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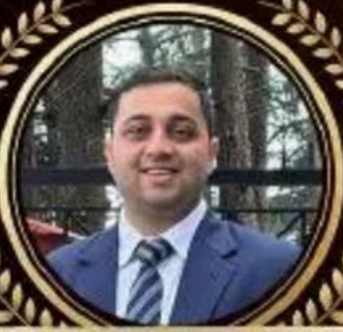
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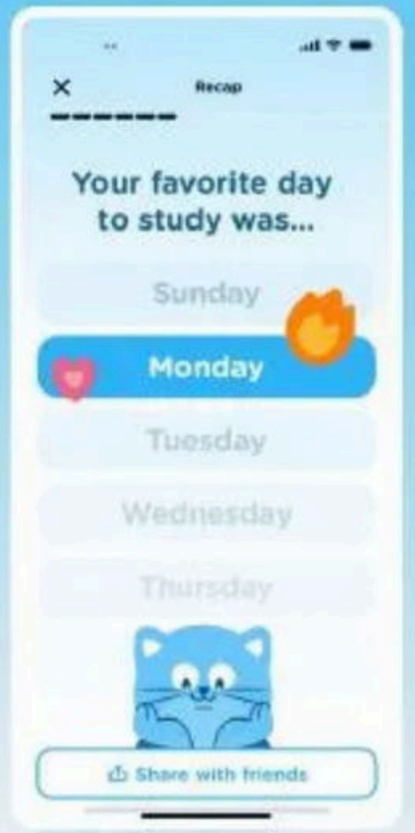
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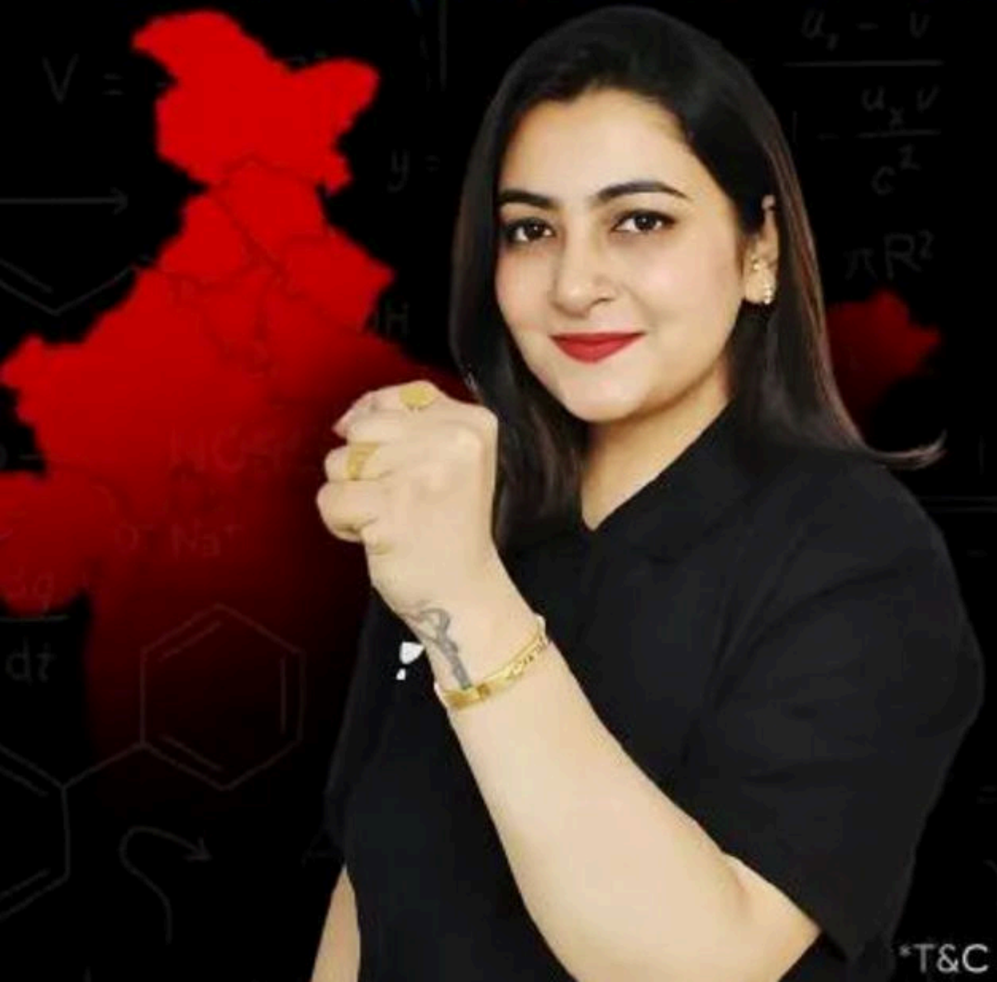


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IN BRIEF



Troubled waters: Heavy rain has led to the rise in water level in several water bodies in Andhra Pradesh. Picture shows local residents engaged in fishing near Ongole on Wednesday. KONKUR SRINIVAS

Cloud-seeding trials not held due to low moisture content

DELHI
A day after two cloud-seeding trials failed to induce artificial rain in the city, the Delhi government on Wednesday cancelled two trials scheduled for the day citing insufficient moisture content in the clouds.
» Page 2

India-China hold fresh talks on border peace

NEW DELHI
The Indian and Chinese militaries held a fresh round of talks aimed at maintaining peace and security along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.
» Page 10

Rahul assures justice for family of Satara doctor

MUMBAI
LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday spoke to the family of a doctor from Maharashtra's Satara district, who allegedly died by suicide after sexual assault and harassment, and assured them of full support. » Page 4

Cyclone Montha leaves 2 dead, flattens crops in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Severe cyclonic storm Montha left a trail of destruction in Andhra Pradesh, leaving two persons dead and inundating agricultural crops across 87,000 hectares. It also damaged roads, bridges and culverts, and uprooted trees, officials said after a preliminary assessment.

The severe cyclonic storm crossed the Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts between 11.30 p.m. on Tuesday and 12.30 a.m. on Wednesday, close to Narsapuram in Andhra Pradesh, the India Meteorological Department said. Wind speeds touched 90 kmph near the Machilipatnam coast as the storm crossed the coast. It gradually weakened into a cyclonic storm by 2.30 a.m. and then into a deep depression by 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday, it added.

At 5.30 p.m., the deep depression over north Andhra Pradesh, south Odisha, south Chhattisgarh and northeast Telangana weakened into a depression over south Chhattisgarh. It is likely to move northwards and weaken into a well-marked low-pressure area during the next 12 hours, the bulletin at 8.30 p.m. said.

According to the preliminary assessment, crops were damaged on 87,000 hectares across 304 mandals and 1,825 villages. Over 59,000 hectares of paddy, cotton, maize, and black gram fields were submerged, resulting in severe losses to 78,796 farmers.

Several roads, 14 bridges, and multiple culverts were damaged. About 2,294 km of roads were affected, with losses estimated at ₹1,424 crore. The Rural Water Supply department sustained losses of ₹36 crore, while irrigation works worth ₹16.45 crore were affected.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

U.S. is doing a trade deal with India, says Trump

At APEC CEO summit in South Korea, U.S. President says he has a great relationship with Modi; he reiterates claim that he used trade to resolve the conflict between India and Pakistan in May

Press Trust of India
TOKYO/SEOUL

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday said Washington is "doing a trade deal with India", and emphasised that he has "a great relationship" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as both sides continue negotiations on a proposed pact.

"If you look at India and Pakistan... so, I'm doing a trade deal with India and I have great respect and love, as you know, for Prime Minister Modi. We have a great relationship," Mr. Trump said at the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) CEO Summit in Gyeongju, South Korea.

"Prime Minister Modi is the nicest looking guy... he's tough as hell," Mr. Trump added. He landed in South Korea on Wednesday morning from Japan as part of a three-nation tour of Asia.

Mr. Trump, who did not elaborate on trade talks, reiterated his claim that he used trade to resolve the war between India and Pakistan in May.

"I called Prime Minister Modi. I said, we can't make a trade deal with you... (He said) No, no, we must make a trade... I said, No, we can't. You are starting a war with Pakistan. We're not going to do it," Mr. Trump said.



If you look at India and Pakistan... I'm doing a trade deal with India and I have great respect and love, as you know, for Prime Minister Modi. We have a great relationship
DONALD TRUMP
U.S. President

Praises Pak. Army chief

He also praised Pakistan's Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, calling him "a great fighter" and "a great guy." "Then I called Pakistan. I said, we're not going to do trade with you because you're fighting with India and you know, two nuclear nations. And they said, no, no, no, you should let us fight. They both said that," he added.

Mr. Trump claimed that the leaders of both India and Pakistan called him after two days and stopped fighting. "After literally two days, they called up, they said, we understand, and they stopped fighting. How is that? Isn't that amazing? Now, you think [Joe] Biden would have done that?" Mr. Trump said.

The previous day, in Tokyo, Mr. Trump said he brought the war to an end in 24 hours.

'Under strain'

The U.S. President's comment came at a time when the relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe strain after Mr. Trump imposed 50% tariffs on India, including an additional 25% levies for its procurement of Russian crude oil.

RELATED REPORT ON » PAGE 12

FTA talks with EU crossed halfway mark: Piyush Goyal

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The negotiations between India and the European Union on a free trade agreement have crossed the halfway mark, with 10 out of 20 chapters of the agreement having been finalised, and several other chapters nearing completion, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday.

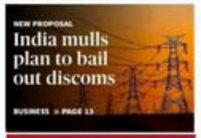
"We have made significant progress in the three-day discussion between European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Sefcovic and his team and our team on several areas," Mr. Goyal said at a press briefing.

"We have agreed to close 10 out of 20 chapters. Another four to five chapters have in principle been broadly decided."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10



ROW IN KERALA
Rollout of PM SHRI scheme put on hold
STATES » PAGE 3



NEW PROPOSAL
India mulls plan to bail out discoms
BUSINESS » PAGE 13

INDIA-NORWAY TIES
Green maritime partners
Both face common challenges and have a shared responsibility
OPINION » PAGE 7



WOLHARDT'S DAY OUT
South Africa in final, India meets Australia

Israel says ceasefire is back after strikes kill 104 in Gaza

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA STRIP

Israel's military said on Wednesday that the ceasefire was back on in Gaza after it carried out heavy airstrikes overnight across the Palestinian territory that killed 104 people, including 46 children, according to local officials.

The strikes, the deadliest since the ceasefire began on October 10, marked the most serious challenge to the truce to date. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had ordered the strikes after accusing Hamas of violating the ceasefire for handing over body parts this week that Israel said were partial remains of a hostage recovered earlier in the war. That was compounded by the shooting and killing of an Israeli soldier during an exchange of gunfire in Rafah.

Hamas denied any involvement in the shooting.



Unending grief: Mourners react at the funeral of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, in Khan Younis on Wednesday. REUTERS

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Wangchuk arrest: Angmo to launch a keener challenge against Centre

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed Gitanjali J. Angmo to launch a keener challenge against the Centre for detaining her husband and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk under the National Security Act.

In her application seeking amendment of her earlier petition, Ms. Angmo alleged the Union Home Ministry had nursed "strong reservations" about Mr. Wangchuk's inclusion in the High-Powered Committee delegation of the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance formed to hold talks with the government on the issues of Statehood and Sixth Schedule safeguards for Ladakh.



Gitanjali J. Angmo

She denied that Mr. Wangchuk used the platform of protest to target the government, noting that "such allegations surfaced for the first time only in the last two months, August and September 2025, which immediately resulted in notices and actions against his institutions, including cancellation of land leases, CBI investigation, FCRA cancellation, Income Tax summons, and other proceedings".

'Malicious intent'

Ms. Angmo accused the detaining authority of "malicious intent", pointing out that State action began suddenly before the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh, elections, scheduled for October 2025.

The court scheduled the case to hear the Centre's response on November 24.

500 Indians in Thai custody to be repatriated

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India will repatriate 500 of its citizens who recently crossed into Thailand, fleeing from a Myanmar military operation against a cyberscam hub there, Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said, according to a *Bangkok Post* report on Wednesday.

The Myanmar military has carried out operations against the KK Park cyber crime hub in the Myawadi area in Karen State, which is known to have targeted many victims across the world. Following the operation, Indians working in cyber scam centres in Myawadi crossed the border to Mae Sot in Thailand.

Following the Thai PM's remarks, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a statement that Indian authorities in New Delhi are "aware of Indian nationals who have been detained by Thai authorities", adding that the Indian Embassy in Bangkok is working with the Thai government to repatriate them.

"They had crossed into Thailand from Myanmar over the past few days. Our Mission in Thailand is working closely with Thai authorities to verify their nationality and to repatriate them after necessary legal formalities are completed in that country," Mr. Jaiswal said.



Our Mission in Thailand is working closely with Thai authorities to verify their nationality and to repatriate them, after necessary legal formalities are completed in that country
RANDHIR JAISWAL
MEA spokesperson

Hub of cybercrime

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had raised concerns about Indians stuck in scam centres in the region during his speech at the East Asia Summit on October 27. "We share the concern about scam centres in the region which has also entrapped our nationals," he had said.

CONTINUED ON

JNUSU polls: 7 candidates vie for top post

Ashna Butani
NEW DELHI

The final list of candidates for the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union poll was released by the university's Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday. It also introduced the seven persons contesting for the presidential post.

DETAILS ON

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Notice for Online Application & Choice Filling

Registration and Submission of Online Application are invited from unreserved qualified NEET(PG)-2025 candidates on the basis of the Merit List of NEET (PG)- 2025 for appearing in the Post Graduate Medical Admission Counselling (PGMAC)-2025 in order to select the eligible candidates for admission to the FIRST YEAR of the following Post Graduate Degree/ Diploma / DNB (Degree & Diploma) Courses in Govt./ Private Medical Colleges of Bihar State:

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1. **Date of online Registration & submission of Application cum- Choice Filling / Editing of Application Form data (Round-1 & Round-2) will start from 31.10.2025 and close on 06.11.2025 (10.00 pm).**
2. Eligibility criteria for counselling, Fee payment procedure, instructions, Choice filling and other details are available in the prospectus of PGMAC-2025 and may be visited Advertisement No.- BCECEB (PGMAC)-20/25/01 dated 29.10.2025 respectively, which can be downloaded from the Board's website beceboard.bihar.gov.in.

Controller of Examinations

Delhi metro to add 40 more train trips on weekdays

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Wednesday announced the addition of 40 more train trips on weekdays.

The move is aimed at "encouraging commuters to use the metro rather than their private vehicles", a senior DMRC official said, adding that this would help mitigate the city's "deteriorating air quality".

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Cloud-seeding trials cancelled citing low moisture content; BJP, AAP spar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after two cloud-seeding trials failed to induce artificial rain in the city, the Delhi government on Wednesday cancelled two trials scheduled for the day citing insufficient moisture content in the clouds.

The move led to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) questioning the project's feasibility given the Capital's current "unfavourable" climatic conditions. The government, however, claimed it was "successful" in conducting the trials.

Manindra Agrawal, Director, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, which is collaborating with the Delhi government to conduct the trials, said though Tuesday's trials failed to induce rain, they were helpful in collecting data for the project.

Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa claimed Tuesday's trials were "successful and historic". "We have reached a stage where we could conduct a trial. We will learn what moisture content is needed to induce rain. It is still in trial mode. Once IIT Kanpur has information on the right moisture content, we will be able to use it to induce artificial rain in Delhi when needed," he said.

The Minister said the government will conduct more trials in the coming days. He said the previous AAP government was unable to even conduct trials while the BJP government achieved a "milestone" by conducting them.



Hazy view: A thick layer of smog envelopes Akshardham temple in east Delhi on Wednesday. ILLUSTRATION: KUNAL KUMAR

'Conditions unfeasible'

However, AAP Delhi chief Saurabh Bharadwaj said the government is "ignoring" a report from the Central government that found cloud seeding to be "unfeasible" in the Capital.

"When the BJP-led Central government itself said artificial rain isn't feasible, who is the Delhi government trying to fool? The chemicals used [in the trials] can make Delhiites sick," he alleged.

Ministry's statement

Replying to a query in the Rajya Sabha in December 2024, the Union Environment Ministry had stated that cloud seeding in the national capital would be difficult during winter, citing expert opinions.

"Effective cloud seeding requires specific cloud conditions, which are generally absent during Delhi's cold and dry winter months... additionally, concerns about the uncertainties, efficacy, and potential adverse effects of cloud-seeding chemicals remain," the Ministry said, quoting an expert.

When AAP was in power in Delhi, it also sought permission to conduct cloud-seeding trials and petitioned the Centre multiple times, but failed to secure the necessary clearances.

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Delhi HC turns down plea on appointment of NCM chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a plea seeking the appointment of members of minority groups other than the Muslim and Sikh communities as chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM). The court observed that the rules do not mandate the appointment of a chairperson from any specific community.



Kerala CM puts PM SHRI scheme on hold, sets up 7-member review panel

Education Minister Sivankutty will chair the committee; move comes after ruling front ally CPI raises concerns over mandatory inclusion in the scheme to receive Central funds for education

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday announced a seven-member Cabinet subcommittee to study the CPI's concerns on the PM SHRI scheme.

The administration signing the MoU was publicly denounced by the key ruling front ally as the "reactionary" National Education Policy-linked PM SHRI scheme, which the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Central government set as an obligatory condition for releasing statutory federal grants estimated at ₹1,446 crore for school education.

Mr. Vijayan said the government had frozen further procedures concerning the scheme until the subcommittee submitted its report to the government.


CPI State secretary Binoy Viswam along with senior leaders at the party headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram. KIRAN KANNOTH

He told a press conference that General Education Minister V. Sivankutty would chair the committee that will include Revenue Minister K. Rajan (CPI), Agriculture Minister P. Prasad (CPI), Law Minister P. Rajeeve (CPI[M]), Electricity Minister K. Krishnankutty (Janata Dal [Secular]), Water Resources Minister Roshy Augustine (Kerala Congress [M]), and Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran (Nationalist Congress Party).

Mr. Vijayan hinted that the government would defer any call on PM SHRI till after the local body elections. "We will all be busy in the coming months," he stated.

'LDF's credibility'

Asked whether the CPI(M) capitulated to the CPI by forsaking sizeable federal grants for school education, Mr. Vijayan said the people were aware of the LDF's credibility and no amount of tarnishing would rob the ruling front of its sheen.

CPI State secretary Binoy Viswam refused to portray the Cabinet decision as his party's victory.

"The CPI does not view the situation through the narrow prism of victory or non-victory. The CPI(M) and CPI played a historic role in yet again authoring the victory of Left politics and ideology," he said.

JNUSU polls: 7 candidates in fray for president's post

Ashna Butani
NEW DELHI

The Election Committee of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Wednesday released the final list of candidates contesting the posts of president, vice-president, general secretary, and joint secretary in the upcoming JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) polls scheduled for November 4.

While seven candidates are in the fray for the president's post, three will fight it out for the vice-president's post, and five each are vying for the posts of general secretary and joint secretary.

This year, the All India Students' Association, the Students' Federation of India, and the Democratic Students' Federation have formed an alliance - Left Unity - to "prevent the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) from entering the union".

Addressing a press conference, the Left Unity candidates outlined the issues they want to work on and unveiled poll promises.

Aditi Mishra, the alliance's presidential candidate, said she would focus on "infrastructure development and commodification of education". Attacking the ABVP, she said, "We can see that violence is what gets you higher posts in ABVP. I want to intensify the work done by the previous union."


Presidential contenders: (Clockwise from top left) Left Unity candidate Aditi Mishra, ABVP's Vikas Patel, NSUI's Vikash, and BAPSA's Raj Ratan Rajariya. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ABVP's presidential candidate, Vikas Patel, said the Left-led JNUSU "makes the same promises in their manifesto every year and fails to fulfil them".

The ABVP said that the Left organisations have failed to "maintain academic quality, infrastructure development, and democratic discourse".

Vikash, presidential candidate of the Congress-backed National Students' Union of India, said, "There's a right-left binary that we want to change."

"Cartelling of protests" occurred while the Left was at the helm, he said.

Birsa Ambedkar Phule Students' Association's Raj Ratan Rajoriya is among other candidates vying for the top post.

2 more held in 'fake' acid attack case

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Wednesday arrested two more persons in connection with the "fake acid attack" case involving a 20-year-old Delhi University student.

The student's father is under arrest for allegedly staging the attack to frame three men with whom he had personal disputes. The police said while executing the "attack", he "poured a chemical" on his daughter.

The police arrested the student's uncle, and her younger brother, who has been sent to an observational home as his juvenile status is unconfirmed.

"We have interrogated the student and her father. They confessed to the involvement of her uncle and her younger brother," said an officer.

'Probe under way'

The two have been booked under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. A probe into the alleged misuse of acid attack allegations is under way, the officer added.

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Academic session is expected to commence from : mid - April 2026
For queries : vlfm@iimmumbai.ac.in
Details available at www.iimmumbai.ac.in

APPOINTMENT
AIC Crescent
AIC-CIIC invites applications from qualified candidates for the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to lead Innovation and Incubation Initiatives
Interested candidates may submit their CVs to ad@aic-ciic.ventures.
Last Date for Submission: November 14, 2025 (6:00 PM)
For more details, visit: www.aic-ciic.ventures
Place : Vandalur - 600048
Date : 28.10.2025
Executive Director
AIC - CIIC

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Aspire Silicon City
Ph-IV, Sec-76, Noida, UP
» Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
» Near Spectrum Mall, Noida and nearest metro-station is Noida Sec-50 (Aqua line) & Sec.-76 metro and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway station-25 min.
ASPIRE SILICON CITY
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» Near D-mart and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway station-35 min.
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» Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
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Last date of submission of EMD-11.11.2025. EMD Rs. 9.70 Cr. to Rs. 21.38 Cr.
8 packages Ranging from Rs. 485 Cr. to Rs. 1,069 Cr.
E-auction will be held on 12.11.2025
Please scan the QR for e-auction document
For more details, please visit our website: www.nbccindia.in | www.receiveramrapali.in
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IN BRIEF



Ex-cricketer Azharuddin to be Minister in Telangana Cabinet

In a surprise development, former cricketer and Congress leader Mohammad Azharuddin will be inducted into the Telangana Cabinet as a Minister on Friday. Curiously enough, the decision comes in the midst of hectic campaign for the byelection to Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency. The constituency, which goes to the polls on on November 11, has a huge concentration of Muslim voters. In August, Mr. Azharuddin was nominated to the Legislative Council as a member under the Governor's quota after the Supreme Court struck down the earlier nominations of Kodandaram and Amer Ali Khan.

Assam Cong. leaders to face treason case, says Himanta

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said he has instructed the police to file a case of treason against Congress leaders of Sribhumi district for singing the national anthem of Bangladesh at a party meeting. Addressing a press conference here after a Cabinet meeting, Mr. Sarma also alleged that singing the anthem is the Opposition party's endorsement of the claim by a section of leaders in Bangladesh that the entire Northeast region is part of the undefined nation. The Assam Congress claimed that the BJP is creating an "unnecessary controversy" as it has no other issue to divert people's attention. ▭

Trinamool and non-BJP Oppn. parties keep the SIR pot boiling in Bengal

Intensifying the row over death of a person over 'NRC fears', ruling party announces protest; Left leaders protest outside CEO office in Kolkata; Cong. says process creating panic among people

Shiv Sahay Singh
Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The row over the death of a 57-year-old person who died by suicide allegedly due to fears of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) intensified on Wednesday with Trinamool Congress (TMC) general secretary Abhishek Banerjee visiting the residence of deceased person.

While Mr. Banerjee tried to allay fears about NRC and ongoing special intensive revision (SIR), he blamed the BJP and announced protests in Panihati, a neighbourhood in North 24 Parganas where the death was reported. "Those who are responsible for his death, Trinamool will send them to jail, no matter how much we have to fight," he said.

Mr. Banerjee targeted Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and asked whether the names of their parents and grandparents were in voter lists. "If you see them [BJP leaders] come here, tie them up and tell them they will be let go once they produce their fathers' and grandfathers' certificates."

On Wednesday, Left Front parties including the CPI(M), Revolutionary Socialist Party, Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist), and Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation protested outside the office of the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer in Kolkata.



TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee visiting the residence of the man on Wednesday who allegedly ended his life over NRC fears. PTI

"The [SIR] process needs to be transparent. There can be no party politics in this. So that common citizens do not have to bear the whole load, the Block Level Officers (BLOs) must also take responsibility," CPI(M) leader Biman Basu said after the protests.

Separately, Congress State president Subhankar Sarkar said the SIR is creating panic among the people of Bengal. "When people are constantly worried about their livelihood, it is the responsibility of the government authorities to take care of the lives of the common man... Instead, now they are being asked questions about their citizenship. We are scared about the future of Bengal," he said. Mr. Sarkar also asked why the SIR is being conducted within such a short period of time unlike in 2002 when the whole process took two years to complete. "Why spread fear in people before the 2026 elections?" he said.

'Name in voter list'

Meanwhile, the BJP leadership in West Bengal said the name of deceased man in Panihati is in the 2002 voter list, which is considered the basis of the ongoing SIR. BJP State president Samik Bhattacharya said his name is at number 16 in the Pabihari Assembly election voter list of 2002 and the responsibility for death lies entirely with Trinamool and the Chief Minister.

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

Tamil Nadu CM urges all political parties to attend meet on SIR

The Hindu Bureau
TENKASI

Shunning political differences, all parties should express solidarity by attending the proposed all-party meeting on November 2 against the Election Commission's (EC) special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has said.

Addressing a meeting in Tenkasi on Wednesday, he said his government, which had faced three natural disasters since 2021, had successfully neutralised the consequences of these tragedies without Central aid, besides implementing people-friendly welfare schemes.

Even though the Union government had refused to release the ₹37,000 crore requested by Tamil Nadu to mitigate the consequences of the disasters, the DMK government, using its own resources, was doing everything possible to achieve robust growth in all spheres.

The BJP was all set to impose another disaster on Tamil Nadu in the form of the SIR, after experimenting with it in Bihar, he said. "Hence, I have invited the leaders of all political parties to join hands with us in opposing this move aimed at disrupting democracy, by attending the all-party meeting to be held on November 2. Even though the Opposition parties have differences of opinion with the government, I appeal to them to stand with us to thwart this impending man-made calamity in the form of the SIR," Mr. Stalin said.



CM M.K. Stalin

Paddy procurement

Referring to the allegations made by AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami regarding paddy procurement, the Chief Minister said his government, which had released water from the Mettur Dam well before the usual date of June 12, had opened direct procurement centres across the State on September 1.

Congress warns SIR exercise could exclude lakhs of tribal voters in Madhya Pradesh

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

The Congress in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday criticised the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls announced recently by the Election Commission of India (EC), claiming that the exercise could leave lakhs of people, especially tribals, out of the voter list.

Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Umang Singhar alleged that the SIR is a "conspiracy" by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to "remove" about 50 lakh voters across Madhya Pradesh ahead of the next elections.

Addressing a press conference in Bhopal, Mr. Singhar said that the State has more than 21% tribal population and a large number of them live in remote areas where access to digital platforms and documents is limited.



Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar addressing a press conference in Bhopal on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Lakhs of tribal voters could be removed from the list without any fault on their part. The EC has listed 12 documents for SIR, including the Forest Rights Certificate. However, the State Government has rejected over three lakh forest rights claims as of March 2025. Thus, tribal voters could be deprived [of their voting right] due to the lack of certificates. The Election Commission has prepared to cut 12 to 15 lakh votes of tribals," Mr. Singhar claimed, while raising suspicion that similar lack of documents could also impact other marginalised communities like the Dalits, minorities, and smaller OBC groups.

Meanwhile, leaders of various Left-wing parties also questioned the proposed exercise, alleging that it was "part of a conspiracy to further the Sangh Parivar's agenda".

"Omar did not betray the poor by opposing land rights Bill: Mehbooba

Press Trust of India
SRINAGAR

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday accused Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of betraying the poor by opposing the land rights Bill brought by her party MLA Waheed Para in the Assembly.

The former Chief Minister asserted that the Bill was aimed at protecting poor families who had built small houses on grazing land decades ago, and not to legalise recent encroachments.

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Tuesday rejected Mr. Para's Bill on recognising proprietary rights for houses illegally built on government and community lands, with Mr. Abdullah calling it a conspiracy to "open the floodgates for land grab".



PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti

PDP, but all the poor people from whom he wants to snatch shelter from over their heads," Ms. Mufti told reporters when asked if the Chief Minister had "betrayed" her party after getting support for the Rajya Sabha elections.

Ms. Mufti said her party voted for the ruling National Conference in exchange for support for the Bill. "We tried at our own level. We have three votes and we told them to take our votes but save the shelters of the poor, but what can I do if he does not want to?" she said.

Parties slam EC decision to go ahead with SIR in Kerala ignoring Assembly concerns

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Election Commission of India's (EC) decision to include Kerala in the current phase of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, ignoring reservations expressed by the State Assembly, drew flak from major political parties, including the CPI (M) and the Congress, on Wednesday.

National and State-level political parties, except the BJP, slammed the EC for 'overlooking' the fact that the State was on the threshold of local body elections.

CPI(M) stance

At Wednesday's meeting, political parties urged Chief Electoral Officer (Rekha) Rathan Kelkar to once again take up the demand with the EC.



CPI(M) leader M.V. Jayarajan

Senior CPI(M) leader M.V. Jayarajan termed the decision to hold the SIR alongside the local body elections 'impractical.'

"The Assembly had unanimously passed a resolution expressing its concern over the SIR. It should at least have been put off until after the local body polls," Mr. Jayarajan said.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president Sunny Joseph, MLA, described the EC decision as a "declaration of war" against the people. "A case is pending in the Supreme Court. The verdict is not yet out," Mr. Joseph said.

Indian Union Muslim League, Kerala Congress, Kerala Congress (M) and the Revolutionary Socialist Party also slammed the decision.

BJP backs decision

The BJP supported the EC decision, but said safeguards should be in place to ensure that the local body polls are not disrupted. BJP general secretary S. Suresh said that a "purified" electoral list should be in place before the 2026 Assembly elections in the State.

CPI State secretary Binoy Viswam urged the EC to withdraw from the move, describing it as "ill-timed."

Campaigning heats up for Nuapada bypoll in Odisha as BJP, Cong., BJD vie for victory

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

As the constituency has a heterogeneous population, political parties cannot afford a one-size-fits-all strategy to win the trust of voters

The Nuapada bypoll in Odisha, scheduled for November 11, is set to witness a triangular fight with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Congress, and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) hitting the campaign trail.

The Assembly constituency has a heterogeneous population, with a sizeable section sharing social and familial ties with neighbouring Chhattisgarh. It is home to diverse tribal communities, while members of the general castes form a smaller segment, comprising both locals and settlers from other districts. Given the complex demographics, political parties cannot afford a one-size-fits-all strategy to win the trust of voters.

The BJP has fielded Jay Dholakia as its candidate from the seat that fell vacant following the death of his father and former BJD Minister Rajendra Dholakia, who had represented Nuapada four times – thrice on a BJD ticket and once as an Independent.

The ruling party has divided Nuapada into small-er zones - each supervised by different Ministers - and assigned State party chief Manmohan Samal the task of leading the campaign.

Mr. Jay, who joined the party on October 11, has been focusing on a dozen gram panchayats nurtured by his late father, while the remaining areas are being managed by the BJP and its Sangh Parivar affiliates.

"The BJP enjoys a bigger advantage as it is in power in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and at the Centre. The party can swiftly mobilise resources for public meetings and reach out to smaller communities. As the dominant political force, it has drawn strong leaders into its fold, which is typical of a party in power," said Ajit Panda, a Khariar-based political analyst.

Meanwhile, the Congress has sought to get its caste arithmetic right by fielding Ghasiram Majhi, a tribal leader who polled 50,000 votes as an Independent in the 2024 election. State party chief Bhakta Charan Das has been actively campaigning in Nuapada, reaching out to various communities and building support for its candidate, Mr. Panda said.

"Initially, the BJD's prospects were written off when Sneharanjini Chhuria, former MLA from a neighbouring district, was chosen as its candidate. But her efforts to rebuild ties with women self-help group leaders and interactions with voters at small village meetings appear to be changing the ground equations," the analyst said.

The leaders of all three parties have expressed confidence about their prospects, but local leaders admit that any lapse in focus could prove costly.

The results will be announced on November 14.

Rahul assures justice for Satara doctor as family expresses fears of evidence erasure

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday spoke to the family of a 28-year-old woman doctor from Maharashtra's Satara district, who allegedly died by suicide after sexual assault and harassment. He assured them of full support in their fight for justice.

The conversation, which lasted nearly seven minutes, was facilitated by Maharashtra Congress president Harshwardhan Sapkal, who visited the family in Kavadgaon village, Beed district. Indian Youth Congress president Uday Bhanu also joined the interaction, expressing solidarity with the bereaved relatives.

"What happened to the doctor raises serious questions about women's safety in society. We stand firmly with her family and justice will be ensured at any cost," Mr. Gandhi was heard telling the grieving parents during the phone call.



Indian Youth Congress members protesting in New Delhi against the Maharashtra government over a doctor's suicide. PTI PHOTO

The doctor's mother made an emotional appeal, urging Mr. Gandhi to ensure "justice for the grave injustice" done to her daughter. The family demanded a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe, fearing that crucial evidence could be erased. "It has been a week since her death, still justice has not been delivered. There are three to four persons who were pressuring our daughter to forge post-mortem certificates, but none of them have been questioned yet," the mother said.

'Govt. inhuman'

Earlier, Mr. Gandhi had termed the incident an "institutionalised murder", accusing the BJP-led Maharashtra government of being "inhuman and insensitive".

The 28-year-old was found dead in a hotel room in Phaltan town on October 23. A note written on her palm alleged repeated sexual assault by police Sub-Inspector Gopal Badane and mental harassment by software engineer Prashant Bankar. Both were arrested on October 25.

(Those in distress can dial Tele MANAS helpline at 14416)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD (ROADS), CACHAR CIRCLE, SILCHAR
No.:-T/CC/E/TN/56,/2025-26/629(T)

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(e-Procurement)

The Superintending Engineer, PWD (Roads) Cachar Circle, Silchar on behalf of Governor of Assam, invites bids for 1 (One) No. of packages for Construction of Road/Bridge **under SOPD-G for the year 2025-26** within Cachar District of Assam (under Lakhipur LAC) amounting to approximately Rs.54.66 Lakh (Rupees Fifty Four Lakh Eighty Six Thousand) only including GST etc., within the jurisdiction of PWR,I/D, Lacnipur Civil Sub-Division Territorial Road Division, Lacnipur from approved and eligible contractors registered with Public Works Department (Roads), Assam.

Details may be seen at website www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 01/11/2025, 10:00 hours onwards. Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in

Schemes are not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the scheme, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.

Note:- (1) N.I.T. Value is inclusive of GST (12%), Labour cess (1%) etc.,
(2) Bidders must have to submit site verification report duly countersigned by the Executive Engineer, PWRD Lacnipur Civil Sub-Division Territorial Road Division, Lakhipur with the bid.

Superintending Engineer PWD, (Roads)
Cachar Circle, Silchar

DIPR /C/ HINDI 546/ 30-Oct-25

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email:- www_ntc@yahoo.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK

No:-Tender Online WRC -24/2025, Letter No.:- 3859 Date :- 24.10.2025

e - Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Road & Bridge Works.
2. Class of Contractor :
   a) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.50 Crore & upto Rs.30.00 Crore : Special Class of Odisha PWD & relevant class of other Executing authorities.
   b) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crore & upto Rs.20.00 Crore : A Class of Odisha PWD & relevant class of other Executing authorities.
   c) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 Lakh & upto Rs.1.00 Crore : B Class of Odisha PWD & relevant class of other Executing authorities.
3. Time for Completion : As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure
4. Deposit Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on site for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of receiving tender (Bid submission)	Date & Time of opening of tender	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.	Tender Online WRC - 24/25	30.10.2025 at 11.30 A.M.	14.11.2025 up to 03.00 P.M	14.11.2025 up to 02.30 P.M	20.11.2025 at 11.30 A.M	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tenderswrdodisha.gov.in .

Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.

OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE (INFORMATION),ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

e-Tender

" Designing and Printing of Training materials for Farmers under National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)."

e-Tender No 3025 Dt.28/10/2025 : The Joint Director of Agriculture (Information), Bhubaneswar invites e-tender from the eligible bidders for Designing and Printing of Training materials for Farmers under National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)." The detail tender document can be downloaded from the website of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Department of Odisha https://tenderwizardisha.gov.in or www.agri.odisha.gov.in from 29.10.2025.
The bids can be submitted through online mode in the https://tenderwizardisha.gov.in before 19.11.2025, 5.00 PM. Submission of bid through other mode and late bid will be outrightly rejected.
The Joint Director of Agriculture (Information), Bhubaneswar reserves the right to reject any/ all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

sd/- Joint Director of Agriculture (Information), Bhubaneswar

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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA **TENDER NOTICE**

SR. No.	NAME OF WORK/ NOTICE INVITING AUTH.	AMOUNT OF EARNEST MONEY (RS.)	TIME OF COMPLETION	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/ COMPANY	NAME, OFFICIAL DESIGNATION & ADDRESS OF THE OFFICER INVITING TENDER
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	Closing Date 11.11.2025	365	www.haryanajalnigam.in	Executive Engineer, Public Health Division, Jind

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanajalnigam.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

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Devbhoomi Uttarakhand

A Destination of Peace, Adventure and Faith



"There are two main pillars for the creation of a developed India in the 21st century – pride in our heritage and making every possible effort for development. Today, Uttarakhand is strengthening both these pillars. This decade will be the decade of Uttarakhand."

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

"Under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Uttarakhand is progressing steadily on the path of development. The state government is taking necessary steps to encourage tourists to visit not only for tourism but also to experience the holy shrines. This will allow tourists to enjoy the spiritual and tourist experiences, especially during the winter season."

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Home Stays Boost Rural Tourism

Away from the hustle and bustle of city life, tourists are appreciating Uttarakhand's home stays, enjoying warm hospitality in small villages nestled in the beautiful valleys of the mountains. Home stays are now giving rural tourism in Uttarakhand a new identity.

To develop livelihood opportunities in villages affected by migration, the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Griha Aasraj (Home Stay) Scheme has emerged as a success story. The aim of the scheme is to attract domestic and international tourists to rural areas of Uttarakhand, familiarize them with the state's rich culture and cuisine, and simultaneously strengthen the rural economy. Under this scheme, over 5,703 home stays have been registered across the state. Additionally, under the Trekking

5,703+ Home Stays Registered in Uttarakhand Under the Scheme

Traction Centre Home Stay Grant Scheme, grants are being provided for the construction of home stays in villages located within a 2 km radius of identified Trekking traction centers. So far, 101 villages across 6 districts have been notified, and over



500 individuals have been identified under this initiative. Furthermore, under the Vinchandra Singh Garhwali Tourism Self-Employment Scheme, grants are provided for vehicles and the construction of tourism units, benefiting over 7,500 people to date.

Uttarakhand tourism is a divine blend of natural beauty and spiritual significance. The famous destinations nestled in the lap of the Himalayas attract visitors, while trekking, river rafting, and wildlife sanctuaries serve as major attractions for adventure enthusiasts.



Devbhoomi Uttarakhand: A Marvelous Confluence of Natural Beauty & Adventure

Whether it is eco-tourism, wildlife tourism, or the thrill of unexplored snow-capped peaks, skiing, mountain biking, paragliding, and trekking trails, Uttarakhand offers everything that might otherwise require traveling to multiple countries. The state is now recognized for green tourism, mindful travel, wildlife excursions, and nature-based tourism. Owing to improved tourism policies and high potential, the state has witnessed significant investments in the tourism sector over recent years. Moreover, several major investors are exploring further opportunities in the industry. With its adventurous offerings, Uttarakhand is emerging as a prominent destination for adventure tourism.

- Uttarakhand's villages – Jakhol, Subi, Harsil, and Gunji—have been awarded by the Government of India as the Best Tourism Villages.
- Under the Vibrant Village Program, 51 border villages have been selected for planned development.
- Efficient management led to a record number of devotees visiting the Char Dham Yatra.
- For the first time in the state, the winter pilgrimage season was inaugurated.
- Under the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission, work is underway to connect 66 temples and other religious sites into a structured circuit.
- Approval has been granted for the master plan of Mahasu Temple in Hanol.

Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2023 Ensures Financial Inclusion, Environmental Sustainability, & Investor Friendliness

The objective of the Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2023 is to establish the state as a leading sustainable and investor-friendly tourism destination



Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2023 presents a comprehensive and transformative approach to establishing the state as a globally recognized tourism hub. The policy will remain effective until 31 March 2030 and is designed to accelerate tourism-led development while ensuring economic inclusion, environmental sustainability, and investor-friendliness.

Institutional Framework and Policy Priorities

The policy focuses on enabling Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and attracting investments across diverse sectors such as hospitality, wellness, adventure, heritage, and rural tourism.

For policy implementation, the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) has been designated as the nodal agency. A State-Level Empowered Committee (SLEC) has been constituted for projects exceeding INR 50 crore. For MSME projects up to INR 50 crore, District-Level Empowered Committees (DLEC) have been set up. Additionally, District Level Tourism Committees (DLTC) have been established for the physical inspection and verification of projects.

Eligible Projects and Investment Incentives

Under this policy, various types of tourism units are considered eligible, including hotels, resorts, heritage buildings, homestays, eco-lodges, yoga and wellness centers, amusement parks, and adventure tourism facilities.

Manaskhand Mandir Mala Yojana A Lifeline for Ancient Temples

Under the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission, the state government is carrying out infrastructure-related development work around 66 ancient temples in the Kumaon region. In the first phase, 16 temples have been selected. These include Jageshwar Temple, Golu Devta Temple, Kalamsi Sun Temple, Kasar Devi, Nanda Devi, Patal Bhuvaneshwari Cave, Hat Kalika, Purnagiri, Naina Devi, Baleshwar, Kasardevi Dham, Virahi Devi, Baijnath, Bagnath, and Chaiti Bala Sundari Temple.



In addition, the selected temples include Jhankar Sam, Nakhna Devi, Vindhyavasini, Mallika Devi, and Syahi Devi in Almora; Mostmanu, Berinag, Malsynath, Thalkedar, and Katgari temples in Pithoragarh; Atariya Temple, Nanakmatta, Maheshwar Mahadev, and Vanshanti Mahadev in Udham Singh Nagar; Meetha Reetha Sahib, Guru Gorakhnath Temple, Maneshwar Temple, Baleshwar, and Devidhar in Champawat; Kot Bhramari, Shikhar Bhairav in Bageshwar district; and Golu Devta, Girija Devi Temple, Hanuman Temple, Someswar Mahadev, Devguru Brihaspatidham, and Hanuman Garhi Temple in Nainital district.

unacademy

Uneven growth

Increasing incomes and creating jobs are a must to boost demand

The industrial production data for September is especially useful as it provides insights into longer periods such as the second quarter and the first half of the financial year. The news is not all bad, but there are areas that warrant attention. When looked at on a half-yearly basis, the IIP data for April-September 2025 show that industrial growth was the slowest in at least five years. At just 3%, the half-yearly growth is well below what it should be. However, quarterly growth shows that things are improving — Q2 growth was a more robust 4.8%, compared to 2% in Q1. The bright spot in all of this, at least on the surface, has been the manufacturing sector. In September, it grew by 4.8%, the second highest in this financial year. On a quarterly basis, the July-September 2025 quarter saw the manufacturing sector grow by a relatively strong 4.9%, the fastest quarterly growth it has seen since the quarter-ended December 2022. On a half-yearly basis, too, the sector's growth bounced back to 4.1% in the April-September 2025 half, after having slowed to 3.6% in the first half of the previous year. Activity in the mining sector contracted in September 2025, the second quarter, as well as in the first half of the financial year. While some of this can be attributed to the monsoon this year, this performance is still unusually poor. Strengthening the sector should be a priority to shore up India's energy and strategic mineral security.

The manufacturing sector's apparent strong performance, too, is not something that should be taken at face value. The data show that the growth is not broad-based, and is instead concentrated in some sectors. Of the 23 main manufacturing sub-sectors measured in the IIP, more than half contracted in the July-September 2025 quarter. Of concern is that labour-intensive sectors such as apparels, leather products, rubber products and plastics, all contracted in the September 2025 quarter. The sectors that grew included wood products, mineral products, basic metals and fabricated metal products, many of which are more capital intensive. If this trend persists, it could have negative implications for job creation, and warrants attention. The other troubling aspect of the data is that the consumer non-durables sector has contracted for the last six consecutive quarters. While some of these are essential items such as salt and edible oils, others are items of discretionary spending. Much of this is because of the base effect, but slack demand has been a problem that policymakers have been grappling with for some time. The only real solution lies in increasing incomes and creating jobs.

Federalism and funds

State autonomy cannot be bargaining point for availing central financing

Kerala sprang a surprise last week by signing up for the scheme, Prime Minister Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI), that dovetails the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, to upgrade and brand 14,500 schools nationwide as model institutions. Kerala, one of the three States to oppose the NEP 2020 (the others being Tamil Nadu and West Bengal), on the contention that it sought to encroach on the subject of school education, which is in the Concurrent List, and infuse it with communal bias and anti-scientific content, was evidently looking to gain central funds. Earlier this year, Tamil Nadu had approached the Supreme Court of India after the Centre withheld funds under the Samagra Shiksha (SS) scheme over the State's refusal to adopt the NEP-PM SHRI framework. Kerala's agreement on adopting the scheme is now in freeze after strife within the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) soon after the government signed the PM SHRI Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre, without Cabinet approval — an issue deferred twice in Cabinet meetings. The CPI, a key LDF partner, demanded an immediate withdrawal. The CPI(M), which holds the general education portfolio, initially defended the decision, arguing that enrolment in PM SHRI was necessary to avail of federal funds withheld under the SS, which had led to salary arrears for teachers and non-teaching staff. The CPI(M) clarified that Kerala remained opposed to the NEP 2020 and would retain control over its school curriculum. The allies reached a détente on Wednesday — a cabinet sub-committee will scrutinise the MoU. Implementation of PM SHRI will remain suspended until the subcommittee's recommendation. The Centre will be formally informed of this decision.

Kerala has long excelled in school education, achieving near-universal gross enrolment ratio, high retention rates, superior learning outcomes, and modern infrastructure — milestones that render many NEP-2020 targets redundant in the State. For Kerala, PM SHRI amounts to little more than cosmetic rebranding of already high-performing institutions, but the State would be forced to comply with provisions of the NEP-2020 for integration of 'Indian Knowledge Systems', which many reckon is a euphemism for pseudoscience. It is regrettable that the Centre withholds federal funds under the SS to arm-twist States into accepting NEP-2020 or PM SHRI. While Tamil Nadu has pursued legal redress, its case has not received the judicial urgency it warrants. In India's federal polity, the judiciary must robustly defend cooperative federalism wherever it is undermined. As Kerala passes PM SHRI, it must consider litigation to secure its rightful share of central funds. Federalism and State autonomy

An amended Constitution Bill, its contentious issues



R.K. Vij
is a former IPS officer



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is a lawyer

The central government recently introduced the Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill in Parliament to amend Article 75, Article 164 and Article 239AA of the Constitution which pertain to the Union Council of Ministers, State Council of Ministers and the special administrative provisions for Delhi, respectively. The Bill has been referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

The Bill provides that in case a Minister is arrested and detained in custody for 30 consecutive days, for an alleged offence punishable with imprisonment which may extend up to five years or more, he shall be removed from office by the President, on the advice of the Prime Minister, which is to be tendered by the 31st day of such custody. Or, he shall cease to be a Minister in case such advice is not tendered by then. A similar provision is provided for Ministers in State Assemblies, who shall be removed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. In the case of the Prime Minister and Chief Minister of a State, they are required either to tender their resignation by the 31st day or else shall (automatically) cease to be the Prime Minister or Chief Minister of a State.

What was contentious for the Opposition

The two contentious issues that forced the Opposition to come together against the Bill were 'arrest' by the police and authorising 'detention' by a court. Since, wide discretion lies with both, there needs to be scrutiny of the Bill to ensure that it is not misused.

The first parameter to remove a Minister is arrest, which is discretionary and in the hands of the enforcement agencies. While the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) provides for the enforcement of some conditions before there is an arrest for offences that are punishable for up to seven years of imprisonment, it is not mandatory for a police officer to arrest any person accused of commission of a cognisable offence that is punishable with imprisonment even for more than seven years.

The Madras High Court, in *Deenan vs Jayalalithaa* (1989), refused to interfere in the police investigation when the petitioner pleaded before the High Court to use its inherent powers to direct the Commissioner of Police to arrest the respondent, Jayalalithaa.

The High Court said that the words 'may arrest' under Section 41 showed that the power of arrest is discretionary and that a police officer is not always bound to make an arrest for cognisable offences. Though he has the power to arrest, he can refrain from arresting persons, depending upon the nature of the offence and the circumstances unfurled not only in the complaint but also during the course of investigation. The authorised power of arrest of an offender by a private person is restricted to cases of commission of non-bailable and cognisable offences in his presence and to the case of the proclaimed offender, not otherwise.

In *Joginder Kumar vs State of U.P.* (1994), the Supreme Court of India observed that no arrest can be made only because a police officer is authorised to do so. The police officer must be able to justify the arrest. Arrest and detention in a police lock-up of a person can cause incalculable harm to the reputation and self-esteem of a person, the Court said.

In another case, *Amarawati And Anr. (Smt.) vs State Of U.P.* (2004), the Bench of the Allahabad High Court, after carefully examining the definition of 'cognisable offence', provisions of Section 41 and Section 157 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), held that the Legislature has consciously used the words 'may arrest' and it was not mandatory for the police to make an arrest in a cognisable offence. Section 157 of the CrPC empowers the police to investigate a cognisable offence and arrest the accused, if required.

In 2009, in an amendment of Section 41 of the CrPC, some distinction was made for arrest in offences punishable with imprisonment extendable up to seven years and offences punishable with over seven years of imprisonment. However, Section 41A of the CrPC, which provides for issuing notice of appearance (when arrest of a person is not required), does not make a differentiation between offences based on their term of imprisonment. The Supreme Court, in *Satender Kumar Antil vs CBI and Anr.* (2022), held that the investigating agencies are bound to comply with the provisions of Section 41 and Section 41A CrPC. Section 35 of the BNSS is *pari materia* to Sections 41 and 41A of the CrPC, read together.

There could be misuse

While the continuation of Ministers in the cabinet under cognisable offences does not augur well for constitutional morality, the misuse of this discretionary power of arrest by the police to target leaders of the Opposition parties cannot be ruled out. High Courts have repeatedly taken objection for not following the directions issued in *Arnesh Kumar vs State of Bihar and Another* (2014) which mandated that the investigating officer record reasons and material which necessitated the arrest. The National Police Commission (1977) in its third report observed that nearly 60% of the arrests were unnecessary or unjustified. Given such a scenario, where the police are alleged to be amenable to political pressure, 'arrest' may be used as a political tool to initiate the unseating of Ministers in Opposition parties.

The second parameter is continuous detention in custody for "thirty consecutive days", which signifies the importance of bail. If a Minister is able to obtain bail within this period, disqualification under Article 75(5A) would not operate. Though the Supreme Court has repeatedly reaffirmed the principle that 'bail is the rule, jail is the exception', bail is often rejected for factors other than the triple test — i.e., flight risk, possibility of tampering with evidence, and threatening of witnesses. For instance, the gravity or seriousness of an offence is considered to be an important fourth factor, despite its conflict with the presumption of innocence of the accused. So, while bail may be granted in early stages in economic offences, it is extremely difficult in heinous offences unless the accused has undergone considerable incarceration.

There needs to be greater scrutiny of the Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill and its focus on 'arrest'

The main issues

The new Amendment does not account for default bail under Section 167(2) CrPC (*pari materia* Section 187, BNSS). Default bail is the right of an accused person when the investigation is not completed within 60 days to 90 days (depending on the gravity of the offence) of his custody. Since the cumulative period of police and judicial remand itself exceeds 30 days, the embargo under Article 75(5A) does not seem to be rational. It is true that remand is not mandatory jail time and needs to be extended by the court at intervals, but courts readily grant this extension within the outer limits of 60 days to 90 days.

Further, the phrase 'an offence under any law for the time being in force' includes complaints filed under special statutes such as PMLA (money laundering), NDPS (narcotics), and UAPA (unlawful activity). This is even more dangerous since all special statutes have the infamous twin conditions of bail that are not present in the CrPC/BNSS. First, the accused must prove that he is not guilty of the offence, and second, that he would not commit an offence while on bail. As opposed to trial, these conditions must be satisfied at the stage of bail itself. They are often termed onerous and reverse the burden of proof from the prosecution to the accused. The Manish Sisodia case, where he was accused in the liquor policy scam, is a case in point — bail was granted 17 months after his incarceration under the PMLA. This being the norm for special statutes, the threshold of "thirty consecutive days" under the new Amendment Bill would be an abysmally low benchmark to cross. Removal from office would be extremely damaging.

Another factor which may hinder bail to a Minister is their ability to influence witnesses due to their position of power, which is considered significant to an investigation and trial. A Minister may be faced with a Hobson's choice — either continue or get bail. Staying on as a Minister would jeopardise bail and therefore mean removal under the amended provisions, while resigning would prevent him from carrying out ministerial duties even if bail was granted.

A last factor that makes bail uncertain and vulnerable is whether the judge concerned has a *pro or ante* liberty stance under Article 21. Leaving aside the objective facts of a case, this brings about enormous subjectivity and discretion in granting bail.

A decade after Paris accord, an unstoppable transition



Benoît Faivre
is France's Special Envoy for Climate Negotiations and a former Senior Energy and Environment Adviser to the French President

Ten years after the adoption of the Paris Agreement at COP21, the planet faces unprecedented challenges. Despite a shared global pledge to limit global warming well below 2°C and keep the 1.5°C target within reach, emissions and temperatures continue to rise at alarming rates. The devastating consequences of climate change are already visible across the globe, including in India, as seen this year in Uttarakhand, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Yet, the Paris Agreement is delivering. Ten years ago, before the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the world was heading towards global warming of around 4°C-5°C by the end of the century. Through sustained commitment and concrete and collective action, this curve was altered to approximately 2°C-3°C. This remains far above what science deems sustainable, as underscored by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). But it demonstrates that collective action can have an impact on our collective trajectories and that multilateralism can work.

The Paris Agreement delivers because it is fair, just and promotes international solidarity with the countries most affected by the adverse impacts of climate change. It respects national circumstances and provides for differentiated levels of commitment.

A turning point

Throughout the decade, the Paris Agreement has been a powerful instrument that engaged the world's economy on the path to a low carbon transition. Ten years ago, the most competitive way to produce energy was fossil fuel use. It is no longer the case. Today, everywhere in the world, renewable energies such as wind, solar, hydroelectricity are driving growth and jobs. This marks tremendous progress for energy security and sovereignty.

Ten years ago, electric mobility seemed an elusive dream. Today, thanks to remarkable advances in battery technology and energy storage, electric vehicles represent nearly 20% of global new car sales, heralding the drastic reduction of fossil fuels in transport, bringing also multiple co-benefits such as clean air to our cities. The scale of this transformation is monumental.

The Paris Agreement is an example of climate progress and how multilateralism can work

The impressive example of the solar alliance

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a striking example of the commitment by India and France to strong international multilateralism for climate progress.

Conceived at COP21 in Paris and jointly launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then French President François Hollande, the ISA stands as a compelling embodiment of India and France's shared commitment to climate multilateralism. At the COP30 in Belém, France and India shared a joint vision: we needed this kind of alliance to transform the hope of the Paris Agreement into action.

Since its inception, the ISA has grown into a global coalition of more than 120 member and signatory countries, delivering concrete results through capacity building, training programmes and financial mechanisms supporting underfunded energy transitions. It was inspiring to witness first-hand the remarkable achievements of the ISA at its Eighth Assembly that this writer co-chaired on October 28, 2025, with India's Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi. The ISA's mission remains vital: to make solar energy accessible to all.

India has a strong commitment to renewable energies, more than half of which will come from solar. India aims to become the largest major economy to develop using a low-carbon pathway, fulfilling the vision of "Viksit Bharat" by 2047 and achieving net-zero carbon emission by 2070. This year, India has demonstrated leadership by achieving 50% of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources, five years ahead of the 2030 target.

These efforts must be sustained and expanded across all regions At COP30 in Belém, five priorities must guide the international community.

First, there must be agreement on a way to collectively raise global ambition to accelerate the reduction of carbon emissions. The world's collective efforts are still not sufficient and there is a need to accelerate efforts, for the world's people and its future.

Second, there must be a championing of a just and inclusive transition, placing vulnerable communities at its core. France devotes one-third of its climate finance to adaptation, contributing to the Green Climate Fund, the Loss and Damage Fund, and early warning systems such as CREWS. As co-chair of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure alongside India, France also advocates innovative, predictable climate finance such as global solidarity levies ahead of COP30.

Third, there must be a protection of natural carbon sinks — the world's forests, mangroves and oceans. From the Amazon to the Sundarbans, these ecosystems are the world's best allies in the fight against climate change.

Fourth, there must be an empowerment of non-state actors — local governments, businesses, scientists, philanthropies and citizens — to translate ambition into implementation. The broad engagement that defined COP21 must now deliver tangible results and have a real-world impact that benefits everyone.

Fifth, science must be defended by supporting the IPCC and fighting climate disinformation. Together with Brazil and other countries, France is working to ensure that facts and science, not fear, guide the global transition.

In perspective

The transformation initiated in Paris cannot be reversed. It may face obstacles, but it is unstoppable. Unstoppable because adaptation has become a necessity, not a choice. Unstoppable because industries are investing irreversibly. Unstoppable because local authorities are embedding sustainability into standards and investment. Unstoppable because multilateralism, despite challenges, will continue to deliver if the world continues to believe in it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Courts and a law college

The Madras High Court is set to inaugurate criminal courts and the offices attached thereto are in the very same premises where the Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College was situated earlier. The Law College has been shifted to far-flung places causing inconvenience and hardship to students, particularly girl students. There are immense inconveniences to the students in attending classes in the college near the High Court. That has been the practice in Mumbai too.

In this context, what is more relevant is that the Tamil Nadu government has not bothered to respect the verdict of the First Division Bench of the then Chief Justice Sanjay Gangapurwala and Justice Bharatha Chakravarthy — that the Government Law College should be situated within the city and that the Government should provide a suitable place for it. The powers that be have not made any efforts to ensure that the Law College is moved back to the city where it was run for over 100 years in the heritage premises. The Bench had also observed that the Government can learn from the proceedings of the court.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must contain the full postal address and telephone number of the writer.

Norway and India: Green maritime partners



Marianne Sivertsen Naess
Norway's Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Policy

In Mumbai for India Maritime Week 2025, I witnessed the buzz of a global industry that has confidently set sail towards a secure, sustainable, and equitable future. Norway has built up a comprehensive maritime cluster of ship designers, equipment manufacturers, shipyards, shipping companies, financial and insurance institutions, and shipbrokers. Representing the country at an event of this scale that covers every link of the maritime value chain is a privilege rife with possibilities.

Charting a common course

For both Norway and India, oceans and coastlines are natural assets. Oceans connect our economies and our people and are at the heart of our bilateral partnership. India plays a vital role in global shipping. It is not only a hub for trade, shipbuilding and ship recycling, but also offers technological and digital capacity.

The entry into force of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) on October 1 provides a major boost to the India-Norway partnership. Stronger maritime collaboration is a natural and strategic complement to these shared ambitions. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre looks forward to welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Oslo for the 3rd India-Nordic Summit where we will continue the dialogue on ocean cooperation, among other priorities.

In 2019, both countries came together to establish a formal ocean dialogue and an India-Norway Task Force on Blue Economy to focus on sustainable ocean management, mitigation of marine pollution, and green shipping. At Norway's flagship maritime event Nor-Shipping held in Oslo this summer, India made a splash with its first-ever India Pavilion, led by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal. India's participation left a lasting impression with conversations around sustainable growth, green shipping corridors, shipbuilding, digital maritime solutions and leveraging India's workforce and investment opportunities.

Maritime partners Norway and India have much to contribute to each other, a fact well illustrated by the number of Norwegian companies present in Mumbai for the India Maritime Week. During the event, officials from Norway's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries and the Indian Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways met for the 10th Joint Working Group Maritime, discussing green shipping, maritime training and security as well as ship recycling.

As the global shipbuilding market reaches capacity, India's rapidly growing position as a builder of the global fleet presents exciting opportunities for partnership. Already, about 10% of ships ordered by members of the Norwegian Shipowners' Association are built in India. Norwegian shipowners have longstanding relationships with Indian yards such as Cochin Shipyard, which recently secured 14 vessel orders from Norway's Wilson ASA. This is a testament to the trust and quality that Indian yards deliver. India has also been an excellent partner in the development of environmentally sound and safe ship recycling.

Aiming for a sea change

Norway sees India as a key partner on the journey to a sustainable blue economy. Guided by the principle that environmental responsibility and economic growth must go hand in hand, Norway ambitiously aims to reduce emissions from domestic shipping and fisheries by 50% by 2030 compared to 2008 levels.

Our approach to green shipping combines targeted domestic action with strong international engagement. We support stricter international regulations to cut climate gas emissions from shipping, helping build a global market for low- and zero-emission solutions. We strongly supported the adoption of the International Maritime Organization's Net-Zero Framework, even though consensus has not yet been reached. Over the next year, it is extremely important for member states to unite to ensure this framework becomes a reality.

The green transition in Norway is the result of collaboration between the government, industry, and research institutions. Our maritime sector is exploring new fuels such as ammonia and hydrogen, and Norway has been among the first countries to launch autonomous and fully electric vessels, including the Yara Birkeland, the world's first zero-emission, autonomous container ship, and ASKO ferries.

Norway is committed to advancing women's participation in the maritime industry. I was pleased to be part of the constructive dialogue on gender equality and inclusion at the Maritime She€O Conference, an initiative that Norway has supported since its inception in 2019. It was deeply inspiring to meet Indian women seafarers, cadets, and captains who are shaping the industry's future.

Indian seafarers are the second largest nationality working aboard Norwegian-controlled vessels. With TEPA, Norway and India have agreed to facilitate on-board training opportunities for our respective seafarers. Even though women are a minority in maritime professions globally, our two countries can make this industry more inclusive and future-ready by sharing best practices.

The Maritime India Vision 2030 and Amrit Kaal 2047 show India's forward-looking maritime strategy and align with Norway's vision for sustainable ocean management. Unarguably, this has been one of the biggest years for the maritime partnership between Norway and India. As major ocean nations, we face common challenges, and with them, a shared responsibility to think globally and act for the benefit of all.

As major ocean nations, Norway and India face common challenges, and with them, a shared responsibility to think globally and act for the benefit of all

For Mayawati, a wasted opportunity

Her Lucknow rally was, in effect, old wine in an old bottle

STATE OF PLAY

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Early this month, the 19th death anniversary of Kanshi Ram, the founder of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), turned into a show of numerical strength for party chief Mayawati. Tens of thousands of supporters trooped into Lucknow from parts of Uttar Pradesh, and many others came in from Punjab, Haryana, Bihar and Uttarakhand. It was difficult to ignore what was easily the most massive of Ms. Mayawati's rallies in almost a decade.

Her brother, Anand Kumar, and nephew, Akash Anand, stood with her and she spoke uninterrupted for an hour. Clearly still living under the fear of the imaginary clout of a diminished Congress in the State, she railed against dynastic politics. She ranted against the Samajwadi Party (SP), accusing it of selective amnesia when it came to the Dalits of U.P. She was riled up by the actions of upcoming Dalit leader Chandrashekhar Azad 'Ravan' and dubbed him an "opportunist".

She was not all fire and brimstone, however. When it came to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), particularly Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, she was graciousness personified, thanking him for maintaining the huge parks which were built during her time as Chief Minister (2007-12). She even contrasted Mr. Adityanath's actions with those of Mr. Yadav, painting the former largely in positive hues. If she spoke against the BJP, it was merely perfunctory in nature. She also launched into the same old diatribe of 'shadyantra (conspiracy theory)' by her political opponents against 'Dalit ki beti' (daughter of Dalit)'. The biggest BSP rally of recent times was, in effect, old wine in an old bottle.

The BSP chief wasted an opportunity to start afresh. This was a chance for Ms. Mayawati to turn a new leaf and talk of emerging issues in the State and the country. She chose instead to duck the issue of the Special Intensive Revision exercise in Bihar, and steer clear of 'bulldozer politics', the row around the Prabhat's birthday celebrations, and the recent cruelties against Dalits, particularly in Raebareli. She made little attempt to bring into focus unemployment or inflation, the struggle of zari workers, the carpet weavers, the lock manufacturers, the brassware workers, the kite 'manja' producers or even the closure of primary schools in the State. Or for that matter, custodial deaths and encounter killings.

This was an opportunity too to tell her supporters and detractors alike that she was not soft on Hindutva politics, a perception that has gained ground since 2014 as she has repeatedly been hitting out at the SP and Congress; the former has been out of power in the State since 2017, the latter has been in the Opposition at the Centre for more than a decade. All along, she has shied away from asking questions of the BJP, which is in power both at the State and the Centre. It did not change a bit in Lucknow. She still painted the Opposition in not-so-favourable colours.

Worse, after speaking out against dynastic politics, Ms. Mayawati happily, even brazenly, anointed her nephew as heir apparent, asking the masses to show him the same love they once showered on her. Little did she realise that Mr. Anand is a successor to a kingdom which has long since ceased to exist. The party has no member in the Lok Sabha today and merely one in the 403-member U.P. Vidhan Sabha. For the supremo of a party that does not matter in Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar, she was being unrealistic. For comparison, the Sohelder Bharatiya Samaj Party and the Nishad Party have six members each in the Assembly. With their dedicated though niche followers, they stay relevant.

Not so Ms. Mayawati. Once the most formidable voice of Jatavs and other marginalised groups, today she has ceded ground to Mr. Azad who is not only drawing under an umbrella the Scheduled Caste and Muslim voters, but also believes in boots-on-the-ground politics. Wherever there is an incident of cruelty towards Dalits or Muslims, he stands shoulder to shoulder with them. Mr. Anand is not to be found there. Worse, nobody questions his absence. That is a sign of irrelevance.

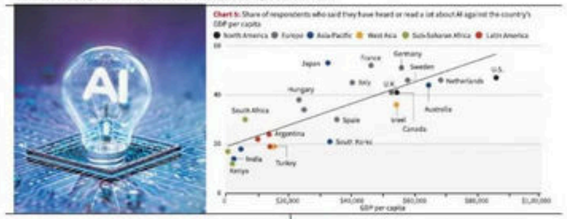
Indeed, the Lucknow rally, which was supposed to be a political renaissance of Ms. Mayawati, ended as an unheeded call for reformation. Mayawati-2025 is like a broken record. In Lucknow, she had the stage and a huge audience too. Yet she fluffed her lines. In the soap opera of U.P. politics, there may not many retakes available.

According to a survey of 25 countries, Indians are least aware of AI

Despite low awareness, Indians expressed the most confidence in government regulation

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team



According to a Pew survey covering 25 countries, Indians have the lowest awareness about Artificial Intelligence (AI). The survey found that about 14% of Indians have heard of or read a lot about AI; and another 32% have read a little about it. Together, this share (46%) is the lowest among the countries surveyed.

Chart 1 shows the share of people who have heard of or read a lot or little about AI. At 46%, India's share is well below the 25-country median of 81%.

Although AI is a new technology that young adults are generally expected to know more about, only 19% of Indians aged 18-34 said they have heard of or read a lot about AI. This is the second lowest share in that age group among the 25 countries surveyed (**Chart 2**).

Consequently, Indians are also among the least concerned about the increasing use of AI in daily life. Close to 19% of them said the increasing use of AI in daily life makes them more concerned than excited. This share is one of the lowest among the countries surveyed (**Chart 3**).

Nearly 90% of Indians also said they trust that their country will regulate the use of AI effectively. This share is the highest among all the countries surveyed, and by a significant margin (**Chart 4**).

Wealthier countries tend to have a higher share of people who have heard a lot about AI. Around half the adults in Japan, Germany, France, and the U.S. said they have heard a lot about AI, compared to the 14% in India and 12% in Kenya. **Chart 5** plots the share of people who said they have heard of or read a lot about AI against the GDP per capita of the countries.

Charts 1, 2, 3, and 4 display data for only selected countries out of the 25 surveyed, while Chart 5 includes all countries.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 30, 1975

'Terrorised' diplomats change their life styles

London, Oct. 29: Extremist action by an assortment of political crusaders has in the past decade transformed the lifestyles of hundreds of foreign diplomats accredited to the Court of St. James's in London. In the wake of murders, kidnappings and bomb attacks around the world, most envoys, and especially those with sensitive missions, live in peril even in London.

Some, like the Israelis, work in buildings fortified by barbed-wire entanglements behind electronically controlled sets of steel doors, floodlit at night, guarded round-the-clock by a posse of armed police. Others, including the Russians, Arabs and Israelis, have installed special alarm circuits which link them with the nearest police station in case of sudden attack. Certain key ambassadors, notably Mr. Elliot Richardson of the U.S., never move out of their offices or homes without an armed bodyguard or secret serviceman on hand. And virtually, every sizable foreign diplomatic mission here reinforces the protection given to it by the British authorities with its own internal security officers who invariably are armed.

The overworked British security services in the past few years have suspected that one terrorist group may sometimes link up with another. There is said to be some evidences in police dossiers, for example, that the militant provisional wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) has at times worked with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

A consequence of the ever-rising peril for foreign envoys was a British police decision last year to form a 'diplomatic protection unit' within its special branch. The unit consists mainly of uniformed men in flying motorcycle or automobile squads who rush to the scene upon receipt of an alarm signal from any given embassy.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 30, 1925

New plantations in Sumatra

London, Oct. 29: The list has been closed for the issue of 1,400,000 Allied Sumatra Plantations Limited, pound sterling shares at 21 shillings a share. The Company's property will consist of 47,973 acres on the East Coast of Sumatra including 26,290 planted acres, of which 10,970 will be planted with rubber only, and remainder with rubber, tea, coffee and coconut and oil

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The share by which Delhi's wetlands have shrunk in 30 years

9 In per cent. A study conducted by Delhi University along with IIG, Tech and Terna Global Business School has found that some districts, including South Delhi, have seen a drop of almost 97% per cent in their wetland area, due to increasing construction and pollution in the national capital. ▸▸

Number of Naxalites who surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur

51 As many as 51 Naxalites, 20 of them carrying a collective bounty of ₹66 lakh, surrendered in the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on Wednesday, police said. The cadres have returned to the mainstream citing that they were impressed by the State government's rehabilitation policy. ▸▸

Number of Gazans killed in overnight Israeli strikes

60 The development came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the military to conduct "powerful strikes" over Gaza, accusing Hamas of violating the ceasefire. Hamas said in response that that it would delay handing over the body of another hostage. ▸▸

Indians to be repatriated from Thailand after raids

500 More than 1,500 people from 28 countries had crossed into Thailand between the start of the crackdown on one of the most notorious scam hubs, KK Park in Myanmar, and Tuesday evening. Many people staffing the fraud factories say they were trafficked. ▸▸

Number of people killed in the drug raids in Rio, Brazil

64 As many as 2,500 heavily armed officers, backed by armoured vehicles, helicopters and drones took part in the operation targeting Brazil's main drug-trafficking gang in two poor neighbourhoods in northern Rio. ▸▸

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What is China's complaint against India at WTO?

What is the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in India? Which three specific PLIs does China oppose? What are the World Trade Organization's rules when it comes to subsidies? What does the Subsidies and Countervailing Measures agreement state?

EXPLAINER

Prabhash Ranjan

The story so far:

China has filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO) against India. It alleges that India is providing subsidies, as part of the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, for the development of advanced chemistry cell (ACC) batteries; for boosting the auto sector; and for facilitating the production of Electric Vehicles, in contravention of WTO law.

What is the PLI scheme?

India launched the PLI scheme in 2020 to give a fillip to Indian manufacturing. This scheme provides financial incentives based on incremental sales to strategic industries; aims to bolster India's position in global value chains; and integrates medium and small-scale industries into the industrial production process through backward linkages. The three specific PLI schemes that China has challenged are — the PLI scheme which aims to incentivise the establishment of giga-scale manufacturing capabilities of ACC batteries in India; the scheme for the auto industry, which seeks to buttress the manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products in India, encompassing both vehicles and their components; and third, a scheme to promote EV manufacturing by attracting global EV manufacturers to the country.

What is China's complaint?

China alleges that the three PLI schemes provide financial benefits or subsidies to companies operating in India contingent on Domestic Value Addition (DVA). For instance, under the PLI scheme for the auto sector, one of the conditions for eligibility to get financial benefits is that there must be a 30% DVA. Likewise, one of the salient features of the PLI scheme for ACC batteries is that the beneficiary must ensure a DVA of 25%. The Chinese argue that the DVA requirements under these PLI schemes incentivise companies to use domestic goods rather than imported goods, discriminating against Chinese goods in the Indian market.



Subsidy wars: The World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva. AFP

What is the law on subsidies in WTO?

While providing industrial subsidies to boost domestic industry is a sovereign right of states, WTO law ensures that these subsidies are not provided in a manner that jeopardises the international trade of other countries by ushering in unfair competition. Unfair competition may arise from subsidies that confer an artificial advantage on industries for exporting or competing with imported products. Consequently, the grant of industrial subsidies is regulated by the Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM) agreement of the WTO. Article 1 of the SCM agreement defines a subsidy as a financial contribution by a government or a public body that confers a benefit. The subsidy should also be specific.

The SCM agreement divides subsidies into three categories — prohibited subsidies, actionable subsidies, and non-actionable subsidies. Prohibited subsidies are forbidden by definition and are generally of two types: export subsidies and Import Substitution (IS) subsidies. Export subsidies are contingent on export performance, and IS subsidies, as defined in Article 3.1(b) of the SCM agreement, refer to subsidies contingent upon the use of domestic goods over imported goods. Thus, if a country promises a financial contribution to a specific industry on the condition that it use domestic goods or goods produced locally, rather than imported goods, it would constitute a prohibited subsidy.

Do IS subsidies violate other laws?

An IS subsidy will also breach two other WTO legal provisions. First is the national treatment obligation, codified in Article III.4 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which obligates countries to ensure that their domestic laws do not treat imported products less favourably than their domestic products; and second, is Article 2.1 of the Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMs) Agreement which states that no country shall impose any TRIM that is inconsistent with its national treatment obligations enshrined in GATT's Article III. The TRIMs agreement contains a specific illustration of a prohibited trade-related investment measure. This illustration pertains to local content requirements which incentivise the use of domestically produced goods. Since an IS subsidy gives preference to domestic over foreign goods, it constitutes as a proscribed TRIM under the WTO law.

China alleges that India's three PLI schemes are IS subsidies. However, it is critical to note that the DVA milestones in India's PLI scheme do not automatically translate to local content requirements. Value addition at the domestic level can occur in multiple ways, and not just through the use of domestic goods. The analysis of the DVA component in these three PLI schemes must thus consider a complex set of facts.

What happens next?

The first step in resolving a dispute at the WTO is through consultations. Thus, India and China will try to resolve this matter amicably. If this does not occur, the dispute will proceed to adjudication by a three-member ad hoc WTO panel. The WTO's appellate mechanism, the Appellate Body, has remained incapacitated since December 2019. Thus, if the WTO panel's decision is appealed, it would mean postponing the adjudication of the dispute till the time the Appellate Body is resurrected. The practical implication is that the status quo remains, and a country can continue with its impugned measures.

Prabhash Ranjan is Professor and Vice Dean (Research), Jindal Global Law School. Views are personal.

THE GIST

- India's PLI scheme provides financial incentives based on incremental sales to strategic industries; aims to bolster India's position in global value chains; and integrates medium and small-scale industries into the industrial production process through backward linkages.
- While providing industrial subsidies to boost domestic industry is a sovereign right of states, WTO law ensures that these subsidies are not provided in a manner that jeopardises the international trade of other countries by ushering in unfair competition.
- The SCM agreement divides subsidies into three categories — prohibited subsidies, actionable subsidies, and non-actionable subsidies.

How do cyclones form and how are they measured?

How can high wind shear disrupt the formation of a cyclone? What is an eyewall?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

If you think of a cyclone as a machine, it would be an incredibly powerful entity — an engine that draws heat from the earth's tropical waters to drive destructive winds, heavy rainfall, and storm surges. Similar storms are known variously as hurricanes in the Atlantic and eastern Pacific Oceans, and typhoons in the western Pacific Ocean.

How do cyclones form?

A tropical cyclone begins as an area of low pressure, often associated with clusters of thunderstorms. For such a disturbance to develop into a cyclone, several atmospheric and oceanic conditions must come together. The most important is warm sea surface temperature, generally above 26.5°C and up to a depth of at least 50 m. When it releases its latent heat, cools, and condenses to form clouds. The released heat warms the surrounding air, causing it to rise even further and drawing in more moist air from below, setting up a self-reinforcing cycle of convection.

A second important condition is that the atmosphere must be unstable, that is, rising air must continue to rise rather than being forced back down, and there must be a sufficient Coriolis force (a deflection of circulating air due to the earth's rotation, causing it to curve right in the Northern Hemisphere and left in the Southern Hemisphere) to induce rotation. As the Coriolis effect is weakest at the equator, cyclones rarely form within about five degrees of latitude from it. At the same time, the vertical wind shear, which is the difference in wind speed and direction between the lower and the upper levels of the atmosphere, must be low. High wind shear can disrupt keep it from building in strength.

As the cyclone develops, a well-defined

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Calm and serene: The Indus river in Leh, Ladakh on October 5. MEHA HASSAN

The Indus conundrum: when water is both a lifeline and a faultline

Writers are beginning to explain the ramifications of the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty, which was a shared heritage between India and Pakistan. Others map how global warming is impacting the balance in nature, and take stock of the fallout of political decisions on all rivers

Sudhirendar Sharma

Do rivers have stories to tell? As he prepared to map the Chenab, "a river of diplomacy enshrined in the Indus Waters Treaty", Danesh Rana was reminded of a Bashir Badr couplet: *"Agar fursat mile paani ki tahreer ko padh lena, har ek dariya hazaaron saal ka afsana likhta hai.* (If you get the time, do read the writing of the water. Every river writes a tale of thousand years.)"

In his memoir and travelogue, *The Dark Coloured Waters* (Juggernaut), Rana, who has served as an IPS officer in the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir, profiles the river with the help of myths, legends, anecdotes and photographs, including one of the highest railway bridges in the world across the Chenab in Reasi district. He also describes the state of the river post the Pahalgam massacre when India suspended the Indus Water Treaty, brokered by the World Bank in 1960.

"A day after the suspension of the treaty, the sluices at Baghlihar and Salal Hydroelectric Projects were closed," he writes. Soon, the water receded rapidly, "turning the roar of the river to a whimper," and people began to walk across the river.

Is it possible to halt or divert rivers? Rivers are the proverbial natural arteries of ecological systems. They are also worshipped, navigated and dammed. From the ancient ecosystems of Egypt to the sinking cities of Shanghai, rivers are valued differently. No wonder, some of our major river systems are also drying, and ultimately dying. Despite such ambiguity, rivers have remained intertwined with humanity.

Water history

A river determines water history in any region, seasonal variation in its flow being the prime determinant. With the bulk of water in the system coming from rainfall and snow melt in the mountains, a river finally flows to the sea to complete its essential hydrological cycle. Of all rivers that have tried to complete the hydrological cycle, the story of the Indus basin stands as one of modern history's great stories of large-scale environmental transformation. It is also a story of changing relationships between society and the state.

In 2005, Prof. David Gilmartin of North Carolina State University argued that a large-scale environmental history of the Indus basin was yet to be written (*Blood and Water*, University of California Press). The Indus basin's history has long been the subject of historical attention. Although a largely arid region, the Indus basin became one of the globe's most heavily irrigated river basins. Though the flow in the river in the six months from October to March is just 16% of the total annual flow, floods in the summer months have been historically significant.

It is claimed that the Indus basin supplies 80% of the water for Pakistan's irrigated agriculture — that it employs nearly two-thirds of the labour force and generates a quarter of the national GDP. Such a linear relationship has been climatically challenged. Triggered by extremely heavy rains, the July-August 2010 Indus floods affected some 20 million people; two million homes were destroyed; 1.6 million head of livestock died and the economic losses amounted to $43 billion. Though the consensus was that it was a once-in-a-hundred years event, the fact remains that thanks to rapid global warming, a greater climatic uncertainty surely looms.

Floods and irrigation

No message is more powerfully conveyed by the floods' damage than that massive human development has vastly increased the system's vulnerability. Together with this, large-scale irrigation projects have become a tool to dominate nature. Erik P. Eckholm had noted in the 1970s that "the greater irrigation works in modern times had come to dramatise the dangers inherent in efforts to expand large-scale control over nature without sufficient attention to the 'ecological requisites' of nature itself."

The Indus basin is not bereft of such transformation or vulnerability, and it is in this light that the river ought to be studied. The Indus Water Treaty was a shared heritage between India and Pakistan, till its suspension in April 2025. Consequently, the future of the water-sharing treaty between upper riparian India and lower riparian Pakistan remains shrouded in mystery writes Uttam Kumar Sinha in *Trial by Water* (Penguin, 2025). As per the treaty, the water of the five rivers of Punjab used to flow into the Indus. It may not in future. All these rivers show similar patterns of flow, and their vicissitudes have dictated much of the basin's hydrogeography. However, all this is going to change if river water is diverted (over time) by the upper riparian state.

At this moment, is it apposite to delineate the fundamental hydrogeography of the Indus basin and its complex flow patterns? How water becomes both a lifeline and a faultline in the contested south Asian landscape is the lingering question. Under the changing situation, can the river be allowed to flow its course to fulfil its ecological obligations of flowing to the sea to complete the hydrological cycle?

Mounting stress

However, to focus solely on bilateral tensions is to miss the larger picture. "The Indus Basin must be seen as a single, interconnected whole – its challenges not confined to legal frameworks or diplomatic flashpoints but rooted in deeper ecological struggles," writes Sinha. With the basin now confronting surging water demand, climate shocks and mounting water stress, the stakes are only intensifying in the future. Can this decades-old treaty evolve to meet a new era of crisis, rekindling its role as a platform for cooperation?

Rivers themselves have always had their own logic: their natural beauties, their floods, droughts, their tendency to silt up, their changes of course, tipping points and disappearances, as Vanessa Taylor puts it in *Seven Rivers* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2025). Rivers have shaped our lives, just as we have shaped theirs. Changing hydro dynamics of the Indus river offers a view of the world where the person and the river are seen in relation to each other. Love, grief, and hope flow through the river.

Sudhirendar Sharma is an independent writer, researcher and academic.

THE DAILY QUIZ

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

Test your knowledge of the Tsar Bomba, the most powerful nuclear weapon ever created

Prathmesh Kher

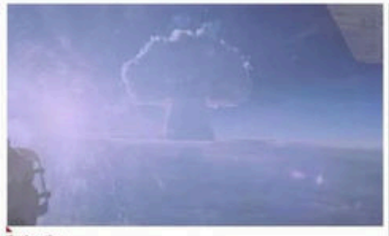
QUESTION 1
What was the official Soviet designation for the Tsar Bomba?

QUESTION 2
What was the name of the island where the test was conducted?

QUESTION 3
Who oversaw the Tsar Bomba project at Arzamas-16?

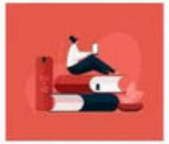
QUESTION 4
What was the CIA's code name for the Tsar Bomba test?

QUESTION 5
Where was the Tsar Bomba



Visual question:

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Five days after nearly 12 million shares of U.S. stock were sold in one day in 2025, an additional 16 million shares were sold on this day, fuelling the Great Depression. **Ans: Black Tuesday**
2. This country announced that it was ending its one-child policy in 2015. **Ans: China**
3. This Academy Award-nominated screenwriter wrote *Dr. Strangelove* and *Easy Rider*. **Ans: Terry Southern**
4. The group of painters who treated urban scenes realistically. **Ans: Ashcan school**
5. This country was established largely through the efforts of Kemal Atatürk. **Ans: Türkiye**
6. Anarchist Leon Czolgosz was executed for the assassination of this U.S. President. **Ans: William McKinley**
7. This person was the Minister of Propaganda for the German Third Reich under Adolf Hitler. **Ans: Joseph Goebbels**
Visual: Identify this former President of Liberia. **Ans: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**
Early Birds: Erlanally Desmanyl, Haridas Pai



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

Upendran

"That's a nice shirt. Is it new?"
"Yes, it is. My uncle gave it to me yesterday."
"Your uncle? Which one?"
"The one who works for UN."
"You have an uncle who works for the UN?"
"He's been working for UN for over..."
"... the UN..."
"What?"
"Your uncle doesn't work for UN. He works for the UN."
"The UN? But why?"
"Because UN is an abbreviation for United Nations. The general rule is when you make use of an abbreviation for an organisation, you use the definite article the before it. For example, my cousin Saritha wants to work for the CBI."
"I would like to work for the BBC, when I grow up. Is it OK to say that?"
"Sounds good to me. Here's another example. Many of our students who go to the U.S. to study, settle down there."
"Previously, everyone used to go to the U.K. "
"That's true."
"So tell me. Every time we use an abbreviation, we have to use 'the', right?"
"Not necessarily. Take for example NATO."
"It stands for North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, right?"
"Very good! When we use NATO in a sentence, we do not use the before it. For example, I know a few people who work for NATO."
"I don't know much about NATO. Can I say that?"
"You certainly can."
"Why don't we use the before NATO? It's also an abbreviation, isn't it?"
"True, it's an abbreviation. But it's not an abbreviation like BBC. In the case of BBC or UN, we pronounce each and every letter individually."
"Well, yes. I say BBC."
"In the case of NATO, on the other hand, you do not pronounce each letter individually. Instead, you put the four letters together and pronounce it as one word."
"And since it's pronounced as one word, we do not use the before it? Is that what you're implying?"
"Exactly!"
"I see. So, I don't need an article with UNICEF. It stands for United Nations International Children's Educational Fund, doesn't it?"
"Right again! You do not have to use the before UNICEF. Similarly, you do not need the before UNESCO. For example, some people believe that UNESCO will soon close down."
"That's not likely to happen. But I think I am beginning to understand now. When the initial letters of words come together and are pronounced as one word, we do not use the definite article the."
"Exactly! Such words are called acronyms."
"What?"
"Acronym! The 'a' in the first syllable is like the 'a' in 'bat', 'bat' and 'cat'. The 'o' in the second syllable is like the 'a' in 'China'. And the final syllable 'nym' rhymes with 'tim', 'dim' and 'bim'. The stress is on the first syllable."

Published in The Hindu on July 21, 1998.

Word of the day

Impugnable: subject to being discredited

Synonym: questionable

Usage: *His impugnable claims were dismissed by the experts.*

Pronunciation: <newsth.live/impugnable#pro>

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪmˈpjuːnəbl/

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

From Page One

'FTA talks with EU crossed halfway mark'

The Minister has returned from a three-nation tour over the last week or so, having visited Geneva for the 80th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Berlin for the Berlin Global Dialogues, and Brussels to "further our negotiations with the European Union" for an FTA.

He further said that, on an increasing number of issues, the two teams are moving towards convergence. The team from the EU is set to visit New Delhi next week for the next round of negotiations, and Mr. Sefcovic will visit the capital at the end of November or in December, the Minister said.

On the question of whether negotiations on the FTA with the EU would be completed by the end of the calendar year, a target set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen in February, Mr. Goyal said that the priority was a "good deal" rather than meeting deadlines.

Cyclone Montha leaves 2 dead, flattens crops

Two districts, SPSR Nellore and Prakasam, received extremely heavy rainfall. In total, 27 stations in the State, most of them in Prakasam, SPSR Nellore, and Bapatla, recorded 10 cm and more during the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

CM reviews measures

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu took stock of the cyclone impact at Odalarevu in Allavaram mandal of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district, Bapatla and Machilipatnam during an aerial survey. Pointing out that Prakasam and Nellore districts bore the brunt of heavy rains, he said damage to crops and assets has been reported in every coastal district. The loss is being enumerated.

Mr. Naidu said the fisherfolk who failed to undertake fishing activities and handloom weavers would be given 50 kg of rice, apart from essential commodities. They will also be paid ₹3,000 per family. The other affected people will get 25 kg of rice. "Our strategy of evacuating people from the vulnerable areas helped minimise loss of life and property. Past experiences of dealing with natural calamities and technology helped us design a robust preparedness plan," Mr. Naidu added.

Israel resumes ceasefire after strikes kill 104

It accused Israel of "a blatant violation of the ceasefire deal". Hamas also said it would delay handing over the body of another hostage to Israel because of the strikes.

U.S. President Donald Trump, on a trip to Asia, defended the strikes, saying Israel was justified in carrying them out after Hamas killed the Israeli soldier, who also held U.S. citizenship.

Mr. Netanyahu on Monday called the return of body parts a "clear violation" of the ceasefire agreement, which requires Hamas to return all the remains of hostages in Gaza as soon as possible.

Israel's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Oren Marmorstein said Washington the strikes were carried out in full coordination with the U.S.

Hamas replied in kind on Wednesday, saying the Israeli strikes reveal "a clear Israeli intention to undermine the ceasefire agreement and impose new realities by force." The group also said in a statement that the U.S. is offering Mr. Netanyahu a "political cover" to carry on with its aggression in Gaza. Hamas has said it is struggling to locate the bodies of the hostages amid the vast destruction in Gaza, while Israel has accused the militant group of purposely delaying their return.

500 Indians in Thailand will be repatriated

The cross-border cyber fraud hubs have become a major issue for the Thai Prime Minister, who said shutting down these hubs is a national security priority for Thailand. In a meeting of the National Steering Committee on the Prevention and Suppression of Technology-related Crimes held in Bangkok on October 20, Mr. Charnvirakul described the cross-border online scam industry as a threat to Thailand's economic stability.

The Myanmar military has been carrying out repeated raids against the KK Park cyber crime hub, prompting around 1,500 people of multiple nationalities to cross into Thailand over the past week. A large number of cyber fraud centres have set up bases along the Myanmar-Thailand border and in the Cambodia-Laos region, taking advantage of the civil conflict in Myanmar and its local laws. Many of them are known to use U.S. billionaire Elon Musk's Starlink satellite network to bypass local authorities.

Fake job offers trap Indians

Earlier this year,the Indian Air Force carried out an airlift operation repatriating 283 Indians who had been "lured to various southeast Asian countries, including Myanmar with fake job offers", ac-

Indian maritime sector has seen historic progress: Modi

PM launches initiatives worth ₹2.2 lakh crore for shipping and shipbuilding sectors at Maritime Leaders' Conclave; amid global tensions, India represents autonomy and inclusive growth, he says

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The progress in India's maritime domain has been historic and the capability of major ports has doubled, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

"Cargo movement has increased 700% in inland areas. Today, India's ports are considered among the best in the developing world," he added.

Mr. Modi was speaking at the Maritime Leaders' Conclave held at the NESCO Ground to mark 'India Maritime Week'.

"When the global seas are rough, the world looks for a steady lighthouse. India can play that role very strongly. Amid global tensions, India represents autonomy and inclusive growth," Mr. Modi said, hinting at the prevailing global trade headwinds.

During the event, Mr. Modi launched initiatives worth ₹2.2 lakh crore for the shipping and shipbuilding sectors, including acquisition of 437 vessels.



Narendra Modi at an exhibition during the Maritime Leaders' Conclave at the India Maritime Week event in Mumbai. PTI

Several memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for port-led industrialisation, sustainability, and ship-building, among others, were signed.

Sign of confidence

"In 2016, the maiden India Maritime Week was held in Mumbai. Today, it has become a global summit. Eighty-five countries participate in it today. This itself sends a very big message," Mr. Modi said.

"The MoUs signed here show the confidence of the world in India's maritime capabilities."

"This (2025) is a crucial year for the country's maritime capabilities. The Vizhinjam deep water transit hub has been operational. It is a matter of pride for every Indian. Kandla port and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) have shown great capabilities. The JNPT's handling capability has doubled, making it India's biggest container port," he added.

Speaking about reforms undertaken by the government to improve shipping and port efficiency and safety, Mr. Modi said, "We are taking big steps. Modern and futuristic laws have been implemented and old laws scrapped. They strengthen sustainability and enhance digitisation in ports. The safety of our ports has increased and ease of business has improved."

Logistics performance

Praising logistics performance of Indian ports, Mr. Modi said, "In the Logistics Performance Index of the World Bank, India had performed better."

"Shipbuilding is our top priority too. India is making great strides in shipbuilding," he said, adding, "New alternatives for finance and easy credit will be offered."

"We welcome your ideas, innovation and investment. Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) have been increasing. We are

MLA among 10 expelled by RJD for rebellion

The RJD in Bihar on Wednesday expelled 10 of its leaders, including an MLA who is contesting the Assembly election against the party's official candidate after being denied a nomination. RJD State president Mangani Lal Mandal said that Phate Bahadur Singh, the MLA for Dehri, and nine others had been expelled for "anti-party activities". The list of expelled leaders includes State vice-president Satish Kumar and former MLAs Gulam Jilani Wansi and Reyazul Haq Raju. This comes two days after the expulsion of 27 leaders, including two sitting MLAs and five former legislators. BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya shared the latest list of leaders expelled from the RJD on X and said, "At this rate, the party will soon be left without any workers as well as voters." PTI



Phate Bahadur Singh, the MLA for Dehri, and nine others have been expelled by the RJD.

'Nitish's CM post unsure, BJP not consulting him'

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday said that winning the Bihar Assembly election was crucial not only for the Mahagenbandhan (Grand Alliance) but also for the country. He took a dig at Janata Dal(U) chief Nitish Kumar's relationship with the BJP in Bihar. He said, "...Nitish Kumar changed alliances... which tarnished his image. He was once a prime ministerial candidate, but today, even the BJP isn't consulting him properly." Mr. Gehlot, the Congress observer for the State, said, "The BJP, whether it's Amit Shah or any other leader, keeps saying things like 'We will see who will become the CM after the elections.' So, he was once thinking about becoming the PM, and now, whether he will become the Chief Minister or not... this is the situation." PTI



The people of Bihar have to decide if they want a factory-made here or in other States. Lalu and Nitish are the root of all troubles in Bihar

PRASHANT KISHOR
Jan Suraaj Party founder

Conflict among NDA allies over CM face: Karat

Senior CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat said on Wednesday that there was a huge internal conflict among the NDA partners in Bihar over the Chief Minister's face. The people of Bihar had understood that Nitish Kumar would not become the next CM, if the NDA wins the elections, she said. PTI



Our approach is centred around solutions to the issues that matter to the people. Those solutions form our manifesto... and our vision for Bihar

KRISHNA ALLAVARU
Congress Bihar in-charge



Dhananjay has been associated with the AISA since 2015 and is contesting on CPI(ML) Liberation ticket.

Fresh from campus politics, Dhananjay gets into the big ring

Ashna Butani
NEW DELHI

Months after completing his tenure as the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) president, Dhananjay says his tenure, combined with his experience as a migrant student in Delhi, has brought him where he is today: contesting the Bihar Assembly election.

Originally from Gaya, Mr. Dhananjay became the first Dalit president of the JNUSU in 27 years, and is now contesting from the Bhorey (Scheduled Caste reserved) constituency, which will go to the polls in Phase 1 on November 6.

Associated with the All India Students' Union (AISA) since 2015, he is contesting from the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, a constituent of the Grand Alliance in Bihar. Mr. Dhananjay is up against Sunil Kumar from the Janata Dal(U), to whom the party had narrowly lost this seat in the previous election by 462 votes.

While his journey into politics is heavily rooted in student politics, he does not conflate the two but addresses the similarities. "The people for whom I am in politics today, their children study in JNU. The issues in JNU were linked to what is happening back at home. On one hand, in JNU, we raise our voice for national and international issues. Here, there is class and caste, people struggling for two rotis..."

In 2024, he was elected JNUSU president. Whether it was understanding students' problems and addressing their issues – ranging from mosquito infestations to the need for sanitary napkin-vending machines – he says he learnt how to address people's issues.

Back in school, he would read newspapers and discuss issues with friends, but did not know much about the right or the left. When he came to the Delhi University (DU), he became associated with the AISA's fight against the implementation of the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP). He did his Bachelor's degree in DU, MA from Ambedkar University, Delhi, M.Phil. and now Ph.D. from the School of Arts and Aesthetics of the JNU.

His experience as a student was what eventually pulled him in: "As migrant students, the situation at home might not be great, we didn't speak good English and we were left behind in many aspects, be it social, economic or cultural. We wanted to speak up but hesitated due to our class and caste status." He added that the AISA represented such students, which is what connected him to the organisation.

He is currently pursuing his Ph.D. thesis on Mushaira as a performance art, where he explores the idea of secularism in Mushaira and how it is changing under the current political scenario.

Domicile policy

While student issues feature in his campaign, there are other issues which he wants to address if elected. Speaking about the domicile policy in school teachers' appointment, which will give priority to youth who have studied in the State, he says, "What about those people who did not study here because of the bad state of education, like myself. Will they not get jobs?"

Other issues he wants to address include debt relief up to ₹2 lakh for women who have taken loans from microfinance institutions, and compensation for farmers whose crops have been damaged due to natural disasters.

His father is a retired policeman and his mother a homemaker. As JNUSU president, he worked for introducing a manual that imposes strict fines on students for

Nitish just a facade of BJP, says Rahul; CM, PM posts not vacant for sons: Shah

Congress leader says BJP remote-controlling Nitish Kumar government in State; CM failed to provide basic needs of Biharis despite 20 years in power, he adds; Home Minister calls *Mahagathbandhan* a *thugbandhan*; accuses RJD-Congress of being corrupt, promoting dynastic politics

IN FOCUS

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Congress and BJP leaders flung insults at each other in poll-bound Bihar on Wednesday in a busy day of campaigning for political bigwigs, a week ahead of the first phase of voting.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi kicked off his election campaign in Muzaffarpur, where he accused the BJP of "remote-controlling the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led government in Bihar".

At a rally in Darbhanga, senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserted that there was "no vacancy for either the PM or CM post" for Rahul Gandhi or Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav. In Siwan, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath mocked Osama Shahab, the RJD candidate from Raghunathpur, saying that he was "as good as his name".





Star campaigners: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacts with people at Sakra in Muzaffarpur on Wednesday; (right) Union Home Minister Amit Shah lifts a mace during a public rally in Samastipur. ANI

Over Nitish's leadership

Addressing a public meeting amid intermittent rain in Muzaffarpur, Mr. Gandhi pitted the Chief Minister and his Janata Dal (United) party against their main allies in the ruling NDA.

"Nitish Kumar's face is being used while the remote control lies in the hands of the BJP," he said, sharing the stage with Mr. Yadav, the Chief Ministerial candidate of the Opposition INDIA bloc. "You should not think the voice of even most Backward Class people is heard here. In fact, three-four people control the government through remote. The BJP controls it... Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's leadership is only a façade as the real power lies in the hands of the BJP," he added.

The Congress leader claimed that the ruling NDA has no "commitment" to social equality.

He recalled how he had once demanded a nationwide caste census from Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha.

"He did not say a single word... The BJP is against social justice, they do not want it," he said. However, the Union government later decided to count the population by caste during the next Census.

Despite two decades of a Nitish Kumar-led government, "the people of Bihar have been denied progress", Mr. Gandhi said.

"Biharis have no future in Bihar and this is your truth," he added.

"Nitish Kumar has failed to deliver even on basic needs. Tell me what he has done on the fronts of health, education, and employment in the State in the last 20 years? Do you want a State where you get nothing?" he asked the crowd before answering the question himself.

"We don't want such a Bihar. We want a Bihar where there is health, education, and employment."

"Ek taraf nazak Ambani, Adani ka Hindustan Narendra Modi ka, aur doosri taraf Hindustan ki sachayee: gareebi, paani aur bimari (On one side, there is the drama of Ambani, Adani – the country is of Narendra Modi, while on the other hand, there is the stark reality of the country: dirty water and diseases)," the Congress leader said. He also promised a shift from "made in China" to "made in Bihar" products to boost local employment and industry in the State.

Different narrative

It was a different narrative in the Alinagar constituency of north Bihar's Darbhanga district, where Mr. Shah accused the Opposition of indulging in dynastic politics. "RJD chief Lalu Prasad wants to make his son Tejashwi Yadav the Chief Minister of Bihar and Congress leader Sonia Gandhi wants her son Rahul Gandhi to be the Prime Minister but both the posts of PM and CM are not vacant," he said.

Terming the Opposition's Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) a "*thugbandhan* (alliance of frauds)", Mr. Shah accused the RJD chief of being involved in fodder, bitumen, and land-for-job scams, while the Congress was embroiled in corruption cases worth ₹12 lakh crore.

Referring to the Union government's 2022 ban and arrest of members of the Popular Front of India (PFI), a radical outfit, Mr. Shah asked the gathered crowd: "Do you think the RJD will let PFI members remain in jail if they come to power in Bihar?"

Welfare measures

He listed the NDA government's measures for the welfare of Biharis.

"The NDA government provides free ration to 8.32 crore people in Bihar, constituted a Makhana Board here, and provides ₹25 units of free electricity to domestic consumers... An airport and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have already been built here, now Darbhanga will soon get a metro rail too," he announced, calling for louder applause.

"The NDA government gave official status to Maithili and the Constitution has been translated into the language and a ₹500 crore centre is being constructed in the region to conserve the rich manuscripts of Mithila. A temple for Goddess Sita is also being constructed in the region and all the places she had visited will be connected with the upcoming Ram Circuit," Mr. Shah added, outlining efforts to promote Bihari language, culture, and tourism.

'As good as his name'

At another meeting at Raghunathpur in Siwan, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister slammed the RJD's candidature of Osama Shahab, son of former Siwan MP and strongman Mohammad Shahabuddin.

"His entry into the poll fray is like the return of Babur and Aurangzeb," he quipped.

"I was surprised at the name of the candidate when I entered into Raghunathpur constituency. The RJD has fielded a candidate whose name is identical to a person nationally and internationally known for his criminal tendencies. Look at the name Osama Shahab, he is as good as his name," Mr. Adityanath said.

"It may suit parties like the Congress, RJD, and Samajwadi Party to bow before the mafia, visit the tomb of Babur and Aurangzeb to offer prayers, but this does not befit a true Indian," he added.

RJD has defamed Bihar across world through misgovernance, says Rajnath

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday criticised Pakistan for failing to mend its ways, and said a "sizeable number of militants have been neutralised during Operation Sindoor".

"You have seen how even after our surgical strikes they did not learn their lessons. Terrorists from Pakistan targeted Indian citizens, tourists who had simply gone there [Pahalgam] to enjoy the beauty of Kashmir and they were killed after being asked about their religion," Mr. Singh said at a public meeting in Darbhanga in poll-bound Bihar.

Mr. Singh said India did not believe in the "politics of division".

"We do not do politics based on caste or religion... our politics is based on justice and humanity," he said, adding that India's response to the Pahalgam attack was both decisive and moral.

"When we launched Operation Sindoor, it was clear, to target terrorist camps across the border. They killed our people after asking their religion, we targeted only those responsible for terror," he said.

"India considers the whole world as one family believing in the mantra Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam... Our sages never taught us hatred rather they taught compassion," he added.



Rajnath Singh

In Darbhanga, Minister speaks of Operation Sindoor, constitutional status to OBC commission

Minister Narendra Modi for "restoring India's pride and stature on the global stage".

He also credited Mr. Modi for granting "constitutional status" to the OBC (Other Backward Classes) Commission, and accused the Opposition Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) in Bihar of "misleading people with unrealistic promises".

"It was Prime Minister Narendra Modi and not Rahul Gandhi who gave constitutional status to OBC commission. BJP-led government has always respected the Backward Classes through solid action rather than mere rhetoric."

He claimed that ₹15 lakh crore had been allocated for the all-round development of Bihar in the past 11 years under the Narendra Modi government.

Recalling how Mr. Modi transferred money directly to the bank accounts of women and farmers of the country, he said, "When Prime Minister Narendra Modi transferred money directly into women's bank accounts, he did not ask whether she was a Hindu or Muslim? Similarly, when assistance was given to farmers, did he see their religion?"

"No, every Indian benefited, and this is the spirit of this nation," he said.

Slamming the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the senior BJP leader said the Opposition party "has defamed Bihar across world through its past record of corruption and misgovernance".

He said the Opposition's election promise of providing a government job to every household in Bihar. This is not practical governance rather, it's a politics of deception," he said.

"Issues in this Assembly election in Bihar is clear: whether the State will be taken back to the jungle raj days or it will remain on the path of development," he said, announcing that the National Democratic Alliance would release its manifesto on October 30 and "implement every single

Amid poll fever, a missing motorcycle and a happy ending

Amarnath Tewary
DARBHANGA

A story with a rocky start found an "unexpectedly" happy ending in Bihar. It began on August 22, when Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was in Darbhanga during his 14-day 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar, at which time his party colleagues organised a motorcycle rally to neighbouring Muzaffarpur, 52 km away.

Mr. Gandhi's security personnel, after having tea at Maa Durga Line Hotel on National Highway 27, allegedly took the four-year old motorcycle of Suman Saurabh, 21, the owner of the hotel. The two-wheeler was never returned, sending Mr. Saurabh on a desperate hunt for the vehicle. "My lifeline was suddenly snapped," Mr. Saurabh said, recalling how he knocked on all possible doors to no avail.

Three days later, he received a call from Chhattisgarh Congress MLA Devendra Yadav, who had heard about the incident. "Rahul Gandhi ji has asked me to call you. He has sent a motorcycle for you," Mr. Yadav told Mr. Saurabh.



Suman Saurabh with the motorcycle received from Rahul Gandhi. ANUPAM TIWARI

Mr. Saurabh was asked to come to Patna by 7 a.m. on September 1 to take the keys of a new motorcycle from Rahul Gandhi ji," Mr. Saurabh said.

He, along with his father and others reached Patna on time, where Mr. Gandhi met him and handed over the keys to a new Bajaj Pulsar, which he collected from a store in the Boring Road area. "I was thrilled as something unexpected and unprecedented had happened. I am thankful to Rahul Gandhi ji for understanding my concern. The bike costs more than ₹1.5 lakh, which is a big sum for

IN BRIEF



Delhi HC quashes 17-year-old case against Madhu Kishwar

The Delhi High Court has quashed a 17-year-old attempt to murder case against academic and activist Madhu Kishwar, observing that the FIR was "maliciously motivated". The order, passed on October 16, came while allowing Ms. Kishwar's plea seeking to quash an FIR lodged against her in June 2008 for offences of attempt to murder, voluntarily causing hurt, and criminal intimidation under the erstwhile Indian Penal Code. Justice Amit Mahajan said "the subject FIR appears to be in the nature of a defence and a maliciously motivated counterblast ... for wreaking vengeance upon the petitioner."

Urdu is the most beautiful language, says Kiren Rijiju

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju, on Wednesday, termed Urdu "the most beautiful language in the world". Speaking at the 109th foundation day of the Jamia Milia Islamia University, he also stressed that harmony between Hindus and Muslims was vital for India's progress and unity. "I don't know much of Urdu, but I can say that Urdu is the most beautiful language in the world," he said while praising the songs played at varsity's auditorium. He noted that among the six minorities, Muslims were the biggest community. He added that country cannot develop without Hindu-Muslim harmony.

Bombay HC orders Bachchu Kadu to vacate protest site

The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court on Wednesday directed Prahar Janshakti Party leader and former MLA Omprakash, alias Bachchu Kadu, to vacate the protest site on National Highway-44 near Nagpur where thousands of farmers have gathered demanding a complete loan waiver. In response, Mr. Kadu said the protesting farmers would obey the HC order, but go to jail, and the State government should make necessary arrangements. "Public road, more particularly a National Highway, is blocked by the protesters which violates the fundamental right of the citizens to move freely throughout territory of India," the court observed. Earlier, CM Devendra Fadnavis appealed to Mr. Kadu to engage in dialogue with the government.

Uproar over woman giving birth on muddy ground in U.P.

A video that went viral on Wednesday, showing a woman from Mirzapur district in Uttar Pradesh groaning in labour pain and being left on the road by ambulance workers, forcing her to give birth on the muddy ground within a government health centre premises, led to an uproar. The Congress party called the video and images a "shame for humanity," criticising healthcare services in Uttar Pradesh and terming the State's claims of world-class healthcare an eyewash. "These videos are shame for humanity. This is the distasteful reality of health services in U.P. The government claims the healthcare services are world-class but the reality can be seen," Anil Yadav, a senior U.P. Congress leader, said.

U.N. report on Myanmar 'blinkered', says India

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India has strongly condemned what it described as a "blinkered analysis" made against it in a United Nations report on Myanmar's human rights situation, even as it reiterated its call for an immediate cessation of violence and inclusive political dialogue in the neighbouring country.

Delivering India's statement during the interactive Dialogue on the human rights situation in Myanmar at the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, Lok Sabha member Dilip Saikia said New Delhi continues to support all initiatives aimed at fostering a "Myanmar-owned and Myanmar-led path" toward peace, and democracy.

"We reiterate our consistent position calling for an immediate cessation of violence, release of political prisoners, unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance," he said. Strongly criticising the remarks made by the UN Special Rapporteur, he said, "I express serious objections to the baseless and biased observation about country."

PM afraid to counter Trump's claims on ending war: Rahul

Congress leader says the Prime Minister must find the courage to respond; when he comes to Bihar, he should state that Trump is lying

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Rahul Gandhi

The Congress on Wednesday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over U.S. President Donald Trump repeating his claim that he stopped the conflict between India and Pakistan using trade, with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi saying that the Prime Minister was "scared" of Mr. Trump.

Mr. Gandhi, addressing his first election rally in Bihar's Darbhanga, said Mr. Modi must find the courage to respond and when he comes to Bihar next, he should state that Mr. Trump was lying.

He said the U.S. President had claimed 50 times that he stopped Operation Sindoor by threatening the Prime Minister, who "hasn't uttered a word". Mr. Gandhi said those who lacked the courage could not develop Bihar.

"Mr. Trump is insulting him [Mr. Modi] daily in different countries. He says Mr. Modi has no guts and he has made him bow before him. Mr. Modi never once said Mr. Trump is speaking nonsense and lying," the Opposition leader said, adding, "One who cannot tell the American President on his face 'you are lying', he cannot do anything in Bihar".

In a post on X later, Mr. Gandhi said, "Mr. Trump is insulting Mr. Modi in country after country. Latest is South Korea. I. Repeated that he used trade to frighten Mr. Modi into stopping Operation Sindoor. 2. Said 7 planes were shot down. Don't be scared Modi ji, find the courage to respond".

On his X handle, Congress general secretary in-charge (communications) Jairam Ramesh shared video clips of Mr. Trump's remarks in Japan and later in South Korea in which he repeated his claim that he stopped the India-Pakistan military conflict using trade. In his post, Mr. Ramesh said "The self-styled but now thoroughly shrunken 56-inch chest is still quiet". "So far he has said it 54 times. He has said it in the U.S., Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the U.K. He has said it mid-flight and on land. Now President Trump has said it again, while addressing business leaders in Japan last evening. No wonder his good friend in New Delhi does not want to hug him any more," Mr. Ramesh said.

Pay panel's terms of reference too rigid, says AITUC leader

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Amarjeet Kaur

The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) said here on Wednesday that the eighth Central Pay Commission (CPC) should do justice to government employees and pensioners. Criticising the delay in announcing the CPC, AITUC general secretary Amarjeet Kaur said though the decision to constitute the CPC was announced ahead of the Delhi Assembly election in January, it took 10 months for the Centre to constitute the panel. She said the decision went to cold storage and now it was being announced a few days ahead of the Bihar electio. .

"It took 10 months for [Prime Minister] Narendra Modi-led government to nominate a chairperson and a part-time member for the Commission. The Commission has been given 18 months' time to submit its report to the government, which means we can expect the report/ recommendations of the 8th Central Pay Commission only during the middle of the year 2027," she said.

"By the time the government takes a decision, if it is sincere enough, it may go up to the end of the year 2027. The employees of both Central and State governments have to wait for another two more years to get their wages revised. This is an injustice on them," the trade union leader farther said.

Ms. Kaur said the "Terms of Reference' given by the government to the CPC is so rigid with lots of compulsions to finalise its recommendations, such as the economic conditions and fiscal prudence.

"All these [conditions] comes to the mind of the government only when it comes for giving any benefit to the employees and pensioners," she added.

Cong. slams Centre for using ancient text to draw labour policy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress's Jairam Ramesh says that the Centre is reviving the principles of the *Manusmriti*

Highlighting a portion of the Union Labour Ministry's draft Shram Shakti Niti, 2025, which takes inspiration from *Manusmriti*, the Congress on Wednesday targeted the Narendra Modi government by alleging that it mirrors the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) tradition of preferring the ancient text over the Constitution.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, claimed that the government is seeking to revive the principles of the *Manusmriti*, a Hindu religious text, through its new labour policy, and the move reflected the ideological influence of the RSS.

Mr. Ramesh claimed that the RSS had opposed the Constitution soon after its adoption for not being based on the *Manusmriti*. "The Modi government's draft Shram Shakti Niti 2025, released earlier this month, claims that the *Manusmriti* embeds the moral basis of labour governance within India's civilisational fabric, centuries before the rise of modern labour law," he said in a post on X.

The Congress leader shared the text of the new policy, which says, "Ancient texts such as the Manusmriti, Yajnavalkyasmriti, articulated this ethos through the concept of rajdharma, emphasising the sovereign's duty to ensure justice, and the protection of workers from exploitation. These early formulations embedded the moral basis of labour governance within India's civilisational fabric".

Developing nations need 12 times more funds to fight climate crisis

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI



Developing countries need more climate finance to move away from power plants dependent on fossil fuels. (ILO PHOTO)

To adapt to climate change, developing countries will require anywhere from $310-365 billion (at least ₹27 lakh crore) annually by 2035, according to a United Nations analysis. This is nearly 12 times more than the money that currently flows from the developed to the developing world for this purpose.

The analysis, underlining the huge gap between the demand and supply of funds needed to protect developing nations from climate change impacts, appears in *Running on Empty*, an annual report on the shortfall released on Wednesday, ahead of the 30th edition of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP-30) to be held in Belem, Brazil next month.

International public adaptation finance flows to developing countries stood at $26 billion (about ₹2.2 lakh crore) in 2023, down from $28 billion the previous year. If these trends continue, a target agreed upon by countries at the COP-26 in Glasgow, to double adaptation finance to $40 billion by 2025 will be "missed", the report added.

Disappointing target

Finance is a significant issue in climate negotiations, as developing countries insist that developed countries pay the costs of adaptation (to deal with climate change impacts) and mitigation (to move away from fossil fuels), as well as compensation for losses and damages already occurring. This total bill is collectively called "climate finance".

At COP-29 in Baku, Azerbaijan last year, developing countries, which were demanding nearly $1.3 trillion annually by 2035, were disappointed when the developed world agreed to only $300 billion, called the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance.

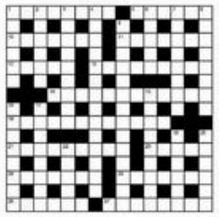
Tuesday's UN report underlines this criticism. "...it is far too evident that the financial resources needed to enable adaptation action in developing countries at the scale necessary to meet the growing challenges of current and future climate risks is woefully inadequate. It will take nothing less than a global collective effort to increase climate finance to the levels articulated in the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3 trillion," it notes.

The report also raises concerns that whenever money has been made available at present is primarily classified as 'debt.' Although 70% of international public adaptation finance was concessional in 2022-23, it is "worrisome" that debt instruments continue to dominate these overall flows, comprising 58% on average in that financial year, the report said.

THE CROSSWORD + 14626

(set by Dr. K)

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



Across

1 Police officer arrests primarily unscrupulous locksmith? (8)
5 Old type of firework essentially ignited in fine and to jazz concert (6)
10 Slapped Greek character pinching geisha's butt in Japanese city (7)
11 Support partner in a lawful manner (7)
12 Bag filled with money behind a little unusual shrub (5)
13 Silly piglet ate sheet at front of book (5,4)
14 Sensual intercourse is a thrill with honey going wild (4,2,3,3)
18 What might interest a geocatcher in worthy person lacking manners (5,7)
21 Rum in cola after consuming dope - that's delightful (9)
23 Rubbish outside university on East avenue (5)
24 Be victorious in border, going west to capture rebellious state (7)
25 Starts to eat economically in seedy diner, becoming more impoverished (7)
26 One examining source of teratogenic chemical compound (6)
27 Reviewed report about terrible heat in prison block (5,3)

Down

1 Salmon and special starter of tuna for one sharing sincere duties (3,4)
2 Leaking extremely abhorrent secret eventually (2,4)
3 One found in bathroom with fine dope in excellent hotel (9)
4 One in bulletin lying nervously in an incomprehensible manner (3,6)
6 Fire spreading! Leave houses (5)
7 Giants in trouble retreated, crushed by barbarians (6)
8 Clergy reformed extremely youthful radical (8)
9 Old men in pub at ground catching glimpse of lovely, fair-haired lady (8,6)
15 Most ravenous tigers vigorously chasing barbarian (9)
16 Couple of drugs for weirdo (8)
17 Entering fancy bar, getting a drink (8)
19 Invalid in Peru becoming more feeble (6)
20 Tongue in hot English stew (6)
22 Maternal relative in US assembly after son's deported (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Like rain-laden clouds

Nammazhwar in his Thiruvaimozhi uses the words *suru mazhai* – the rain that comes in, said Akkarakkani Srinidhi in a discourse. What is this rain that comes into Maalirunchola? Explaining this verse in his commentary, Nampillai says Maalirunchola has two kinds of rain? One is the benevolent Kallazhagar, the Lord of the kshetra. He is in Maalirunchola permanently. He is the eternal cloud that gives, without moving away. But there are the regular clouds, the ones we see everywhere. They come in, give us rain and they move away.

When the Lord took Rama avatara, He showed His fondness for Sabari, who belonged to a clan of hunters. When Ramanuja had to be saved from Yadavaprakasa, who was planning to kill him, Lord Varadaraja of Kanchi and His Consort Perundevi took the form of hunters to save Ramanuja. They left him near a well, from which he took water to the Varadaraja temple every day. Thus they showered their mercy on Ramanuja, and gave the world a great Acharya. Just as Kallazhagar is a cloud that stays in Thirumalirunchola, Varadaraja and Perundevi are clouds that remain forever in Kanchi, blessing devotees.

Ramanujacharya followed the Lord's example. He too was kindness personified, prompting Thiruvaranganthamudanar to praise his mercy. Thiruvaranganthamudanar wrote Ramanuja Nootrandadi, extolling Ramanuja's admirable qualities. In one verse he describes Ramanuja as *kaarvi karunai Ramanuja* – Ramanuja, who is like rain-laden clouds. Just as clouds give without expecting anything in return, so did the Acharya give generously of his knowledge and compassion. Ramanuja's mercy was not limited to those who were qualified to receive it. He showered it on all, irrespective of their qualifications. He was the cloud that showered the rain of knowledge on all.

unacademy

MARKETS

MARKET MATCH

Sensex	84,587	-0.44
US Dollar	88.61	0.07
GSAP	4,144.80	1.12
Brent Oil	65.64	1.56

NIFTY 50

Adani Ports	1327.00	-0.32
Asian Paints	2336.70	-0.40
Axis Bank	1,148.00	1.21
Bajaj Auto	9,034.00	-0.20
Bajaj Finance	1,077.00	0.10
Bajaj Finserv	1,922.00	0.30
Bharat Elec	407.20	0.75
Bharti Airtel	2,012.00	-0.30
Cipla	1,521.10	-0.60
Coal India	383.00	0.40
Dr Reddy Lab	1,220.00	-0.10
Tata Motors CV	330.75	0.80
Tata Motors PV	675.20	-1.10
Eternal Ltd	330.40	4.25
Grasim Ind	2,810.70	-0.40
HCL Tech	1,527.00	-0.20
HDFC Bank	1,977.00	0.30
HDFC Life	762.00	-0.50
Hindalco	855.20	1.10
Hind Unilever	2,486.00	0.00
ICICI Bank	1,373.60	1.40
Infosys	1,506.00	0.00
ITC	402.60	0.70
Jio Financial Servic		
JSW Steel	1,077.00	-0.70
Kotak Bank	2,072.00	-0.20
L&T	3,882.10	-0.70
M&M	3,567.70	-0.40
Maruti Suzuki	15,540.00	0.50
Nestle India	1,183.00	0.10
NTPC	347.00	0.70
ONGC	239.00	0.60
Powerfrid Corp	291.55	1.20
Reliance Ind	1,543.20	0.80
SBI Life	1,573.80	0.00
Shri Ram	1,021.70	0.30
Sensex Finance		
SBI	730.95	-0.70
Sun Pharma	1,733.00	-0.40
Tata Consumer Prd		
Tech	1,577.00	0.10
Tata Steel	181.5	-0.60
TCS	3,011.00	-0.40
Tech Mahindra	1,452.00	-0.80
Titan	3,961.00	-0.10
Tata Motors PC	411.75	-0.30
Trent Ltd	4,184.00	-0.20
UltraTech Cement	11,990.00	-0.40
Wipro	251.00	-0.60

SEBI favours 'simpler' mutual fund rules

Regulator proposes to do away with old rules, simplify language, and rationalise fee structure; changes aimed at reducing investor costs

Ashokamitheran T.
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed major changes to mutual fund regulations to reduce investor costs and to make them simpler.

The markets regulator said that the proposals contained provisions to do away with old rules, simplify the language, and rationalise fee structures.

"Numerous amendments over the last 29 years have contributed to the MF regulations becoming considerably voluminous and complex. Hence, SEBI has undertaken an exercise to comprehensively review the MF regulations," according to a consultation paper.

As part of the efforts to make MF schemes cheaper for the investor, SEBI has done away with the additional expense of 0.05% charged by AMCs over exit load. "In 2012, mutual funds were mandated to credit exit load to the scheme and AMCs were allowed to charge 20 bps more as additional expenses to the scheme. A basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage. The said additional charge, was reduced from 20 bps to 5 bps in 2018," SEBI said.

"The provision for additional expense of 5 bps allowed to the AMCs to charge the mutual fund schemes, was transitory in nature...with an objective to rationalise cost for unit holder, this expense charged to the scheme has been removed from the draft MF regulations," SEBI said.

To lighten the impact of the removal of additional expense on exit load, SEBI proposed that the first two slabs of the expense ratio of open-ended active schemes be revised upwards by 5 bps. It also proposed to exclude all statutory levy like STT, GST, CTT, and stamp duty from the expense ratio limits along with the present permissible expenses for brokerage, exchange and regulatory fees. SEBI also proposed to reduce brokerage charges to 0.02% from 0.12% in cash market and 0.06% from 0.05% in the derivatives market.

Investor-friendly

To simplify MF regulations which have become voluminous and complex over the years, SEBI has made a number of proposals

- Additional expense of 0.05% charged by AMCs over exit load to be done away with
- First two slabs of the expense ratio of open-ended active schemes be revised upwards by 5 bps



- Brokerage charges be slashed to 0.02% from 0.12% in cash market and to 0.01% from 0.05% in the derivatives market

Starlink to hold demo runs in Mumbai

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Elon Musk's Starlink is scheduled to conduct demo runs on October 30 and 31 in Mumbai to show compliance with security and technical conditions for satellite broadband services, according to sources. The demos, to be done before designated law enforcement agencies, will be based on the provisional license assigned to Starlink, sources told PTI.

These demos are an essential requirement for Starlink to secure clearances before it can launch commercial services.

Sources said Starlink will run a demo to show compliance with the security norms (Lawful Interception System and Lawful Interception Monitoring) and technical conditions of the GMPCS authorisation.

SBI MF invests ₹100 cr. in Lenskart

SBI Mutual Fund has invested ₹100 crore in eyewear retailer Lenskart Solutions in a pre-IPO (initial public offering) funding round. ...

India mulls $12-bn plan to bail out debt-laden State power discoms

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Private firms such as Adani Power are expected to benefit as they are likely to gain stakes in the state companies

India is considering a bailout exceeding ₹1 trillion ($12 billion) for debt-laden state-run power distribution companies.

To receive the bailout funds, the States will be required to privatise their electric utilities and transfer managerial control or keep control but list them on a stock exchange, according to three government officials and a document outlining the plan prepared by the Union Ministry of Power.

The plan marks Prime Minister Narendra Modi's toughest reform push yet to overhaul the chronically inefficient state-run electricity distribution companies, seen as the weakest link in India's energy chain. The Power Ministry and the Ministry of Finance are discussing the final details of the bailout, which is expected in the February budget, said two government sources.

The ministries did not immediately respond to *Reuters'* requests for comments.

Under the proposal, at least 20% of the state's total power consumption must be met by private companies and the States must assume part of the retailer's debt, according to the Power Ministry presentation.

To do so the States can choose to privatise their distribution operations for access to loans to pay off existing debt under two options. First, the States can create a new distribution company, divest 51% of the equity, which will enable them to access a 50-year interest-free loan for the privatised company's debt, along with access to low-interest federal loans for five years, the presentation showed.

The second option would let States privatise up to 26% of the equity of an existing State-owned power distribution company in exchange for access to low-interest loans from the federal government for five years, it showed.

Alternatively, States that do not decide to transfer managerial control through privatisation must list their utilities on a recognised stock exchange within three years.

States that choose to list would receive low-interest loans from the federal government for infrastructure management, the presentation showed.

The State power retailers have accumulated losses of ₹7.08 trillion ($80.6 billion) and outstanding debt of ₹7.42 trillion ($84.4 billion) as of March 2024, the documents showed.

Private companies such as Adani Power, Reliance Power, Tata Power, CESC and Torrent Power are expected to benefit from the reforms as they are likely to gain stakes in the State companies.

IN BRIEF



Hindustan Petroleum Q2 PAT jumps six-fold to ₹3,830 crore

State-owned refiner Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL)'s profit after tax in the second quarter rose six-fold on a year-on-year basis to ₹3,930 crore aided by better refining margins and a lower base effect. Gross refining margins more than doubled to $8.80 for every barrel in Q2 from the corresponding period last year. Revenue from operations rose about 2% to more than ₹1.10 lakh crore. HPCL also announced an interim dividend of ₹5 for each equity share.

NMDC Q2 standalone net profit rises 33% to ₹1,695 crore

Iron ore producer NMDC reported standalone net profit rose 33% in the September quarter to ₹1,694.70 crore from ₹1,269.81 crore a year earlier. The higher net profit came on a 30% increase in revenue from operations to ₹6,260.85 crore (₹4,806.37 crore). The performance came in the backdrop of strong domestic steel demand and resilient mining operations. Iron ore production for the quarter was 23% higher year on year at 10.21 million tonnes (8.29 MT).

L&T posts 16% increase in Q2 net profit to ₹3,926 crore

Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T) for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025 reported a 16% year-on-year (YoY) growth in consolidated net profit to ₹3,926 crore backed by all-round performance. For the quarter, consolidated revenue grew 10% YoY to ₹67,984 crore. International revenues at ₹28,223 crore, constituted 56% of the total revenue. The consolidated order book of the group as on September 30, 2025, was at ₹5,87,047 crore, a growth of 11% over March 2025.

AI wide-body ramp up in 2026: Wilson

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI


Campbell Wilson

Air India (AI) will induct a new wide-body aircraft every six weeks in 2026 for the next two years, which, alongside the refurbishment of legacy Boeing 787 and 777, will position it as a "modern, international" airline by 2028, according to CEO Campbell Wilson.

"Through the course of 2026 there is a massive ramp-up in our wide-body induction," Mr. Wilson said at the Aviation India Summit. The new additions will include the first of the 787-9s joining the airline in December 2025 and then in 2026, an average of one every six weeks. These will be mostly 787-9s and also two Airbus A350-1000s in the financial year 2026.

So far, the airline has inducted six A350s from its order of 68 wide-body jets, which form part of its larger 570-aircraft buy from Boeing and Airbus. So far, the AI Group, including Air India Express, has added nearly 57 new planes. Overall, the airline will continue to add a new aircraft every six to seven days. By 2027, all of the 26 787 fleet will be refurbished fully.

Cognizant Q3 net income slides 53%

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

As much as 30% of the code is written by machines now, translating into greater productivity

U.S.-based IT major Cognizant, which has a substantial number of employees in India, on Wednesday reported a 53% drop in net income for Q3 2025 to $274 million, hit by a one-time, non-cash income tax expense of $390 million.

Cognizant – which follows a January-December financial year- had posted a net income of $582 million in Q3 2024.

Revenue, however, rose 7.3% year-over-year to $5,405 million for the quarter ended September, driven by gains coming in from investments in AI.

The Nasdaq-listed IT services firm raised the lower end of its full-year revenue growth forecast, pegging it at $21.05-21.80 billion against $20.7-21.1 billion earlier. For the fourth quarter, Cognizant expects revenue in the range of $5.27-5.33 billion.

Cognizant CEO Ravi Kumar S. said Q3 2025 marked the firm's fifth consecutive quarter of year-over-year organic revenue growth and strongest sequential organic growth since 2022. He said Cognizant, over the last 2.5 years, had been investing in transitioning to an AI builder. As much as 30% of the code is written by machines now, translating into greater productivity.

Sugar sector concerned over reduction in ethanol sourcing

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE


Centre must raise ethanol procurement price.

The sugar sector is concerned over the cut in ethanol sourcing in the 2025-2026 ethanol supply year.

The Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) said only 289 crore litre ethanol had been allocated from sugar-based feedstock or 28% of the total need. The industry invested almost ₹40,000 crore with a capacity to supply 650 crore litre of ethanol a year. It supplied 330 crore litre last ethanol supply year.

The sector expects al- output between October 1 and September 30, 2026. Of this, local consumption will be just 284 lakh tonne and sugar diversion for ethanol 34 lakh tonne leading to excess sugar stocks.

While the Fair and Re- came rose 16.5% to ₹355 a quintal since 2022-23, ethanol procurement prices from sugarcane juice and B-heavy molasses was static at ₹60.73 and ₹65.61 a litre respectively. Ethanol's cost of production was ₹66.09 a litre from B-heavy molasses and ₹70.70 a litre from cane juice.

The minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar has been ₹31 a kg since February 2019 with output cost at ₹40.24/kg. The Centre must ensure 50% ethanol is sourced from sugar sector, raise MSP, announce sugar export policy and in- crease ethanol procure-

Akasa IPO in two to three years, says CEO Dube

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Three-year-old airline Akasa will come out with an IPO in two to five years, CEO Vinay Dube said.

"With Boeing increasing its production rate, there is more confidence in our expansion," the CEO said on expansion. He added the airline will add 196 aircraft until December 2032.

The CEO said 85% of the 400 grounded pilots were now actively flying and by the end of the next 30 to 60 days, all of them will ac-

READ FRONTLINE EVERY FORTNIGHT. TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT

Government of Kerala
Power (A) Department
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No 1328/(1)/2025/PD Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 29/10/2025

Sub: Appointment of Member (Law) of the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Applications are invited for the post of Member (Law) in the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Applications in the prescribed format with bio data and details of experience supporting the envelope "Application for appointment as Member (Law), Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission" may be sent by Registered Post with acknowledgement due to the following address: Additional Chief Secretary, Power (A) Department Government of Kerala, Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram- 695 001, Kerala. The last date for receipt of applications is 5 pm on 29/11/2025. The notification and other details are also made available in www.kerala.gov.in, www.kseb.in, www.erckerala.org.

Sd/-
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority
Civil Engineering Department
Tuticorin-628 004.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of the work	Estimated cost Put to tender value (Amount in INR)	Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Amount in INR)	Online Tender opening date
Development of road and drainage facility at Gate No.4 & 5 in VOPA	7,46,22,190/-	14,92,500/-	07.11.2025

Note:
1. For detailed tenders, downloading of bid documents from the NIC e-tendering portals
2. http://tenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
3. http://www.vocport.gov.in

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD(N)

SUCHITWA MISSION
LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Suchitwa Mission is inviting Expressions of Interest (EoI) for empanelling private agencies with existing biodegradable waste processing facilities or willing to invest in establishing facilities for the scientific management and processing of biodegradable waste and for providing services for the collection of biodegradable waste.

Interested agencies may download the EoI document published on Suchitwa Mission website www.suchitwamission.org and submit the application for empanelment with credentials & technical bid to swmtechnical@gmail.com

(25/RC/2025/SUCHITWA) Sd/- Executive Director

International Institute for Population Sciences
(Deemed to be University)
An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India
Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Mumbai – 400088, Contact Details: Tel: 91-22-40734999
Email: praveenkr@iipsindia.ac.in Website: www.iipsindia.ac.in

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR & SENIOR PROFESSOR

Advt. no. IIPS/RECT/2/04 & SR. PROF./02/2025

The International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, invites applications for the post of Director & Senior Professor in the prescribed format along with attested copies of testimonials/certificates etc. to be addressed to "Mr. Amrit Lal Jangid, Director (Statistics), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Room No.317, 3rd Floor, IRCS Building, Red Cross Road, New Delhi-110001".

For details please visit institute's website at www.iipsindia.ac.in. The last date for the receipt of the application in the prescribed format will be four weeks from the date of publishing the advertisement.

Applications received thereafter will not be considered.

DIRECTOR & SR. PROFESSOR (ADDL. CHARGE)
IIPS, MUMBAI

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
No. DM(EC)-47/2/2025-EC(E-TENDER) Dated: 29.10.2025
e-TEN No. EM/WS 132/2025
Name of the Work : Fitting of 01 no. new Fork Mounted Compacted Mechanical Road Sweeping Machine for cleaning of roads inside Port area for a period of 01 (One) year". Estimated Cost : Rs.54,50,550/- including GST and cost of Tender Cost: Date & time of submission of Bid : 12.11.2025 up to 1500 hrs. Refer our website for details: https://paradipport.gov.in/tenders.php
Executive Engineer (M)
Workshop Division & PHL

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Stores and Purchase Dept, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO 07 Dated: 29/10/2025

Tenders (Pre-qualification and or Commercial offers) through e-procurement portal are invited for supply of the following Goods/Services.

Tender Nos. as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items/ Services/ Equipment	Tender Value in Crores Rs. (Approx.)	Last date for submission of bids @ 17:00 Hrs.
KSRTC/2025-26/SE/005	Engaging an agency for providing Technical assistants on Contract Basis to Divisions of KSRTC.	38.24	03/11/2025
KSRTC/2025-26/ND/024	Procurement of Server	0.63	10/11/2025
KSRTC/2025-26/ND/024	Procurement of 3-point Universal seat belt for Bus/Truck	0.49	10/11/2025

Further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope of work other tender terms and conditions etc, will be uploaded/ published through e-portal only.

NOTE: Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into http://kpp.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@eprochicktech.com for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org, (contact: 7760990225, 7760990224).

Sd/- Controller of Stores & Purchases

WASHINGTON

U.S. Fed announces second quarter-point rate cut of 2025



REUTERS

The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday announced its second straight quarter-point interest rate cut to hedge against growing labour market risks, in a meeting that highlighted growing divisions among its ranks. Policymakers voted 10-2 in favour of lowering the bank's key lending rate to between 3.75% and 4.00%. AP

SANTIAGO DE CUBA

Hundreds of thousands evacuate as Hurricane Melissa hits Cuba



AP

Hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated in eastern Cuba and a hurricane warning was in effect for the provinces of Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo, Holguin and Las Tunas as Hurricane Melissa made landfall as a Category 3 storm early Wednesday. AP

TOKYO

U.S. welcomes Japan's arms boost, says alliance key to deter China



AP

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Wednesday welcomed Japan's determination to accelerate its ongoing military build-up and defence spending. During a visit to Japan, Mr. Hegseth said he hopes to see those pledges implemented as soon as possible, noting China's increasingly assertive military activity. AP

RIO DE JANEIRO

132 killed in Rio police crackdown on drug gang, says public defender



AFP

The Rio de Janeiro public defender's office on Wednesday said 132 people died in the bloodiest police raid against drug gangs in the Brazilian city's history, as grieving residents laid out dozens of bodies in the street. "The update is 132 dead," the public defender's office, which provides legal assistance to the poor, said. AFP

Hasina warns of mass boycott as her party barred from polls

The ban on the Awami League is not only unjust, it is self-defeating, says the deposed Prime Minister, adding she would not return to Bangladesh under any government formed after elections that exclude her party, and plans to remain in India

Reuters
NEW DELHI/DHAKA

Millions of supporters of Bangladesh's Awami League will boycott next year's national election, after the party was barred from contesting the polls, ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Wednesday, from her exile in New Delhi.

Ms. Hasina, 78, said she would not return to Bangladesh under any government formed after elections that exclude her party, and plans to remain in India, where she fled in August 2024 following a deadly student-led uprising.

An interim government headed by Nobel Peace Laureate Muhammad Yunus has governed Bangladesh since Ms. Hasina's ouster and has pledged to hold elections next February.

"The ban on the Awami League is not only unjust, it is self-defeating," Ms. Hasina said in emailed responses to *Reuters* — her first media engagement since her dramatic fall from power after 15 straight years at the helm of Bangladeshi politics.

"The next government must have electoral legitimacy. Millions of people support the Awami League, so as things stand, they will not vote. You cannot disenfranchise millions of people if you want a political system that works."

Bangladesh has over 126 million registered voters. The Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party have long dominated the country's politics, and the BNP is widely expected to win the upcoming vote.

The Election Commission suspended the Awami League's registration in May. Earlier, the Yunus-led government banned all party activities, citing national security threats and war crimes investigations into senior Awami League leaders.

"We are not asking Awami League voters to support other parties," Ms. Hasina said. "We still hope common sense will prevail and we will be allowed to contest the election ourselves."

She did not say if she or anyone else on her behalf was holding any back-channel talks with Bangladeshi authorities to let the Awami League participate in the polls.

The International Crimes Tribunal, Bangladesh's domestic war crimes court, has concluded proceedings against Ms. Hasina, who faces charges of crimes against humanity over the violent crackdown on student protests in mid-2024.

Ms. Hasina denied the charges.

"These proceedings are a politically motivated charade," she said. "They've been brought by kangaroo courts, with guilty verdicts a foregone conclusion."



Power struggle: The Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party have long dominated the country's politics. FILE PHOTO

Pak. warns Kabul of stern response to new attacks

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Defence Minister warned Afghanistan on Wednesday that any new "terrorist or suicide attack" by militants on Pakistani soil would draw a stern response, hours after the two sides ended three days of talks in Istanbul failed to secure a peace agreement.

Earlier this month, Pakistan's military launched attacks on what it said were hideouts of the Pakistani Taliban in Afghanistan, killing dozens of people whom it described as insurgents. Afghanistan said the people killed were civilians and struck Pakistani military posts in response, claiming 58 Pakistani soldiers were killed. Pakistan's military said it lost 23 soldiers in the border fighting.

The two sides agreed to a ceasefire brokered by countries including Qatar on October 19 in Doha, followed by four days of talks in Istanbul that ended inconclusively.



Khawaja Muhammad Asif

In a post on X, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif told Afghanistan's Taliban Government that "any terrorist attack or suicide bombing inside Pakistan shall give you the bitter taste of such misadventures."

There was no immediate comment from Kabul on the collapse of peace talks or on Mr. Asif's remarks, but Afghanistan's state broadcaster *RTA* reported that the negotiations stalled because of what it called "irrational demands" from Pakistan.

According to RTA, Islamabad sought assurances that no attacks would be launched from Afghan territory, while the Taliban delegation said the Pakistani Taliban, also known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, was an internal issue for Islamabad.

Mr. Asif in a strongly-worded tweet also accused Kabul of "blindly pushing Afghanistan into yet another conflict" to preserve what he described as its "usurped rule and war economy." "Let me assure them that Pakistan does not require to employ even a fraction of its full arsenal to completely obliterate the Taliban regime and push them back to the caves for hiding," he said.

Despite the failure of the talks, a ceasefire remained in place, and no new clashes were reported along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

U.S. will cut troops in Europe: Romania

Agence France-Presse
BUCHAREST

Washington has told Romania, which neighbours war-torn Ukraine, and allies it will reduce the number of U.S. troops deployed on NATO's eastern flank, Romania's Defence Ministry said on Wednesday, a move some officials downplayed while analysts warned it could embolden Russia.

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticised NATO, and insisted that European allies boost military spending as Ukraine battles Russia's invasion.

Some 85,000 American troops are stationed in Europe, including 20,000 troops deployed to reinforce NATO's eastern flank after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, according to the U.S. Defence Department.

The latest announcement came after reports this year that Washington could withdraw 10,000 troops from eastern Europe as the U.S. focus shifts more towards the Indo-Pacific region, which the Pentagon called its "priority theatre".

"The resizing of U.S. forces is a result of the new priorities of the presidential administration, announced back in February," Romania's Defence Ministry said. The decision "also took into account the fact that NATO has strengthened its presence and activity on the eastern flank."

Myanmar junta says foreign media will be allowed to cover elections

Agence France-Presse
YANGON

International media will be allowed to cover Myanmar's upcoming junta-run polls, election authorities said Wednesday, an apparent invitation for foreign press to scrutinise the deeply disputed vote.

Myanmar's junta has "shattered the media landscape" with censorship and intimidation since staging a 2021 coup that sparked a civil war, Reporters Without Borders says.

Local journalists bore the brunt of the crackdown while foreign media quit the country en masse, with *AFP* the only international news agency maintaining a full in-country bureau.



Supporters of Myanmar's Union Solidarity and Development Party during election campaign in Myanmar on Tuesday. AP

The junta has touted polls starting December 28 as a path to peace, but the vote will be blocked from rebel-held enclaves and monitors are dismissing it as a ploy to disguise continuing military rule.

The junta-stacked Union Election Commission said in a statement "both local and international news media will be allowed to cover" the election, due to unfold in phases over a matter of weeks.

The junta-run information ministry "will scrutinise and endorse eligible international media organisations", said the notice in state newspaper *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

Militants withdraw

One of Myanmar's most powerful ethnic armed opposition factions, Ta'ang National Liberation Army, has agreed to a China-brokered withdrawal from a lucrative ruby mining hub, the group said on Wednesday.

Myanmar has been mired in a civil war since the military grabbed power in a 2021 coup, with the junta fighting an array of pro-democracy guerrillas and powerful ethnic minority armed groups. The ruby-mining town of Mogok was captured by rebels last summer.

Finalised trade deal with S. Korea: Trump

Agence France-Presse
GYEONGJU

U.S. President Donald Trump indicated on Wednesday that a trade deal had been reached with South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung, before adding that the agreement was "pretty much" finalised.

"We reached a deal. We did a lot of different things. Great session," the U.S. leader said. But he then appeared to walk back the claim, telling a dinner including Mr. Lee that the deal was "pretty much finalised". "We came to a conclusion on a lot of very different items," Mr. Trump said.

In July, Mr. Trump said Washington had agreed to cut tariffs on South Korean imports to 15% in exchange for a $350 billion investment pledge. But steep-as-to tariffs remained in place, and the two governments were divided over the structure of the investment pledge.

Speaking to reporters, top Seoul presidential aide Kim Yong-beom confirmed a deal had been struck.



Donald Trump

WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited
Certified, ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 45001:2018, ISO 50001:2018

NOTICE

All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in, respective subsidiary Company (Western Coalfields Limited) https://westerncoal.in, CIL e-Procurement portal https://coal.eprocure.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in. Procurement of goods and services (if available on GeM Portal) are done through GeM portal only https://gem.gov.in.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION AMET (NAGAMADU)
Dated: 15.10.2025

Notice Inviting Bid

Sealed tenders are invited from Empanelled Contractors upto Date 05.11.2025, 06.00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be seen in the procurement portal https://pwdtenders.gov.in and https://pwdtenders.gov.in and in the office of the undersigned. The approximate value of the contract is Rs.344.71 Lacs.

NIB No. PWD/2025/2009		
	Upto Rs.	
1. PWD/2025/WORK/1412	5. PWD/2025/WORK/1416	9. PWD/2025/WORK/1420
2. PWD/2025/WORK/1413	6. PWD/2025/WORK/1417	

Government of Tamil Nadu
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
CHENNAI CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE CIRCLE

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.60/2025-2026/HDO/Dated: 22.10.2025

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Percentage tender through online only** are invited **upto 02/12/2025 at 11.00 AM** by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Chennai Circle for the works under **Special Infrastructure Improvement Programme for Chennai City 2025-2026**, pertaining to Chennai City Roads (H) C&M Division-I.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details will be available from **31/10/2025** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H),

BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल)
ब्रिज, रोपवे, एरियल ट्रामवे बनाए हाइड्रोपावर सेक्टरगैरेज कॉरीडोर बाईपास सिविलवर्क
(उत्तराखण्ड शासन का उपक्रम) पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड राज्य संरचना विकास निगम लिमिटेड
भारत सरकार उपक्रम रत्न, आई-ए, रायपुरी सहस्त्रधारा रिंगरोड़ के पास, सहस्त्रधारा रोड, देहरादून-उत्तराखण्ड

Ref No: 2553/BRIDCUL-421/25 Dated: 28/10/2025

E-Tendering

On behalf of Hon'ble, Governor of Uttarakhand, E-Tenders are invited by Managing Director BRIDCUL, for the Below work at Sr.no. 1 from the Contractors registered with any Govt./Semi Govt./PSUs/Nigamsin suitable Class & Category and for work at Sr. no. 2 from the Contractors registered with BRIDCUL only in Category-II (Rs.02 to 05 Cr.) for the work given as below:-

S. No.	Ref No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost (in Lac including GST)	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Time Period
1	BRIDCUL/HQ RLD/59/2025-26)	STC of I/R/Erwaters work at proposed 100 Bedded Mental Hospital at Gethia Distt. Nainital	84.06	1.68	5000+ 18%GST	18 Months
2	BRIDCUL/HQ RLD/60/2025-26)	Internal Electrification & Allied works for Art & Science at SSJ University Almora	240.45	4.81	5000+ 18%GST	18 Months

For above tenders, document download start date is **31.10.2025** and Bid submission end date is **14.11.2025 at 1500 Hrs.** The details of e-tender of above works can be obtained directly from website **https://uktenders.gov.in**

Changes, if any will be intimated only through website **https://uktenders.gov.in**

KEEPING COOL

The team that overcomes pressure will be successful: coach Shelley



Australia head coach Shelley Nitschke has played down the favourite's tag for her team going into the ODI World Cup semifinal against India. "I don't think we go in as the underdogs or favourites. It's a level-playing field. The team that holds our nerves and is able to overcome the pressure should be successful," she said.

SPECIAL ONE

Rohit tops the ODI batters' charts for the first time in his career



Rohit Sharma, on Wednesday, claimed the top spot in the ICC men's ODI batting rankings for the first time in his career. The 38-year-old climbed two spots on the back of his unbeaten century in the third and final ODI in Sydney. Rohit overtook Afghanistan's Ibrahim Zadran and teammate Shubman Gill to rise to the top.

CONFIDENT

I feel bad for Pratika... but I trust myself: Shafali ahead of semifinal



Shafali Verma finds herself back in the national set-up almost exactly a year after her last ODI outing. "What happened with Pratika was unfortunate. No player wants to see a teammate injured. But for me it's about trusting myself. I've been in such situations earlier, so I'll stay calm and back my game," she said.

STRONG FINISH

Puneri Paltan pips Telugu Titans, faces Dabang Delhi in final



Puneri Paltan set up a final clash against Dabang Delhi in PKL 12 after scripting a magnificent comeback to score a 50-45 win against Telugu Titans in Qualifier 2 in New Delhi on Wednesday. This will be the third final in four years for the season 10 champion. Starring for the victors were Aditya Shinde (21 points) and Pankaj Mohite (10).

SA rides on Wolvaardt and Kapp's brilliance

The skipper scores 169 stitches a crucial stand with the No. 5 batter and prevents a slide before upping the ante to take the team to 319; the all-rounder decimates England with a spell of 7-3-20-5



Protess' day out: After Wolvaardt powered the team to a mammoth total, Kapp produced telling blows to trigger celebrations in the South Africa camp. AFP/RAJANISH

ODI WORLD CUP

Lavanya L
GUWAHATI

On the eve of the semifinal against England at the ACA Stadium here, a hunger for redemption was palpable in the South African camp. There was the lingering ghost of that 69 all out against this opponent at this very venue to be exorcised. A knockout fixture presented the perfect stage.

Laura Wolvaardt and Marizanne Kapp led from the front as they powered South Africa to a resounding 125-run win and its first-ever ODI World Cup final.

A scintillating 169-run knock from Wolvaardt formed the backbone of a mammoth score of 319 for seven on a strip the curator called a 'Mumbai wicket.' Sophie Ecclestone broke a 105-run stand between her and a struggling Tazmin Brits, rearmegging her on one of her failed reverse sweep attempts.

The talismanic pacesher ing an injury to a joint near her collarbone a few days ago, then removed Anneke Bosch for a duck. Sciver-Brunt sent back Sune Luus, with just three runs added in the meantime.

Wolvaardt and Kapp's 72-run stand then steadied the ship, but Ecclestone pegged back by dismissing the former.

Sinalo Jafta and Annerie Dercksen soon followed, but Wolvaardt was unfazed, as she brought up a remarkable maiden ODI World Cup ton.

South Africa added 117 runs in the final 85, 68 coming off Wolvaardt's bat. When she fell in the 48th, the 26-year-old was parted back to the dugout by her opponents, after which ovations and hugs awaited.

Needing to pull off its highest chase in the format (the previous one being 264), England began abysmally, losing three wickets for just one run, Kapp (two wickets) and Ayabonga Khaka sharing the spoils.

The ever-reliable Sciver-Brunt hand-held the Heather Knight-led side's 107-run stand with Alice Capsey.

A cramping Kapp persevered, sending Capsey, Sciver-Brunt and Sophia Dunkley back to complete a five-for, much like she did against the same opponent in a league stage win in the 2022 edition. Danni Wyatt-Hodge, playing just her second match of the tournament, and Linsey Smith resisted but in vain. The colour faded from the faces of the four-time champions as the dugout silently watched the curtains fall

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA
Laura Wolvaardt c Capsey b Bell 169 (143b, 20x4, 4x6), Tazmin Brits b Ecclestone 45 (63b, 6x4, 1x6), Anneke Bosch b Ecclestone 0 (8b), Sune Luus b Sciver-Brunt 1 (6b), Marizanne Kapp c Dean b Ecclestone 42 (33b, 4x4, 1x6), Sinalo Jafta b Bell 1 (4b), Annerie Dercksen b Ecclestone 4 (14b), Chloe Tryon (not out) 10 (26b, 1x4, 1x6), Nadine de Klerk (not out) 12 (8b, 2x4), Extras (lb 2, w 1) 3, Total (for seven wkts, o 50 overs) 319.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-118 (Brits, 22.2 overs), 2-118 (Bosch, 22.3), 3-119 (Luus, 23.3), 4-191 (Kapp, 36.3), 5-192 (Jafta, 37.1), 6-282 (Dercksen, 48.3), 7-291 (Wolvaardt, 47.6).

ENGLAND BOWLING
Bell 10-0-63-2, Smith 10-0-69-0, Sciver-Brunt 8-0-67-1, Dean 10-0-67-0, Ecclestone 10-1-44-4, Capsey 2-0-11-0.

ENGLAND
Amy Jones b Kapp 0 (2b), Tammy Beaumont c Jafta b Khaka 0 (2b), Heather Knight b Kapp 6 (8b), Nat Sciver-Brunt c Jafta b Kapp 64 (79b, 6x4, 2x6), Alice Capsey c de Klerk b Luus 50 (75b, 6x4), Danni Wyatt-Hodge c sub (Sekhukhune) b de Klerk 36 (32b, 3x4), Sophia Dunkley c Jafta b Kapp 2 (20b), Charlie Dean c Jafta b Kapp 0 (1b), Sophie Ecclestone c Dercksen b Khaka 2 (12b), Linsey Smith c Luus b de Klerk 27 (36b, 4x4), Lauren Bell (not out) 9 (12b, 2x4), Extras (w 6) 6, Total (in 42.1 overs) 204.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-3 (Jones, 0.2), 2-9 (Knight, 0.5), 3-3 (Beaumont, 1.1), 4-108 (Capsey, 22.5), 5-138 (Sciver-Brunt, 28.3), 6-144 (Dunkley, 30.2), 7-144 (Dean, 30.3), 8-151 (Ecclestone, 33.2), 9-179 (Wyatt-Hodge, 38.6).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Kapp 7-3-20-5, Khaka 8-0-28-1, de Klerk 5-2-5-2, Jafta 2-0-8-0, Luus 6-1-40-1, Tryon 8-0-41-1.

Toss: England. **PoM:** Wolvaardt. *South Africa won by 125 runs.*

Can India stop the Australian juggernaut?

Amol Karhadkar
NAVI MUMBAI

Australia has won seven of the 12 Women's ODI World Cups so far. The last time it lost a World Cup game was eight years ago – to India – when Harmanpreet Kaur produced her unforgettable blitz in Derby in July 2017. No wonder then that the 2025 edition has often been dubbed as a battle among the rest for the runners-up spot.

Inconsistent

India, buoyed by its strong lead-up to the tournament and the advantage of home conditions, entered this World Cup as the top challenger to Australia's dominance.

However, an inconsistent league phase has left the host facing the defending champion in Thursday's semifinal instead of in a dream final.

In and out

Perhaps in a move aimed at unsettling Australia, India has drafted in Shafali Verma as an injury replacement for the in-form Pratika Rawal, who hurt her right leg during the last league game against Bangladesh.

Shafali is expected to open alongside Smriti Mandhana, reigniting one of India's most explosive partnerships.

While fans may hope for another Harmanpreet special reminiscent of 2017, much will depend on Smriti, the vice-captain, to anchor the innings against a bowling attack she has often dominated in the past.

Both sides endured brief injury concerns, but it is understood that Richa Ghosh and Australia skipper Alyssa Healy have recovered and are available for selection.

Their return adds balance and experience to both line-ups ahead of what promises to be a high-stakes clash.

With heavy rain forecast across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region over the next 48 hours, there remains a cloud of uncertainty over the weather.

The cricket community will hope for clear skies and a packed DY. Patil Stadium on Thursday – the perfect stage for India to challenge the might of the team to beat.



Practice makes perfect: Jemimah gears up for the Aussie challenge. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Today's match

SEMIFINAL 2

Navi Mumbai, 3 p.m.

ODIs in 2025
Played: 60
India 13 | Australia 43

In World Cups
Played: 14
India 3 | Australia 11

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR



Suryakumar... on the go. AP

SKY shines before the sky opens up

Press Trust of India
CANBERRA

India skipper Suryakumar Yadav was back in his element with some spectacular hits but inclement weather proved to be a complete dampener as the first T20 International against Australia was called off after steady showers on Wednesday.

With his deputy Shubman Gill (37 n.o., 20b, 4x4, 1x6) also in good nick, Suryakumar showed controlled aggression en route his unbeaten 39 (24b, 3x4, 2x6) and took the score to 97 for one in 9.4 overs when rain intervened. The duo added 62 runs off 35 balls for the second wicket.

That was the shot of confidence that Suryakumar needed for future assignments.

Earlier, Abhishek Sharma made 19 (14b, 4x4).

The scores:
India 97/1 in 9.4 overs (Gill 37 n.o., Suryakumar 39 n.o.) vs Australia.

Toss: Australia. *No result.*
Second T20I: Oct. 31, Melbourne, 1.45 p.m. IST.

Shrivalli makes short work of Maaya; Sahaja in second round

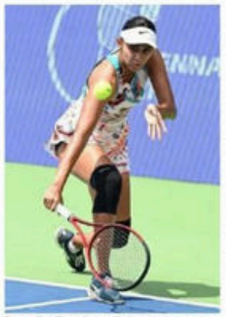
CHENNAI OPEN

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

If the players largely stayed indoors due to rain for the first two days of the WTA 250 Chennai Open tennis tournament, the third day at the SDAT Nungambakkam Stadium on Wednesday witnessed a few foreign players fall victim to the hot and humid conditions as they bowed out of the event.

Even as the competitors from abroad struggled to cope with the conditions, India's Shrivalli Bhamidipaty and Sahaja Yamalapalli posted first-round wins.

Shrivalli eased past 16-year-old Maaya Rajeshwaran 6-1, 6-4 while Sahaja, who turned 25 on Wednesday, got better as the match progressed as she scripted a 0-6, 6-2 victory over lucky loser Priska Nugroho of Indonesia to enter the



On song: Shrivalli proved too good for Maaya. K. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

contest between Shrivalli and Maaya fell flat as the occasion, making numerous unforced errors and strategy to counter Shrivalli's aggression.

It was a cakewalk for the 23-year-old Shrivalli in the first set, after she took a handy 4-1 lead.

After fighting back to level it 4-4, she dropped serve in the ninth game before her compatriot held serve to seal the win.

Barring Nina Stojanovic of Serbia, who pulled out due to a hip injury, second seed Francesca Jones (Great Britain), Maria Timofeeva (Uzbekistan) and Alina Charaeva (Russia) withdrew midway in the match, citing "heat illness."

The results (first round):
Singles: Zeynep Sonmez (Tur) bt Tatiana Prozorova (Rus) 7-5, 6-4; Linda Fruhvirtova (Cze) bt Astrid Lee Yen-Yoon (Fin) 6-2, 6-2; Shrivalli Bhamidipaty bt Maaya Rajeshwaran 6-1, 6-4; Dorota Hokc (Cze) bt Vaishnavi Adkar 6-1, 6-2; Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Priska Nugroho (Ina) 6-4, 6-2; Kimberly Birrell (Aus) bt Nikola Bartunkova (Cze) 1-6, 6-1, 6-3; Wei Yamaguchi (Jpn) bt Francesca Jones (GBr) 6-3, 6-3, 1-0 (ret.).

IN BRIEF



Napoli three points clear at summit after win at Lecce

Napoli maintained its lead at the top of Serie A on Tuesday after the champion won a hard-fought contest at Lecce 1-0 and moved three points ahead of AC Milan, which drew 1-1 at Atalanta, and Roma. Napoli has 21 points from nine games.

The results: Atalanta 1 (Lookman 35) drew with AC Milan 1 (Rissi 45); Lecce 0 lost to Napoli 1 (Anguissa 88).

Anahat stuns Gilis, enters the last-four stage

India's Anahat Singh stunned holder and second seed Tinne Gilis of Belgium to storm into the semifinals of Canadian Open squash tournament in Toronto on Tuesday. Anahat won 12-10, 11-9, 11-9 to record the biggest victory of her career and the first against a top-10 player.

Mahaveer and Ferrari emerge victorious in Pro-Am Class

Mahaveer Raghunathan and teammate Lorenzo Ferrari finished the Italian GT Sprint Championship at Monza with a victory in the Pro-Am Class in Race 2. The pair ended sixth overall in the race.



Marathon man Mahut calls time on tennis career

Frenchman Nicolas Mahut delivered an emotional farewell to professional tennis after his doubles defeat at the Paris Masters on Tuesday. The 43-year-old, who won five Grand Slam doubles titles in a career spanning 25 years, is best known for losing the longest professional tennis match in history against American John Isner at Wimbledon in 2010. The match lasted 11 hours and five minutes and took place over three days, with the last set alone – eight hours 11 minutes – being long enough to have broken the previous longest match record.

Equine illness halts Hyderabad races

The Hyderabad Race Club (HRC) had cancelled the final two race days of the Hyderabad Monsoon Races, scheduled for October 27 and 28, following an alarming outbreak of respiratory infections of unknown origin among a few horses stabled at the HRC. The decision comes in the wake of a precautionary advisory issued by the Veterinary Commission of the Turf Authorities of India (TAI), aimed at safeguarding equine health and preventing potential spread to other racing centres. The HRC is expected to issue updates once laboratory findings are available and the Veterinary Commission provides clearance for the resumption of equine movement and racing activities.



De Bruyne goes under the knife for hamstring injury

Napoli's Kevin De Bruyne underwent an operation on his injured hamstring in Belgium on Wednesday, the Serie A club announced. He is expected to be out for three to four months.

LIVE TELECAST

Women's ODI World Cup, second semifinal: India vs Australia, Star Sports 1 & Jiohotstar, 3 p.m.
Tennis: BITA Chennai Open, Eurosport, 3 p.m.
Tennis: Paris Masters, Sony Sports Ten 5 & UK, 3 p.m.

Pant in focus as he returns to competitive action

The wicketkeeper-batter will make a comeback after a three-month injury lay-off; chance for Sai Sudharsan to cement the No. 3 spot; Garnoor and Khaleel will lead the pace attack



Testing the waters: The South Africa A showdown will provide a perfect opportunity for Pant and his men to get into the groove ahead of the bigger challenge in the Test series against the Proteas. R. VISWANATHAN & PTI

INDIA-A VS SA-A

Tarun Shastry
BENGALURU

Fearlessness and flamboyance are set to take centre stage at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Grounds as Rishabh Pant makes his return to competitive cricket, leading India-A against South Africa-A starting Thursday.

This marks Pant's comeback after a three-month injury lay off. The wicketkeeper-batter injured his foot during the fourth Test against England in late July and has been steadily working his way back to full fitness.

The setback forced him to miss the Asia Cup and the home Test series against the West Indies. However, this two-match, four-day series provides the perfect opportunity to regain rhythm and confidence ahead of India's upcoming Test assignment against world champion South Africa.

The 28-year-old, expected to return to the Test fold, has been training hard at the CoE, focusing on both his batting and wicketkeeping in practice sessions.

Adding further promise to the India-A line-up are the young guns in the top order. Top-order batter Sai Sudharsan will be eager to make a strong statement and solidify his credentials at the crucial No. 3 slot, while Devdutt Padikkal will carry the momentum from Ranji Trophy after scoring a fluent 96 for Karnataka against Saurashtra.

On the bowling front, Punjab's medium-pacer Garnoor Brar, who played for India-A against Australia-A, adds energy to the pace attack.

Experienced left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed will look to build on his domestic form, having bagged a three-wicket haul for Rajasthan in a recent Ranji Trophy game.

The spin department, consisting of Saransh Jain, Manav Suthar, and Harsh Dubey, will provide Pant with valuable match practice behind the stumps, while also giving India's emerging talents an opportunity to showcase their skills ahead of the home Test season.



Work in progress: Sai Sudharsan says he is in the process of understanding the role of a No. 3 batter. PTI

Gambhir sir told me not to get desperate: Sai Sudharsan

Tarun Shastry
BENGALURU

India's latest No. 3, Sai Sudharsan, feels he has settled into the challenges of batting in a crucial position for his side. Speaking to the media on the eve of India A's four-day match against South Africa-A on Wednesday, he also mentioned the confidence boost he received from head coach Gautam Gambhir and the tactical adjustments he has made to his game.

"I feel very fortunate to have this series just before the main series, as it gives us a chance to build momentum. Personally, I've been working a lot on my footwork and on understanding the responsibilities of a number three batter. I'm learning the role better and trying to implement it tactically. It's about being a step ahead of the bowler, and I'm constantly working on that," said the 24-year-old.

Sai Sudharsan also highlighted the backing he has received from Gambhir.

"The support has been good. At the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, GG sir called me aside. He told me not to get desperate and reminded me that I am here for a reason, that I'm one of the best players in the country.

"That reassurance gave me immense confidence and freedom. It helped me approach the game with the mindset to fight and win for my tribe," he added.



Shock win: Lakshya defeated fifth seed Popov. PTI PHOTO

Lakshya enters second round; Srikanth out

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SAARBRUCKEN (GERMANY)

Lakshya Sen stunned fifth seed Christo Popov of France 21-16, 22-20 to enter the men's singles pre-quarterfinals at the $475,000 Hylo Open Super 500 badminton on Wednesday.

Lakshya will next face compatriot S. Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian, who defeated Malaysia's Jun Hao Leong 21-14, 19-21, 21-16 in another opening round match.

However, it was curtains for K. Srikanth, who lost 19-21, 11-21 to compatriot Kiran George. George will next face eight seed Toma Junior Popov of France.

In women's singles, Shriyanshi Valishetty outsmarted third seed Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt of Denmark 21-19, 21-12, Rakshitha Santhosh Ramraj posted a 21-14, 21-16 win over Clara Azurmendi of Spain and Unnati Hooda got the better of Brazil's Juliana Viera 21-14, 21-13.

However, it was the end of the road for Anmol Kharb as she fought valiantly before losing 24-26, 21-23 to Julie Dawall Jakobsen of Denmark.

Other results (first round):
Women: Polina Buhrova bt Anupama Upadhyaya 21-15, 21-18; Neslihan Arin bt Aakarshi Kashyap 21-15, 21-15; Lin Huang Yi bt Tanya Hemanth 21-14, 21-13.

Archer's spell in vain as New Zealand clinches series

ENGLAND IN NZ

Agence France-Presse
HAMILTON

New Zealand defeated England by five wickets in the second ODI in Hamilton on Wednesday, with the return of Jofra Archer unable to ignite the visitors' full-throttle style of cricket.

The victory meant New Zealand clinched the three-match series with a game to spare after their four-wicket win in Mount Maunganui on Sunday.

England's batters flirted between reason and recklessness after New Zealand won the toss, with the visitors bowled out for 175 in just 36 overs.

Blair Tickner claimed four for 34 on his return to the Black Caps after being away for more than two years.

Harry Brook, who scored 135 in the first match, slashed a cut in the air to point off Mitchell Santner that was well taken by a diving Will Young.

Jamie Overton was the pick of England's batters with 42 off just 28 balls, followed by Brook's run-a-ball 34. England took hope from Archer's return who dismissed Young with the fourth ball of the innings and then troubled Kane Williamson and Rachin Ravindra with deliveries that seamed past both edges of the bat.

Williamson and Rachin shared a 42-run partnership before the former chopped on to his stumps for 21. Daryl Mitchell then arrived and combined for a 63-run partnership with Rachin, until he pulled Archer to backward square for 34.



Breakthrough: Rachin's partnerships with Kane Williamson and Daryl Mitchell helped in turning the innings around. AP

Archer gave England faint hope with the dismissal of Michael Bracewell, completing match figures of 3-23 from 10 overs that included four maidens.

Mitchell, coming off a commanding 78 n.o. in the first match, steered the New Zealand chase to finish on 86 n.o..

The scores:
England 175 in 36 overs (Harry Brook 34, Jamie Overton 42, Blair Tickner 4/34) lost to New Zealand 177/5 in 33.1 overs (Rachin Ravindra 54, Daryl Mitchell 38 n.o., Mitchell Santner 34 n.o., Jofra Archer 3/23).
Toss: NZ. **Port:** Tickner.

Oman in for Pakistan in FIH Men's Jr. WC

Press Trust of India
LAUSANNE

Oman will replace Pakistan in the FIH Men's Junior World after the latter withdrew from the tournament to be held in Chennai and Madurai from November 28 to December 10, the International Hockey Federation confirmed on Wednesday.

Oman joins as the next highest placed team in the continental championship – Junior Asia Cup 2024 – which was the qualifying tournament for the Junior World Cup.

It's DG NCC, Sonipat vs HHA in final

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Directorate General, NCC Haryana avenged its last year's defeat to defending champion Kiddy's Corner Higher Secondary School, Gwalior by a solitary goal to make the final of the Charanjit Rai 31st Nehru girls hockey at the Shivaji Stadium.

Hisar's Haryana Hockey Academy overcame Odisha Naval Tata Hockey Academy, Bhubaneswar 4-0 in the other semifinal.

The NCC team scored the match's lone goal through skipper Jasmine Dewal in the 17th minute and had its defenders Bhavya and Diya to thank for not allowing the Gwalior forwards any room to score.

In the other semifinal the Odisha girls were unable to match their Haryana counterparts' physical superiority of despite several chances to score early on.

The results (semifinals): HHA 4 (Radhika, Jyoti, Anika, Seema) bt DNTHA, Bhubaneswar 0.
DG NCC, Sonipat 1 (Jasmine Dewal 17) bt Kiddy's Corner, Gwalior 0.

FC Goa qualifies for semifinals after thrashing Inter Kashi

SUPER CUP

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
MARGAO



On a high: Goa players celebrate a well-deserved win. SUPERSPORTFOOTBALL

Borja Herrera netted a brace and Dejan Drazic scored another as defending AIFF Super Cup champion FC Goa qualified for this edition's semifinals, thrashing Inter Kashi 3-0 here on Wednesday.

Goa took just over three minutes to break the deadlock at the PJN Stadium when Drazic struck home from a Muhammed Nemil pass after Kashi's defender David Humanes slipped in his box.

The Gaurs doubled the lead after the half-hour ra on his left, who beat Kashi's goalkeeper Shubham Dhus on his near post on the volley.

As Kashi rumoured for Herrera struck again: David Timor floated in a long ball from the back, and the Spaniard headed it in.

Earlier, NorthEast Utd ly as it drew 2-2 with Jamshedpur FC at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim.

The Highlanders took the early lead, off Chema Nunez and Alaeddine Ajaraie, but Jamshedpur struck once in either half, off Pronay Halder and Raphael Messi Bouli, respectively, to end the contest all square.

However, Goa's win meant both sides - North-East United and Jamshedpur FC - are now out of the title race.

Juan Pedro Benali's men got the opening goal in the 20th minute when Nunez shot past Jamshedpur's keeper Albino Gomes after Jairo Samperio had rattled the woodwork with a

Nine minutes later, NorthEast United got the ball from back to front using five passes. Nunez then set up Ajaraie in the box, who scored with his first touch.

Jamshedpur's Japanese talisman, Rei Tachikawa, then inspired the comeback: Pronay heading his corner and Messi Bouli scoring off his diagonal long ball at the far post.

All four teams will end their group stage on November 1, with the final round's Group B matches now dead rubbers.

The results: FC Goa 3 (Drazic 4, Herrera 37, 42) bt Inter Kashi 0.
Jamshedpur FC 2 (Pronay 44, Messi Bouli 89) drew with NorthEast United 2 (Nunez 71, Ajaraie 90+2).

Yudhvir: a vital cog in Jammu & Kashmir's pace battery

In his last two matches against Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy, the 28-year-old from Jammu has accounted for batters like Rohit, Jaiswal, Shreyas and Rahane; having played for India-A against Australia-A in two 50-over games in Kanpur a few weeks ago, the speedster is aware that he is catching the attention of the national selectors

Vivek Krishnan

Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shreyas Iyer and Ajinkya Rahane are all batters with successful track records in international cricket. In his last two games against Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy, Jammu & Kashmir's Yudhvir Singh has accounted for all these batters.

The 28-year-old, athletic and broad-shouldered as is typical of his fast-bowling tribe, may not have experienced the bright lights of international cricket. But by dismissing players of proven pedigree in First Class cricket, Yudhvir is certainly exhibiting that he has the tools to make further strides.

In January this year, J&K came up against Mumbai at the Sharad Pawar Cricket Academy in Bandra in a proverbial David versus Goliath battle. While the 42-time champion had as many as six players with international experience in its midst, Paras Dogra's men were devoid of such high calibre. However, by the end, it were the J&K players who were rejoicing a five-wicket win – their second in a row over the domestic giant in India's principal First Class competition. Much of the credit for the victory could be attributed to Yudhvir – he took four wickets in the first innings and three in the second to finish with a match haul of seven for 95 and claim the player-of-the-match award.

In mid-October, in Srinagar's quaint but highly-guarded Sher E Kashmir Cricket Stadium, Yudhvir was Mumbai's nemesis with the ball once again. Never mind J&K not getting over the line on this occasion – it went down by a narrow margin of 35 runs on a nerve-wracking final day – Yudhvir played his part to a large degree in keeping the host in the contest until the dying stages by taking a five-for in the first innings to restrict Mumbai to 386. In the list of batters that he dismissed were Rahane, Ayush Mhatre, Shams Mulani, Tanush Kotian and Shardul Thakur.

The opening day of the Ranji encounter hadn't begun auspiciously for the fast bowler. In his first six deliveries, he had conceded 12 runs. But a change of ends and a word of encouragement from his teammates enabled Yudhvir to regain his poise and go about his work. In a short spun, he had the prodigiously talented Mhatre and the widely experienced Rahane in his kitty with deliveries that deviated off the pitch and took the outside edge.

"I just focus on my bowling. Sometimes, runs will be leaked. You shouldn't pay too much attention to that," Yudhvir threw light on his mindset in a chat during the Ranji fixture in Srinagar. "Even when runs are conceded, you should always think of coming back strongly. And when I got a second spell, I focused on putting the ball on one spot and being in rhythm. I did that and got wickets."

To get the better of Rahane, a man with 85 Test caps under his belt, pleased Yudhvir in particular. "My deliveries were moving well. And he had been beaten a couple of times. I just kept bowling the ball on that length. From there, it moved and took the edge," Yudhvir said with a gleeful smile.

India-A call-up

It is performances like these that have prompted the national selectors to promote Yudhvir into the India A set-up. A few weeks ago, Yudhvir, who has represented Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) and Rajasthan Royals (RR) in the Indian Premier League, played two 50-over matches for the Shreyas-led India A against Australia A in Kanpur. Though he scalped just one wicket and conceded 72 runs in 6.4 overs across the two outings, it offered a valuable learning experience. Apart from bowling to Australian internationals like Jake Fraser-McGurk and Cooper Connolly, there was also the perk of sharing a dressing room with the likes of Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana.

"India A was a very good experience. A few players had come in after playing the Asia Cup. There was a lot that I got to learn," he reflected. "Bowling to the Aussies and playing at a higher level, you are able to absorb a lot. And there are many to teach you as well. The coaches and senior players do come and share tips."

Greater attention on J&K

Yudhvir's rise has coincided with J&K's progress in the cricketing establishment. In September, Mithun Manhas, who was Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) after retiring as a player in 2017, was unanimously elected to the post of BCCI president at its 94th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Mumbai.

While performance remains paramount in India's highly competitive environment, Yudhvir finds motivation in knowing that his numbers are being noticed by the men who matter. When he was picked in the North Zone squad for the season-opening Duleep Trophy in August, he was one of five J&K players in the 15-member contingent. National selector Ajay Ratra was present for the fixture between J&K and Mumbai in Srinagar.

"Yes, absolutely," Yudhvir replied when asked whether the performances of J&K players are catching the eye more than ever before. "With Mithun sir's arrival, J&K cricket has changed a lot. Everyone is getting opportunities.

"We used to get it earlier as well, but we didn't get as many opportunities. Now, even the national selectors are coming to see us. Last season, S. Sharath was the selector who came to see the match against Services where I took eight wickets. Then there was the match against Mumbai. I did well in that as well. There has been a lot of backing from Mithun sir and the coaches. That is when a team does well. Earlier, if we didn't do well in one or two matches, there would be pressure and we would be out of the team. But the situation has changed for the better."

If not for Manhas, J&K may have actually lost Yudhvir to Hyderabad. While the six-feet tall quick represented the under-19 team of J&K, his Ranji Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy debuts came for the southern team in the 2019-20 season.

"I had gone to Hyderabad to give trials for the Army and get into the Services team. I bowled well there. There is regular league cricket in Hyderabad. I scored 368 runs and took 15 wickets in five matches," Yudhvir recounted. After that, I played for the Hyderabad under-23 side. Ambati Rayudu saw me there. He supported me. So, I ended up playing Ranji Trophy there. I played one season of Ranji and two seasons of T20 for Hyderabad."

But with Manhas keen to bolster the J&K outfit after taking charge, the Jammu lad was brought back home ahead of the 2022-23 season.

Yudhvir's prominence has been aided by the fact that he is part of an in-form pace attack also featuring the highly-promising Auqib Nabi and Umar Nazir. In J&K's run to the Ranji quarters last season, the trio fired collectively and shared 87 wickets. Nabi was also picked in North Zone's team for the Duleep Trophy this year and made headlines by claiming four scalps in four deliveries against East Zone in Bengaluru. In the recent game against Mumbai, Nabi snared a five-for as well before going on to claim a match haul of 10 for 53 in a crushing win against Rajasthan in the second round.

"See, last season as well, we all bowled collectively and backed each other," assessed Yudhvir. "Sometimes, someone might not get a wicket and not bowl that well. But we keep backing each other as a pace attack. That's how we operate. Even if somebody concedes runs in a spell, we are there to support him and tell him that he will come back well in the next spell."

Strike bowler

As a quick bowler who is around the 140 km/h mark consistently, Yudhvir's role in the team is to land frequent breakthroughs. "I should get wickets for the team. That is my mindset," he stated.

It is possible to do, as he has understood, only when the right length is consistently hit.

"I used to bowl short of good length. But by playing regularly in the Ranji Trophy, my length has improved," he observed. "I can now consistently hit the good-length area. Bowling in Ranji teaches you a lot. In white-ball cricket, you can alter your length. But with the red ball, you have to consistently bowl in one area to get wickets. It came into my game last year, and I got wickets as well."

If Yudhvir has come into his own only over the past year or so, it may be because of his relatively late start. Belonging to a region where state-of-the-art facilities and a pathway aren't readily available, he played cricket with a tennis ball without any thought of taking up the game seriously until his late teens.

"I was 19 when I started playing with the leather ball," he informed. "Before that, I played tennis-ball cricket for 2-3 years. My friends used to push me to give trials, but I kept doubting myself and kept thinking about how I'm going to get selected as I didn't know what was the right way to go about it. Coming from a middle-class family, my father wanted me to focus on my studies. But my sisters backed me, they used to keep telling my father to let me play."

Once he overcame his jitters and attended the trials, he was on the right track.

"First time I went to the trials, I got selected in the under-19 team. In my first match, I took five wickets against Mumbai. But I did not have any idea about how to pace myself. I bowled well, but got really tired as it was the first four-day match I was playing," he remembered. "I learnt a lot from that experience. Since then, I haven't turned



EMMANUEL YOGINI



THE GIST

- By dismissing players of proven pedigree in First Class cricket, Yudhvir is certainly exhibiting that he has the tools to make further strides
- The pacer has come into his own only over the past year or so and it may be because of his relatively late start. Belonging to a region where state-of-the-art facilities and a pathway aren't readily available, he played cricket with a tennis ball
- Yudhvir's prominence has been aided by the fact that he is part of an in-form pace attack also featuring the highly promising Auqib Nabi and Umar Nazir

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Nanometre 'tank' of helium reveals weird waves never seen before

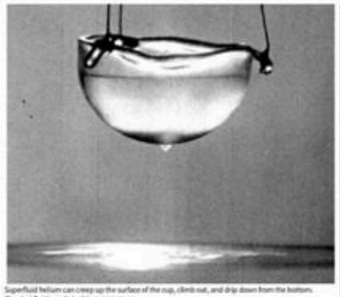
When cooled to just a few degrees above absolute zero, helium becomes a superfluid — it can flow without any friction or viscosity: this means an ultra-shallow film of superfluid helium, a few nanometres thick, can move freely without getting stuck — something impossible for any normal fluid

Vasudevan Mukunth

Imagine a tsunami, a colossal wave capable of traveling across entire oceans and causing immense destruction. Now, picture another special kind of wave, known as a soliton. Unlike a regular wave that spreads out and loses energy, a soliton is a solitary wave that holds its shape and speed over incredibly long distances. These powerful and mysterious waves are examples of what scientists call nonlinear wave dynamics. Understanding them is crucial for everything from predicting natural disasters to designing better communications systems.

For decades, scientists have studied these waves in enormous, hundred-metre-long water tanks called wave flumes. By generating waves in these controlled environments, they can observe how they behave.

However, even the biggest and most advanced wave flumes have a major limitation: they can't replicate the extreme conditions that create the most powerful nonlinear waves found in nature, like the sheer force of a tsunami or the intensity of the world's most extreme tides. "Nonlinear" here means the wave's behaviour doesn't scale in a simple, proportionate way. Instead, small changes in conditions can produce disproportionately large or unpredictable effects. The physics behind these waves is very complex, and reaching the level of nonlinearity seen in nature has been impossible to achieve in a lab.



Superfluid helium can creep up the surface of the cup, climb out, and drip down from the bottom. Classical fluids can't do this. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Incredible properties

This is the challenge a team of researchers from the University of Queensland in Australia set out to surmount. But instead of going even bigger, they went much smaller.

They created a wave flume on a microscopic chip and used a unique kind of fluid to generate waves more powerful (relative to their size) than anything ever seen on the earth. Their goal was to create a platform to study the full range of nonlinear wave behaviour in a controlled, miniature environment.

"The study of how fluids move has fascinated scientists for centuries because hydrodynamics governs everything from ocean waves and the swirl of hurricanes to the flow of blood and air through our bodies," study coauthor and ARC Future Fellow Christopher Baker said in a statement. "But a lot of the physics behind waves and turbulence has been a mystery."

The findings were published in *Science* on October 23.

When cooled to just a few degrees above absolute zero, helium becomes a superfluid – a unique quantum state of matter with incredible properties. Most importantly in this context, it can flow without any friction or viscosity. This means an ultra-shallow film of superfluid helium just a few nanometres thick can move freely without getting stuck. This is impossible for any normal fluid.

The team fabricated a silicon beam about the width of a human hair on a chip. When cooled, a 6.7-nm deep film of superfluid helium-4 naturally coat this beam, creating a perfect wave channel.

Lilliputian paddles

The next challenge was to make waves in such a small system and see them. At one end of the silicon beam, the team built a photonic crystal cavity – a structure with nanometre-wide holes that trapped light. When the researchers shone a laser into this cavity, it heated the superfluid helium slightly.

Superfluid helium has another strange property: it flows towards rather than away from heat, a phenomenon called the fountain effect. By rapidly changing the laser's intensity, they could create pulses of heat that pushed the superfluid, like a Lilliputian light-powered paddle.

Second, the height of the helium film affected the light trapped in the cavity. As a wave passed by, raising or lowering the fluid's surface, it slightly changed the light's frequency. By monitoring the light coming out of the cavity, the researchers could precisely measure the shape and height of the waves in real-time in a very sensitive way. Thus, this all-optical system allowed the team to both generate powerful waves and observe their behaviour on a microscopic scale.

With their chip-scale wave flume up and running, the researchers were able to observe a whole host of nonlinear phenomena that had previously been stuck on paper.

One of the first things they observed was backward steepening. In a normal water wave, the crest moves faster than the trough, causing the wave to lean forward and eventually break.

In the superfluid, they saw the exact opposite. The troughs moved faster than the crests, causing the wave to lean backwards before breaking. This strange behaviour had been predicted for superfluid helium decades ago but had never been directly observed.

Solitary waves

Second, by cranking up the power of their laser paddle, they generated even more extreme waves and witnessed the formation of near-instantaneous shock fronts: where the wave's leading edge becomes almost vertical. And then, they saw something even more spectacular: soliton fission. The powerful initial wave, instead of just breaking, split apart into a train of smaller, perfectly formed solitary waves, or solitons. The team was able to generate a train of up to 12 of these solitons from a single wave pulse.

Intriguingly, these solitons weren't like those we normally see in water, which are peaks that rise above the surface. These were hot solitons – propagating as depressions or troughs below the average fluid depth. Read that again: below the average fluid depth. They're called hot solitons because their troughs are slightly warmer than the surrounding superfluid. This remarkable observation confirmed another long-standing prediction about superfluid dynamics.

> The study of how fluids move has fascinated scientists for centuries because hydrodynamics governs everything from ocean waves and the swirl of hurricanes to the flow of blood and air through our bodies
>
> CHRISTOPHER BAKER
> ARC FUTURE FELLOW

"Using laser light to both drive and measure the waves in our system, we have observed a range of striking phenomena," said Dr. Baker. "We saw waves that leaned backward instead of forward, shock fronts, and solitary waves known as solitons which travelled as depressions rather than peaks. This exotic behaviour has been predicted in theory but never seen before."

Macroscopic to microscopic

Using a microscopic platform to study waves evidently had several advantages. First, the experiments played out much faster. Phenomena that would take hours to observe in a giant water tank unfolded in just milliseconds, allowing scientists to collect vast amounts of data quickly.

Of course, one question is pertinent here: can we be sure that what happens at the macroscopic scale is/will be exactly replicated at the microscopic scale, with the same forces and phenomena at play?

The short answer is 'no', we can't assume that what happens at the macroscopic scale is exactly replicated at the microscopic scale – but this doesn't mean the study's findings aren't applicable to the waves we see in water bodies.

At the macroscopic scale, say, in a 100-m flume, gravity and inertia dominate whereas at nanometric scales, like the 6.7-nm helium films in the study, gravity becomes negligible; instead, van der Waals forces and surface tension dominate. So although both systems can be modelled by shallow-water hydrodynamics, the effective gravitational acceleration is replaced by a van der Waals term in the corresponding equation – in this case, the Korteweg-De Vries (KdV) equation. However, the equation's form itself doesn't change.

Put another way, both microscopic and macroscopic waves are governed by the same mechanics; it's just that the physical constants are different and the equation has different terms that dominate.

One of these constants is the Ursell number, which dictates how hydrodynamic behaviour scales nonlinearly with depth and amplitude. This is why shrinking a system by a factor of a million doesn't linearly scale its dynamics. Instead, the system is 'pushed' into an entirely different regime.

Second, at the microscale, the helium film is a quantum fluid, not a classical substance. Its viscosity vanishes, heat flow drives its motion (via the fountain effect), and strange phases of matter like quantised vortices become possible. None of these exist in classical macroscopic fluids. Similarly, the crystal cavities also modify how waves disperse, producing wave behaviour that's impossible in natural flumes.

However, researchers aren't claiming their experiment reproduces the exact same physical forces as in a macroscopic water flume but that their waves-on-a-chip setup obeys the same (KdV) hydrodynamic equation in form.

Specifically, what allows them to compare the superfluid flumes and a real oceanic flume isn't identical forces –which don't exist – but the mathematical equivalence of the governing equation.

In the study, the team worked under limiting conditions where the fluid's depth is low, also known as the shallow-water limit. In this regime, the dynamics governing the waves depend on three dimensionless parameters: the Ursell number, the aspect ratio (ratio of depth to length), and the dispersion coefficients in the KdV equation. If two systems share the same three forms of these parameters, then, even if one involves gravity and the other involves van der Waals forces, their wave evolution should be dynamically similar.

Put another way, the chip experiment wasn't meant to reproduce a tsunami in miniature but to reproduce the same mathematics of nonlinear wave evolution. And in the paper, the researchers described three things they did to prove they did so in a correct way.

First, they used a custom Euler solver, which is a full hydrodynamic model with nonlinear behaviour due to van der Waals forces, and the KdV equation to model the experiment and found that it could do so correctly.

Second, they plotted the Ursell number in their microscopic experiment and found that it curved up to cross a value of 100 million. Thus they could conclude that their experiment was hydrodynamically equivalent to, or exceeded, what they might have seen in a large flume.

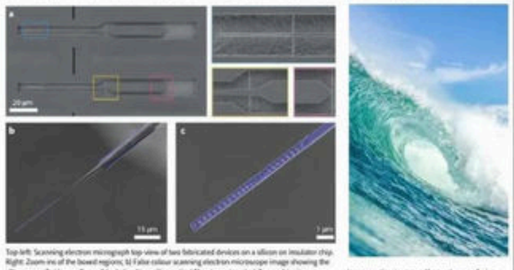
Third, they observed wave steepening, shock-front formation, and soliton fission – which is the very sequence of formations that the theory predicts for waves of large amplitude in shallow water.

Finally, overall, the authors of the new study have been careful not to say "we've shrunk the ocean onto a chip." Instead their paper repeatedly emphasises the differences between the two scales: that gravity is replaced by van der Waals acceleration, that dispersion is engineered using light (rather than naturally), and that the fluid is a superfluid with zero viscosity.

Toolkit to explore

The second advantage was that the system was very easy to control. The researchers could finely tune the waves' properties by adjusting the laser power and the thickness of the superfluid film. They could also modify the chip's design to create different channel shapes or place obstacles in the waves' way, providing a toolkit to explore complex fluidic phenomena.

Finally, according to the study paper, the work also pushes the boundaries of optomechanics – the study of how light and mechanical motion interact. The extreme nonlinearities observed go beyond the gentle perturbations typically studied in this field, opening a new regime of nonlinear dynamics.



Top left: Scanning electron micrograph top view of two fabricated devices on a silicon on insulator chip. Right: Zoom-ins of the boxed regions. b) False-colour scanning electron microscope image showing the silicon superfluid wave flume (blue) glued to a silica optical fibre taper (grey). c) Zoomed-in view showing the silicon photonic crystal cavity at the end of the device. The silicon waveguide is around 500 nm wide. DOI: 10.1126/SCIENCE.ADX8306

In a normal water wave, the crest moves faster than the trough, causing the wave to lean forward and eventually break. In the superfluid, they saw the exact opposite. The troughs moved faster than the crests, causing the wave to lean backwards before breaking. This strange behaviour had been predicted for superfluid helium decades ago but had never been directly observed. DOI: 10.1126/SCIENCE.ADX8306



A street in Santiago de Cuba before Hurricane Melissa made landfall on October 28. AFP

Hurricane Melissa a 'beast' among a string of monster Atlantic storms

Agence France Presse

Hurricane Melissa, which struck Jamaica with record-tying 296 kmph winds on October 28, was a beast that stood out as extreme even in a record number of monster storms spawned over the last decade in a superheated Atlantic Ocean.

While more storms these days are undergoing rapid intensification – gaining 356 kmph in wind speed over 24 hours – Melissa did a lot more than that. It achieved what's called extreme rapid intensification – gaining at least 92 kmph over 24 hours. In fact, Melissa turbocharged by about 112 kmph during a 24-hour period last week and had an unusual second round of rapid intensification that spun it up to 280 kmph, scientists said.

"It's been ... just a beast of a storm," Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach said.

When Melissa came ashore it tied strength records for Atlantic hurricanes making landfall, both in wind speed and barometric pressure, which is a key measurement that meteorologists use, said Mr. Klotzbach and University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy. The pressure measurement tied the deadly 1935 Labour Day storm in Florida, while the 296 kmph wind speed equalled marks set that year and during 2019's Hurricane Dorian. Hurricane Allen reached 304 kmph winds in 1980, but not at landfall.

Melissa turbocharged by 112 kmph in 24-hours last week and had an unusual second round of rapid intensification that spun it up to 280 kmph

Usually when major hurricanes brew, they get so strong that the wind twirling in the centre of the storm gets so intense and warm in places that the eyewall needs to grow, so a small one collapses and a bigger one forms. That's called an eyewall replacement cycle, Mr. McNoldy said, and it usually weakens the storm at least temporarily.

Melissa showed some signs of being ready to do this, but it never did, Mr. McNoldy and Klotzbach said.

Another weird thing is that Melissa sat offshore of mountainous Jamaica for a while before coming inland. Usually mountains, even on islands, tear up storms, but not Melissa.

"It was next to a big mountainous island, and it doesn't even notice it's there," Mr. McNoldy said in amazement.

Warm water is the fuel for hurricanes. The hotter and deeper the water, the more a storm can power up. But when storms sit over one area for a while – which Melissa did for days on end – it usually brings cold water up from the depths, choking off the fuel a bit. But that didn't happen to Melissa, said Bernadette Woods Placky, chief meteorologist for Climate Central, a combination of scientists and journalists who study climate change.

"It's wild how almost easily this was allowed to just keep venting," Ms. Placky said. "This had enough warm water at such high levels and it just kept going."

Melissa rapidly intensified during five six-hour periods as it hit the extreme rapid intensification level, Mr. McNoldy said. And then it jumped another 56 kmph, and "that's extraordinary," he said.

For meteorologists following it, "just your stomach would sink as you'd see these updates coming in," Ms. Placky said.

"We were sitting at work on Monday morning with our team, and you just saw the numbers just start jumping again, DS. And then again this morning (Tuesday), BIS," Ms. Placky said.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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Current Affairs

30/10/2025

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Explained | ISRO to launch CMS-03 on Nov 2. All you need to know about India's heaviest communication satellite

CMS-03 is a multi-band military communication satellite that will provide services over a wide oceanic region

DH Web Desk

Last Updated : 29 October 2025, 16:10 IST

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India's heaviest communication satellite, CMS-03, is scheduled to be launched on November 2 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The CMS-03 is a multi-band military communication satellite, also known as GSAT-7R, and will be launched aboard the Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3), the country's most powerful rocket.

CMS-03, weighing about 4,400kg, will be the heaviest communication satellite to be launched to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)

communication satellite CMS-03 is scheduled to take off from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, on Sunday, November 2, 2025.

LVM3- Specialities of cms-03's launch vehicle -

The LVM3 rocket is India's heaviest launch vehicle and can carry up to 4,000 kg to space.
It has successfully launched missions like Chandrayaan-3 to the moon, which made India the first country to land successfully near the lunar south pole.

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•**Wide Coverage:** Provides secure communication coverage over the **entire Indian Ocean Region**, extending to the Eastern coast of Africa and Southeast Asia.

•**Heaviest Indian Communication Satellite:** Weighing ~4,400 kg, it is the largest ISRO-built satellite launched to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) from Indian soil.

•**Advanced Encryption:** Features anti-jamming, frequency hopping, and encrypted data links for secure military operations.

•**Launch Vehicle:** Deployed via LVM-3, India's most powerful operational launch vehicle, previously used in the Chandrayaan-3 mission (2023).

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (इसरो) नवंबर में श्रीहरिकोटा से प्रक्षेपण यान मार्क-3 (एलवीएम-3)के जरिए सीएमएस-03 (जीसैट-7आर) संचार उपग्रह को प्रक्षेपित करने के लिए तैयार है।

जीसैट-7आर, जिसे सीएमएस-03 भी कहा जाता है, इसरो द्वारा विकसित एक अगली पीढ़ी का सैन्य संचार उपग्रह है जो पुराने जीसैट-7ए का स्थान लेगा। यह भारतीय नौसेना, वायु सेना और थल सेना के लिए मज़बूत, एन्क्रिप्टेड और लंबी दूरी के संचार संपर्क सुनिश्चित करता है।

विस्तृत कवरेज: यह पूरे हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र में सुरक्षित संचार कवरेज प्रदान करता है, जो अफ्रीका के पूर्वी तट और दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया तक फैला हुआ है ।

सबसे भारी भारतीय संचार उपग्रह: ~4,400 किलोग्राम वजन वाला यह उपग्रह भारतीय धरती से भू-समकालिक स्थानांतरण कक्षा (जीटीओ) में प्रक्षेपित किया गया इसरो द्वारा निर्मित सबसे बड़ा उपग्रह है।

प्रक्षेपण यान: एलवीएम-3 के माध्यम से तैनात किया गया, जो भारत का सबसे शक्तिशाली परिचालन प्रक्षेपण यान है, जिसका उपयोग पहले चंद्रयान-3 मिशन (2023) में किया गया था।

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Chef Sanjeev Kapoor Named Top Agri-Food Pioneer by World Food Prize Foundation

Chef Sanjeev Kapoor earns World Food Prize recognition.

By **Bhishnu Pratap** Mon, 27 Oct 2025 11:42:06 IST



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In October 2025, celebrated chef, author, and Padma Shri awardee **Sanjeev Surendra Kapoor** was honoured as one of the **2025 "Top Agri-Food Pioneers (TAP)"** by the World Food Prize Foundation (**WFPF**)

अक्टूबर 2025 में, प्रसिद्ध शेफ, लेखक और पद्म श्री पुरस्कार विजेता **संजीव सुरेंद्र कपूर को** संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका (यूएसए) के लोवा में डेस मोइनेस में 21-23 अक्टूबर, 2025 को आयोजित नॉर्मन ई. बोरलॉग अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वार्ता के दौरान विश्व खाद्य पुरस्कार फाउंडेशन (**डब्ल्यूएफपीएफ**) द्वारा 2025 के " **शीर्ष कृषि-खाद्य अग्रदूतों (टीएपी) " में से एक के रूप में सम्मानित किया गया।**

Brazilian microbiologist **Mariangela Hungria** has been awarded the **World Food Prize 2025**

World Food Prize:

It was founded in **1986** by **Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug,** is a top global award recognizing contributions in **improving food quantity, quality** and **accessibility** and **agriculture**.

It awards **USD 500,000 annually** to innovators in **agriculture, nutrition, food technology, and hunger alleviation.**

The first recipient was **India's M.S. Swaminathan (1987),** father of **Indian green revolution.**

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Fiji becomes the 26th country to eliminate trachoma as a public health problem

20 October 2025 | News release | Suva/Manila/Geneva |Reading time: 3 min (700 words)

In a landmark public health achievement, Fiji has been validated by the World Health Organization (WHO) for eliminating trachoma as a public health problem. Trachoma, a neglected tropical disease (NTD) and the world's leading infectious cause of blindness, no longer poses a public health threat in the country.

Trachoma is the first NTD to be eliminated in Fiji. Fiji is the 26th country to eliminate trachoma as a public health problem and the 58th country globally to eliminate at least one NTD.

"WHO congratulates Fiji and its network of global and local partners on reaching this milestone," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "Future generations of Fijians have been given a precious gift in being set free from the suffering that trachoma has inflicted on their ancestors."

Trachoma is caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis* and spreads through personal contact, interactions with contaminated surfaces and on flies that have been in

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Fiji is the 26th country to eliminate trachoma as a public health problem

Trachoma is caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*

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India To Conduct Tri-Services Exercise 'Ex Trishul' Along Pakistan Border From Oct 30

India's tri-services exercise 'Ex Trishul' will test joint operations across diverse terrains and the armed forces' readiness along the Pak border.

NDTV Profit News

25 Oct 2025, 04:16 PM IST

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India has launched the large-scale tri-service exercise ‘Trishul’ along the western border with Pakistan

The exercise is scheduled from 30th October to 10th November 2025 and involves large-scale participation from the Army, Navy, and Air Force and aims to enhance operational readiness, joint coordination, and multi-domain warfare capabilities.

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D Gukesh, Divya Deshmukh clinch double gold at European Chess Club Cup

By HT Sports Desk

Updated on: Oct 26, 2025 05:19 pm IST

D Gukesh won gold on the top board and in the women's section, Divya Deshmukh clinched gold on the second board.



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Indian chess grandmasters D Gukesh and Divya Deshmukh captured individual gold medals at the European Chess Club Cup 2025, providing a timely confidence boost ahead of the Chess World Cup in Goa

About FIDE

FIDE, the International Chess Federation, governs the sport of chess worldwide.
Members: 201 countries national chess federations.
Headquarters: **Lausanne, Switzerland**
President: **Arkady Dvorkovich**

•The **APEC Summit 2025** will be hosted by **Gyeongju, South Korea**, with the theme "Building a Sustainable Future."

About APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation)

Established: 1989
Headquarters: Singapore
Members: 21 economies, including the USA, China, Japan, Australia, Canada, and South Korea — together accounting for 60% of global GDP and 47% of global trade.

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Honshu
Kyushu
Shenyang
Anshan
Changchun
Hunchun
Chongjin
Najin
Kimchaek
Sinuiju
Wonsan
Pyongyang
Chuncheon
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BRUNEI
MALAYSIA
SINGAPORE
INDONESIA
INDIAN OCEAN
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
EAST TIMOR (TIMOR-LESTE)
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300
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Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Scheme

What is the PM-SHRI Scheme?

- **About:** The **PM-SHRI Scheme**, launched in 2022, is a **centrally sponsored initiative** aimed at upgrading over **14,500 existing schools** to serve as model institutions showcasing the implementation of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
    - The scheme runs from **2022–23 to 2026–27**, after which the responsibility for maintenance lies with the respective states and UTs.
- **Key Features of PM-SHRI Schools**
    - Modern, well-equipped **Smart Classrooms, Computer Labs, Integrated Science Labs, and Atal Tinkering Labs**.
    - Focus on **competency-based learning** and **real-life application** of knowledge.
    - Promotion of **green initiatives** such as water conservation, solar energy use, and waste recycling.
    - Experiential, inquiry-driven, and learner-centred pedagogy.
- **Funding Pattern:**
    - **General States/UTs with legislature:** 60:40 (Centre: State/UT)
    - **Northeastern and Himalayan States, J&K:** 90:10
    - **UTs without legislature:** 100% Central funding

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