-half-full guy", and he had every reason to live up to that description after his silver-medal finish in the men's trap event at the recent ISSF World championships.

Vivaan came within touching distance of gold before losing to Kuwait's Abdulrahman Alfaihan in a shoot-off.

The silver, however, was no small feat. He secured a quota place for India at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and became only the fourth Indian man to win a trap medal at the World championships.

While the quota ensures India's representation in the men's trap event at Los Angeles, it does not guarantee Vivaan a place in the team. He will have to come through the National trials to earn the right to represent the country.

"Standing on the podium was a dream, and there is not an iota of disappointment at missing out on gold. When you miss a target, you control your emotions and reset for the next shot.

"Just like that, now, to make the Olympics cut, there's no pressure as such. I will not change my approach but there are some technical aspects that I need to work on. My aim is to just stay focused," Vivaan told *The Hindu*.

Intense training

Having changed coaches just six months before the championships, Vivaan underwent an intense build-up, with three training camps under Olympic champion Giovanni Cernogoraz, two in Croatia and one in Italy.

"Shooting alongside him in camps helped me get used to competing against top shooters. It made me calmer and better at controlling myself. Peter Wilson, our National coach, also helped me a lot with the mental aspect," Vivaan said.

Top Indian paddlers write to adhoc panel suggesting a slew of changes

TABLE TENNIS

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

The omission of Indian paddler Manika Batra from the Indian table tennis team and named as a reserve player for the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, among other things, triggered a major controversy and was followed by the suspension of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) by the Sports Ministry.

Ranked just outside the world top 50 (51st) at the time of selection, the Indian star was dropped, inviting widespread criticism of the TTFI's selection policy. This is the second time in four years that the TTFI has been suspended and an ad-hoc committee appointed to run the sport.

To ensure that such controversies do not recur, some of India's leading players (men & women) have proposed a series of changes to the existing selection framework (a copy of which is with *The Hindu*), placing their recommendations before the erstwhile TTFI and now the ad-hoc committee recently.

They firmly believe the proposed changes will bring greater transparency to the selection process and minimise the scope for potential conflicts.

One of their significant recommendations is to introduce clearly defined world-ranking brackets, with 40 points for players ranked 1-50, 36 for those placed 51-60 and 32 for 61-70, reducing progressively to four points for the players ranked between 131 and 150.

They believe this will reward international performance more precisely and encourage players to improve their rankings.

The proposal, however, retains the TTFI's existing domestic ranking points system, with 50 points for the national No. 1, 45 for No. 2 and progressively reducing to five points for the 10th-ranked player.

It also recommends continuing with the TTFI's best four results from seven domestic tournaments.

The proposed selection framework gives 50% weightage to domestic rankings, 40% to world rankings and the remaining 10% to the Selection Committee.

The biggest thrust, however, is on doubles.

The top players want any pair ranked in the world's top five to be directly considered for selection, depending on the tournament.

For the World and Asian Championships, they have proposed direct selection for top-eight pairs wherever separate doubles entries are permitted.

Goal is to come up with match-winning knocks: Dhull



New role: Dhull has grabbed the chance to bat at No. 3 after going unsold at the 2026 IPL auction. R.V. MOORTHY

CRICKET

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
INDORE

At 24, Yash Dhull sounds like Master Oogway from Kung Fu Panda. Perhaps it has something to do with an unexpected health scare – he underwent surgery to repair a congenital hole in his heart. Perhaps it is also his rollercoaster journey in cricket: from leading India to an u-19 World Cup title to producing impressive First Class performances to struggling to establish himself in the IPL to going unsold at the 2026 auction.

"I have a routine for my matches. I visualise myself in specific situations I might face. I also make sure to spend some time alone, perhaps by going for a walk," he said after his unbeaten 78 off 40 balls (7x4, 5x6) in Delhi's 109-run win over Punjab in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) on Monday.

"This helps me analyse things better. When you are on your own, you start discovering new things. That really helps. I work more on the mental side of things. Staying calm while playing helps me make the right decisions."

The disappointment of going unsold at the IPL auction has given Dhull reason to reflect. Spending time with contemporaries Anuj Rawat and Arpit Rana and talking things through with them helped him move on "rather than feel stuck." He believes he needs to produce more match-winning performances.

A new role at No. 3 has offered him an opportunity to put that resolve into practice. "Well, ups and downs are part of life. It's crucial to learn from them and adapt quickly because cricket has become very fast-paced, and in a format like T20, you need to play match-winning innings.

"Our team's plan was for the top-order to take it as deep as possible, and fortunately, that worked out well. I've also taken on a new role at No. 3, and I'm really enjoying it. My goal is to play match-winning knocks for the team," he said.

Chahar wants to win white-ball trophies with Rajasthan

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI



Mantra: Chahar says it's all about the team. FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Deepak Chahar has won the Ranji Trophy and celebrated success in India colours and the IPL. But the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and Vijay Hazare Trophy remain missing from his Rajasthan journey.

Now leading the State in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, Chahar wants to put that right. "I have never won a white-ball tournament with Rajasthan. We have reached the finals, but haven't won the titles," he told *The Hindu*.

"When you play for so long, once you stop playing, you only remember your winning days, when your team has done well. Individual performances don't count," he said.

For youngsters, his message is crystal clear: "Nobody is looking for average players. Every team is looking for match-winners."

"You don't have to win every match, but you have to show the potential to score 50 runs off 20 balls. Similarly, if you can defend 12 or 13 runs in the last over, then only you will be considered an IPL material," he said.

Chahar believes Rajasthan's batting is stronger this season, while Khaleel Ahmed's return later in the tournament could strengthen the attack. But he does not want the left-armer to rush back.

"He has started bowling and is on the path to recovery," Chahar said. "After a long injury layoff, you might feel good in the nets, but match fitness is different." The 34-year-old wants to play for another few years. "If I play for another three or four years, I want to have the memory of winning the Mushtaq Ali Trophy and the Hazare Trophy," he said.

On Tuesday, Mumbai Indians released the seasoned pacer ahead of the IPL 2027 auction.

As Rajasthan faces Chandigarh at the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday, Chahar's immediate task is to keep the winning run going.

Raichandani dedicates under-19 Asia Cup triumph to late coach

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Lakshya Raichandani calls Test cricket his "first love".

The opening batter, fresh from leading the nation to glory in the u-19 Asia Cup in Oman, isn't just saying it because it appears to be the right thing to say.

His penchant for the classical format shines through in his orthodoxy at the top of the order.

Sample his knock of 80 off 101 balls against Pakistan in the final on Saturday (November 14, 2026), where he prioritised impeccable timing over brute force and caressed the ball along the turf for his boundaries.

Since returning home to Gonda in Uttar Pradesh, Raichandani , a fan of Joe Root and Virat Kohli, has been flooded with congratulatory calls and messages.

"It is yet to sink in. It will take a bit more time. But it is a great feeling," Raichandani told *The Hindu*.

The 18-year-old had endured a personal setback last month when his coach, Abhishek Kumar, passed away at the age of 40. The continental title has provided some solace. "I dedicate this victory to my coach," he said.



Raichandani. ANI

If Raichandani 's maturity belies his age, his steely upbringing has played a role. He was all of 10 when his parents sent him away to neighbouring Uttarakhand for his cricketing education.

"Raichandani moved to Rudrapur for two years and Haldwani thereafter to train under his coach. He has lived in hostels since then. We sent him with a heavy heart. He is our younger son. It was difficult at first, but we gradually adjusted," his father Rajesh Raichandani, a businessman and politician with ties to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), stated.

The hilly terrains of Uttarakhand, the State that Raichandani represents in domestic cricket, helped the batter hone his technique against the moving ball.

"Where we play up north, the ball swings a fair bit. You need a solid technique to deal with that," he said.

In his young career, Raichandani , who has already played seven Ranji Trophy fixtures for Uttarakhand, has shown the propensity to chalk up big scores. In India u-19's four-day games this year, he amassed 207 against Sri Lanka and 240 versus Australia.

What is the secret sauce behind these returns?

"You should know how to switch on and switch off in order to focus for a long time at the crease," he answered.

"I like to switch off by walking towards the square-leg umpire after every ball and then switch on with a trigger word like 'focus' or 'one ball at a time' to get back into the zone".



India brace for toughest ‘Test’ in Hadlee land

Their last Test win here came in 2009, under Dhoni in Hamilton, a result that was enough to also give them their first series win in New Zealand in more than four decades. India haven’t won any of the six subsequent Tests and have lost the last four on the trot; if Gill’s men have to buck that depressing trend, they need to find higher gears

R. Kaushik
WELLINGTON







CREIMAS/ BCCI

Test cricket in New Zealand translates to green, seaming decks. To pitches with not just grass, but a fair amount of bounce. To faster bowlers holding sway, to batters being put through a severe examination of technique and character, of skills and temperament. The names roll off the tongue easily. Lance Cairns and Ewen Chatfield and Martin Snedden, then from later generations Chris Cairns and Simon Doull and Chris Martin and Danny Morrison, Shane Bond and Tim Southee and Trent Boult and Neil Wagner. Matt Henry and Kyle Jamieson. Occasionally, quality spinners such as Daniel Vettori and John Bracewell.

And the big daddy of them all, Sir Richard Hadlee.

Just as Martin Crowe was to New Zealand batting - and remains so, despite the emergence of Stephen Fleming, Ross Taylor and Kane Williamson as worthy successors - New Zealand’s bowling has perennially been about Hadlee and the rest. The master of swing, of course, but also with the rare ability to get the ball to jump and bite off the seam. Grateful for help from the conditions, but not necessarily reliant on it. One of the great all-rounders of his generation, alongside Ian Botham and Imran Khan and Kapil Dev, a legend of Nottinghamshire and New Zealand and world cricket. The champion without parallel.

It’s astonishing how a country where cricket is not even the No. 1 sport - team or individual - and where cricketers aren’t given special treatment (hard to believe for Indians used to hero-worship), and where the talent pool isn’t humongous, keeps throwing up grand performers by the bushel. New Zealand are the ultimate example of a whole being bigger than the sum of its parts, though these parts are anything but inconsiderable.

For a long time, New Zealand were considered the underdogs, a unit that punched above its weight in big tournaments and on the big stage. Perhaps even now, that tag is affixed to them, but it is a tag that, while they might take pride in, must be erased post-haste because the Kiwis have done more than enough to shed the underdog status and be considered genuine contenders for all titles, red-ball and white. They have significant silverware to show - the ICC Knockout Trophy (as the Champions Trophy was then called) in Nairobi in 2000, the inaugural World Test Championship trophy in 2021. Finalists in the 2019 World Cup, when they ceded the crown to England at Lord’s without losing the final in either regulation play or the Super Over.

New Zealand are extremely hard to overcome at home, but it isn’t only in the cosy comforts of their backyard that they flourish.

Two years ago, they produced one of the most remarkable performances in recent times, crushing India 3-0 in India. It was the first time India had been subjected to such humiliation in their territory. The Kiwis, with new captain Tom Latham steering the ship, won in New Zealand-like conditions in Bengaluru when they bowled India out for 46, and in typical Indian conditions in Pune and Mumbai, on spin-friendly tracks where left-arm spinners Mitchell Santner and Ajaz Patel outbowled their Indian counterparts, R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar.

Earlier this year, they also rallied from 0-1 down to best England in England in a three-Test series, riding on the strength of their collective and a never-say-die attitude to sound the death-knell of ‘Bazball’. England parted ways with Brendon McCullum as Test head coach after this defeat (it’s another matter than another former New Zealand captain, Stephen Fleming, is his successor) and are in serious danger of not making the World Test Championship final for the fourth cycle in succession while the Kiwis, determined to add to their collection of silverware, are currently sitting on top of the nine-team pile, with 72.22 percentage points to defending champions South Africa’s 71.43.

From Thursday at Basin Reserve, one of the more iconic cricket grounds in the world, New Zealand will engage in a two-Test battle with the team they overcame in the 2021 WTC final. The Indians have won both trophies that have been there to win on this tour so far; Shreyas Iyer’s lads grabbed the T20I honours 3-2 while Shubman Gill and Shreyas joined hands to deliver a creditable 3-1 triumph in the ODIs that followed, a wonderful accomplishment given that India’s last 50-over bilateral series win on these shores had come in February 2019. Gill led in the first three games before stepping aside to further his Test preparations and Shreyas masterminded his bowling resources astutely in the final game in Mount Maunganui to fashion a 22-run heist in a low-scoring game.

Those results will count for precious little when ‘Play’ is called on Thursday. Test cricket in New Zealand is an entirely different ballgame and only some batters in the Indian group have had any taste of that format in this part of the world. They know that their constant threats from a high-class New Zealand pace attack spearheaded by the dangerous Henry are seam and bounce, and they have been hard at work over the last several weeks to try and unearth convincing answers.



Judicious prep

India’s preparations have been well thought out and judicious. Several of the Test batters were involved in a three-match ‘Test’ series with New Zealand-A in one of the shadow tours from which there is a lot to be gained. Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.L. Rahul’s opening partner, shrugged off an iffy start with centuries in his last two innings, while Devdutt Padikkal, the rangy left-handed No. 3, followed up 199 with 80 in successive matches to set himself up nicely for the challenges ahead.

Pitches in Lincoln and Christchurch perhaps didn’t pose the same demands as those at the Basin and at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch, where the second Test will be played next week, are certain to throw up, but the value of confidence derived from runs under the belt can never be overplayed. To round off the preparations, the Indians had a brief camp involving a majority of the Test specialists from November 12. As far as readiness goes, India are right up there; it now remains to be seen what that translates into.

Having seen Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli for the last time, cricket buffs in New Zealand are perhaps aware that this is also the last time they will witness Jasprit Bumrah plying his wares in Test cricket here in flesh and blood. India’s next Test tour to New Zealand isn’t for another four years and who knows what the future has in store. Bumrah is already being managed carefully and with great diligence. The idea is to keep him ready for marquee red- and white-ball contests, and with qualification to the WTC fine on the line, there can’t be a bigger outing than this right now.

Bumrah is by a distance the best all-format bowler in the universe currently. A series of injuries that have necessitated diligent monitoring have done little to dim his threat quotient, and New Zealand will be wary of the potential for damage he possesses. No man can win Test matches on his own steam and there is more to the Indian fast bowling than just the man with the quirky run-up and the unique action, but there is no denying the fact that India with Bumrah in it are a far more dangerous proposition than without Bumrah marking his run-up, flicking his right sleeve, twitching his shoulders and producing magical screamers.

One isn’t sure whether to term Rishabh Pant the bowling equivalent of Bumrah, but there is no dispute that with the bat, the left-hander is as exciting a prospect as the taller, older fast bowler. Pant has the unparalleled skill even in modern-day cricket of altering the destination of Test matches in a session or so. He has often been pilloried for being excessively maverick, as if there is something like that, but with him, what you see is what you get, and what you see often is hair-raising, heart-pounding stuff.

Pant is coming in cold into this series, so to say. His last competitive game was in the first week of October, in the Irani Cup game for Rest of India against Ranji Trophy champions Jammu & Kashmir. He picked up a side strain in that outing that has proved peskier than originally imagined, and only joined the team a couple of days back after being given the all-clear by the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. Gill made it clear that lack of matchplay will not stand in the way of his former deputy taking his place behind the stumps.

Shrewd operator

For all his perceived madness, Pant has a very shrewd cricket brain and while he might not have covered himself in glory as a captain, especially in the IPL, he is a leader in his own right and India could do with his expertise, along with those of vice-captain Rahul and the seasoned Bumrah, as they seek to inflict on New Zealand what the latter did to them two years back. As mentioned previously, the weight of history might seem to pull India down. Their last Test win here came in early 2009, under Mahendra Singh Dhoni in Hamilton, a result that was enough to also give them their first series win in New Zealand in more than four decades. But India haven’t won any of the six subsequent Tests and have lost the last four on the trot, so if they are to buck that depressing trend, they need to find higher gears - a task not as straightforward as that.

India have an exciting pace pack around Bumrah that has given Gill and Gautam Gambhir, the head coach who played an epic stonewalling knock in Napier in 2009 to earn an honourable draw after India were asked to follow on, no little heart. Apart from Prasidh Krishna and the seasoned Mohammed Siraj who, strangely and inexplicably seems to have fallen out of favour, there is Akash Deep to go with Anshul Kamboj and the fiery Gurnoor Brar, the Player-of-the-Series during the ODIs for his nine wickets. Nitish Kumar offers the feeling of balance, buttressed by the fact that he has a Test century from No. 8, against Australia in the Boxing Day Test of 2024.

India have the resources to best New Zealand. How they maximise those resources, and how much they are allowed to do so by Latham’s band, despite missing white-ball captain Mitchell Santner (broken right hand, courtesy Arshdeep Singh), remains to be seen.

THE GIST

- New Zealand are extremely hard to overcome at home, but it isn’t only in the cosy comforts of their backyard that they flourish
- India’s preparations have been well thought out and judicious. Several of the Test batters were involved in a three-match ‘Test’ series with New Zealand-A in one of the shadow tours from which there is a lot to be gained
- Gill & Co. have the resources to best New Zealand. How they maximise those resources, and how much they are allowed to do so by Latham’s band, remains to be seen

Voyager 1, one light-day away from earth today, is a marvel of science

Measurements lying in the shadows of their successors can find new lives in the light of new theories. The Voyager 1 mission's longevity made that more apparent, allowing successive generations of researchers to find more uses for its data even as it continues to collect new information

Vasudevan Mukunth

Today, the Voyager 1 spacecraft will be one light-day away from the earth. This means a signal travelling at the speed of light will take one full day to go from the earth to Voyager 1, and signals from the spacecraft will similarly take one day to reach receivers on the earth.

This is a tremendous distance – almost 26 billion kilometres. Since February 17, 1998, Voyager 1 has been the farthest any space mission has been from us. And it keeps going at 61,000 km/hr. But even at such breathtaking speed, Voyager 1 is still barely out of the solar system. Each star's gravitational and magnetic fields extend out for billions of kilometres around them, bending the destinies of multiple worlds to their stellar will.

It is no surprise then that Voyager 1 has itself been defined by superlatives for providing a sense of the influence of our own sun: the first, the farthest, and indeed the oldest space mission still going.



An artist's rendering of Voyager 1 barrelling through space. AP

Pleasant surprise

When NASA launched Voyager 1, the Soviet Union was still a country, the Berlin Wall divided Germany, apartheid was law in South Africa, and neither the World Wide Web nor smartphones existed. Voyager 1 itself has changed during its mission: its operators switched off its cameras in 1990, replaced its ageing components with backups, and, by 2026, left only two of its ten science instruments online. Yet the superlatives have often obscured the important scientific contributions these instruments have themselves made.

For example, scientists were in for a pleasant surprise when they found that one of the instruments onboard Voyager 1 was actually tracking galactic cosmic rays even though it was not designed to. The ultraviolet spectrometer's purpose was to study ultraviolet light, released by grains of dust scattering sunlight in space and by the atmospheres of distant planets. The detector also registered noise from other sources, including from Voyager's nuclear power source, and scientists routinely subtracted it from the data to reveal the ultraviolet signals.

But in 2014, researchers reported in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics* that the background noise was actually created by cosmic rays – high-energy particles coming from beyond the solar system. They reanalysed this data collected between 1992 and 2013 and compared them to other instruments elsewhere that were tracking cosmic rays, and concluded the ultraviolet spectrometer onboard Voyager 1 was indeed sensitive to cosmic rays within a small energy range.

Little surprises

The team also sought independent evidence in this data to check whether Voyager 1 had reached or crossed the heliopause, the boundary of the region dominated by the solar wind, in 2012, although the implications went further.

For example, the spectrometer's unexpected readings raised questions about the part of space immediately inside the heliopause, where the solar wind seemed to flow more slowly. After more study, scientists proposed that the wind braked due to interactions between the subatomic particles it contained and the electrically neutral atoms from interstellar space. The proposal remains unconfirmed but nonetheless offered a new way to investigate the possibility that the heliopause may look different in different directions.

Voyager 1 has sprung many little surprises of similar nature that have often skipped the public eye. For another example, when Voyager 1 came close to Saturn, its instruments collected data scientists subsequently used to test one of Albert Einstein's predictions: that the frequency of electromagnetic radiation, such as light, changes when it passes through a gravitational field.

In a study published in *Physical Review Letters* in March 1990, researchers confirmed the prediction with 1% accuracy – a rare instance of an interplanetary mission contributing to fundamental physics. To be fair, the Voyager 1 result also depended on an assumption that radiation around Saturn did not interfere with the spacecraft's frequency reference.

Second, the NASA Gravity Probe A experiment had already confirmed Einstein's prediction in 1976, that too within a better accuracy of 0.02%. The finding based on Voyager 1 was nonetheless interesting because it was independent: based on wholly different instruments and from within a distinct planetary environment. Physicists seek such differences because there are alternative theories of gravity that, on paper, predict varying effects in varying conditions, and differences in the observed data could challenge theories that do not predict them.

Stepping stones

In the same visit to Saturn, scientists also used the radio signals Voyager 1 could emit to study the planet's rings. Specifically, as the spacecraft moved behind the rings, its signals bound for the earth travelled through the rings first. And by studying how the signals were scattered and weakened, scientists could piece together the distribution of materials in the rings.

Thus they discovered fine structures such as narrow gaps between the rings and wave-like undulations in their density, and determined that the particles making up the rings were at best 10-20 metres wide in certain regions.

Operators repeated the same technique with Saturn's moon Titan, which is the only moon in the solar system with a substantial atmosphere, and the only other planetary body to have liquids on its surface. When the Voyager 1 radio transmissions travelled through Titan's atmosphere, scientists were able to measure its temperature and pressure.

Both sets of findings were stepping stones for the landmark NASA Cassini mission, which studied the Saturnian system up close from 2004 to 2017. The data also informed plans for the mission's Huygens probe, which descended through Titan's atmosphere in 2005.

Measurements lying in the shadows of their successors can find new lives in the light of new theories. The Voyager 1 mission's longevity made that more apparent, allowing successive generations of researchers to find more uses for its data even as it continues to collect new information.

As it pulls farther away from the earth, its signals will grow dimmer and its instruments will eventually fall silent, but the scientific life of its observations will keep going.

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THE GIST

Voyager 1's one unexpected discovery came when its ultraviolet spectrometer, designed to study UV light, was found to be unintentionally detecting galactic cosmic rays; scientists later realised the instrument was providing useful data on cosmic rays

When the spacecraft came close to Saturn, its instruments collected data scientists subsequently used to test one of Albert Einstein's predictions; this result was notable for providing independent confirmation, albeit to a weaker degree than ideal, of a concept in fundamental physics

Voyager 1's radio signals revealed detailed structures in Saturn's rings and helped measure the temperature and pressure of Titan's atmosphere; these findings laid the groundwork for the later Cassini-Huygens mission

BIG SHOT



A large rainbow-like ring formed around the sun, commonly referred to as a sun halo or 22-degree solar halo, is seen in the sky over Johannesburg, South Africa, on November 16; the optical phenomenon is caused by sunlight refracting through high-altitude ice crystals. AP

WHAT IS IT?

LineShine stays defending champ

Vasudevan Mukunth

China's LineShine supercomputer has retained its top spot in the list of the world's most powerful supercomputers, the latest edition of which was released at the SC26 conference in Chicago on Monday. LineShine first summited this list in June this year, where it displaced the U.S. El Capitan.

The updated list is also remarkable because its top 10 machines are unchanged from June. The overall 500 admitted only 27 newcomers in this time — the lowest in history — although the reason is obvious: the amount of computing power required to enter the list increased by 7.3% in the same period. The highest-ranked newcomer was HANGANG in South Korea, at number 12.

The Shenzhen Cloud Computing Centre built and installed LineShine at the National Supercomputing Centre in the same city. It is the first Chinese supercomputer to lead the Top500 since Sunway TaihuLight did in 2017.

During one standardised test, engineers found LineShine could perform up to 2.198 quintillion calculations per second, becoming the first Top500 machine to cross the 2 quintillion mark. During the same test it consumed around 42 MW of power. Researchers built LineShine for atmospheric and ocean research.

It uses China-made processors and an operating system called Kylin. Its topping the Top500 is thus a vote of confidence for China against the backdrop of the U.S. restricting its access to advanced computing chips.



World's fastest: China's LineShine supercomputer has retained the top spot in the latest Top500 rankings XINHUA

After LineShine and El Capitan, the top five include Frontier and Aurora, also in the U.S., and JUPITER Booster in Germany. The highest ranked Indian machine on the list is Shakti Cloud at #35.

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