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LIFE AND DEATH

The war Palestinians cannot escape from

With over 2.5% of its pre-war population killed and nearly all displaced, Israel's war has left Gaza starving and in ruins

PROFILES» PAGE 13

Android phones show efficiency in earthquake alerts

SCIENCE » PAGE 11

What makes NASA-ISRO NISAR satellite special?

FAQ » PAGE 12

Stokes hits century before Rahul and Gill fight back for India

SPORT » PAGE 15

Modi, Muizzu signal major reset in bilateral relations

PM highlights support for 'time-tested' friendship between India and the Maldives; President of island nation stresses territorial safeguards, but acknowledges foreign support in key sectors

Meera Srinivasan
MALE

India is looking forward to deepening its ties with the Maldives across multiple sectors, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, highlighting the "bipartisan support" within the island nation for the "strong and time-tested" friendship.

Mr. Modi, who was in the Maldives on a two-day state visit, held talks with top Maldivian leaders across the political spectrum, including Vice-President Uz. Hussain Mohamed Latheef, parliamentary Speaker Abdul Raheem Abdulla, former President Mohamed Nasheed, and key members of the Opposition. He also attended the island nation's 60th Independence Day event at the Republic Square in its capital, Male.

Mr. Modi's visit marks a major reset in bilateral ties that had soured after Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu came to power in 2023, campaigning mostly on an 'India [military] out' plank.

While "every square inch" of Maldivian territory will be safeguarded by its citizens, the country needs other nations for "certain resources and technical expertise", Mr. Muizzu said on Saturday, appearing to be alluding to the country's revived partnership with India in key sectors. He was addressing the Maldives National Defence Force and the Maldives Police Service on the country's Independence Day, seeking to balance the Maldives's sovereignty with its need for external support, especially to cope with economic pressures.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

Guest of honour: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu on his left during the 60th Independence Day celebrations of the Maldives in Male on Saturday. PTI

2 held in Bihar over rape of police aspirant in ambulance

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

An ambulance driver and a technician were arrested on Friday for raping a Bihar Military Police aspirant in an ambulance in Bodh Gaya.

The woman, who had fainted during the recruitment's physical test on Thursday, alleged that she was gang-raped by three to four persons on her way to a hospital.

She said she became aware of the sexual assault after regaining consciousness. The woman is undergoing treatment at a hospital.

Police said Vinay Kumar, the driver, and Ajit Kumar were arrested within two hours after the complaint was filed.

A Special Investigation Team was formed after the FIR was registered, Senior Superintendent of Police, Gaya, Anand Kumar told presspersons. "The team monitored CCTV footage and other technical surveillance. Investigation is on," he said.

I feel sorry to be backing Bihar govt., says Chirag Paswan

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

In the wake of the gang-rape of a Bihar Military Police aspirant in Bodh Gaya on Thursday, and the recent spate of violent crimes in the State ahead of the Assembly election due in October-November, Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan on Saturday said the situation in the State "was scary" and that he was sorry for supporting the Nitish Kumar-led government.

"I feel sorry to be supporting the government in Bihar, which is failing on the law and order front like this," he said.

"The administration has totally bowed down before criminals. This incident [the gang-rape in Bodh Gaya] deserves condemnation, but why are such incidents happening? There is a series of crimes, and if it continues like this, the situation will become frightening or is already so," Mr. Paswan said, adding "crime has become uncontrolled" in Bihar.

Chirag Paswan

The Hajipur MP accused the government led by the Janata Dal(U), a member of the National Democratic Alliance, of "either trying to hush up the situation or being unable to handle it any more". "If it is said that this is happening because of election, I can say it might possibly be so, and it might be a conspiracy to defame the government, even then, it's the responsibility of the administration to control it. How are criminals getting away, " he asked.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

NEARBY

State's financial stress has worsened: Jagan

VIJAYAWADA
The government's fiscal stress has worsened in the first quarter of FY 2025- 26 as per the monthly key indicators released by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, says YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. » Page 4

RAPPORT
SHOES . ACCESSORIES
VIJAYAWADA - GUNTUR
M.G.ROAD - LAKSHMIPURAM

Shipbuilding cluster likely in Tirupati district

VIJAYAWADA
Andhra Pradesh will have a shipbuilding cluster at Dugarajapatnam in Tirupati district. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to make an announcement of the project in August. It will be one of the three clusters proposed in India. » Page 4

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 2
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Bihar SIR to restore trust in poll rolls: EC

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Defending its decision to conduct a special intensive revision (SIR) of Bihar's electoral rolls in the Supreme Court, the Election Commission of India (EC) has pointed to the numerous complaints made by political parties about the inaccuracy of voter lists.

"[I]n response, and to restore public confidence in the integrity of the electoral roll, the Commission has initiated the SIR," it told the court in a counter-affidavit filed on July 21.

The Commission even submitted copies of these complaints in an annexure to the affidavit, running into 625 pages.

On Monday, the Supreme Court will hear petitions filed by Opposition parties and activists challenging the SIR. The first phase of the process ended on Friday, with around 66 lakh names potentially being struck off the State's draft electoral roll.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

Maoist couple and 13 other cadre surrender

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

CPI (Maoist) East Bastar divisional committee in-charge and State zonal committee member (SZCM) Jorige Nagaraju, alias Kamalesh, and his wife and divisional committee member Medaka Jyoteeswari, alias Aruna, surrendered before Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta here on Saturday.

Mr. Nagaraju, a native of Poranki village in Krishna district, had served in various cadres in the banned outfit for 34 years and carried a reward of ₹20 lakh on his head. Ms., Aruna, who hailed from Kappaladoddi village in Krishna district, had been associated with the banned outfit for 30 years. "The government had announced a reward of ₹5 lakh on her head," Mr. Harish Kumar Gupta told the media.

DGP Harish Kumar Gupta handing over a cheque to J. Nagaraju and his wife Aruna, in Vijayawada on Saturday. G.N. RAO

Mr. Nagaraju, while pursuing his ITI course, had joined the Radical Students' Union (RSU) in 1991 and then People's War Group (PWG). He had worked as an assistant and a courier to the party central committee member, Akkiraju Haragopal, alias RK. He had worked in the Dachepalli and Bollapalli dalams of Guntur divisional committee, Krishnapatti dalam, Dandakaranya area, and North Bastar divisional committee.

He was allegedly involved in several cases and Exchanges of Fire in Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. He had allegedly killed a police constable and played a key role in the attack on the Addanki police station. In 1997, he had married Aruna while she was working as member of the Chandravanka dalam in Guntur divisional committee.

The DGP said the Ms. Aruna had studied up to Class 10 at Pedana in Krishna district and joined the Maoist party. She had worked in the Bellamkonda, Dachepalli, and Rachakonda dalams and was elevated to the divisional committee member and transferred to Bastar.

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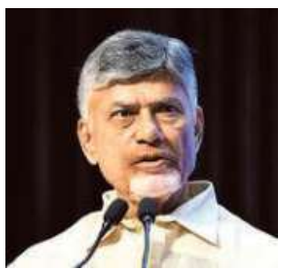
» PAGE 4



N. Chandrababu Naidu

Busy schedule awaits Naidu and his team in Singapore

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

A high-level delegation of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, is set to leave for Singapore from Hyderabad Saturday night.

The five-day tour is aimed at promoting the State's policies and attracting investments.

On the first day of the tour, Mr. Naidu will attend a South-East Asia Telugu Diaspora programme being organised by the Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Telugu Society at the OASIS Auditorium, in which Telugu industrialists, business leaders, investors, and professionals from various countries, including Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand, are expected to participate.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

'Reports on officials, religion land journalists in trouble'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Reporting on public officials, religious matters, and protests were the three most common reasons for which a journalist in India faced criminal charges, a study, co-authored by the National Law University (NLU), Delhi, has found.

The study said that journalists from small cities and towns, or those who reported for local publications, in Hindi or other regional languages, were most impacted, and their cases often did not receive national or international media attention.

The other two authors of the report are Trial-Watch, an initiative of the Clooney Foundation for Justice, and Human Rights Institute at Columbia Law School.

Reported charges

A study finds that a journalist's encounters with the justice system varied by location

- 24% of incidents recorded in metropolises resulted in arrest of journalists, while the number rose to 58% in small cities/towns
- 65% of the incidents in big cities saw journalists get interim protection from arrest, but the figure dropped to 3% in smaller towns

United voices: Presspersons protest against arrest of journalists in Mumbai. FILE PHOTO

- At least 40% of the journalists covered in the dataset were arrested

Detailed numbers

The report, "Pressing charges: a study of criminal cases against journalists across States in India", was based on an analysis of 423 criminal cases registered against 427 journalists covering a total of 624 incidents of "criminalisation of journalists" in relation to their work from 2012 to 2022. At least 40% of the journalists covered in the dataset were arrested, the study found.

"Our dataset revealed that reporting on public officials was the most common reason journalists faced charges, the basis for charges in 147 incidents. The second most common reason was for reporting on religious matters – 99 times, while the third most common was reporting on protests – 79 times," the report said. Significantly, in over 100 incidents, the charges related to the reporters' alleged conduct while reporting, instead of what they were reporting on, the report showed.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

Two DSPs killed in TG road accident

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Two Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) from Andhra Pradesh - Chakradhar Rao and H. Santha Rao - were killed and two others suffered injuries in a road accident in Yadadri district in Telangana in the early hours of Saturday. The injured were identified as Additional SP Prasad and driver R. Narsinga Raju. They were admitted to a hospital, and their condition was said to be critical.

The mangled remains of the vehicle that met with a road accident in Telangana.

The deceased were attached to the Intelligence Security Wing and Special Security Group.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

Classifieds

thehinduads.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

BUSINESS

Hindu girl only daughter Very rich 28 yrs Divorcee. Boy should be from Rich Hindu Upper Class Family or from elite services. Divorcee, widower (without child) or first marriage. Age below 33. Preferable from Chennai and around. Send all details to email ajaypj143@gmail.com, No Brokers.

COSMOPOLITAN

WANTED ELIGIBLE bridegroom for thirty eight year old Protestant Christian divorcee, Central Government, employed in Bangalore. Please contact: 9945783763

POST GRADUATE Doctor, Pulmonary, RC Christian, Nadar, Non religious, fair, slim, April 1994, Doctor, Engineer, Business man, elite groom from any backward or forward communities. Contact 9444366088

ATTRACTIVE, FAMILY–ORIENTED architect 27, 168cm, affluent, open–minded S. Indian family. Seeking accomplished, compatible groom. Community no bar. Call/WhatsApp 9345634365.

SINGAPORE EMPLOYED Tamil Iyer girl 1990 born, engineer seeks grooms from Singapore, Europe and Australia. Caste no bar Contact 9846823231. Hindus only

DIVORCEE

SC AD 33/B.E., [ECE] Govt.Job [Manager – Canara Bank] Rs.1 lakh p.m. Fair/Seeks Bridegroom. Ph:7397674481

DOCTOR

CHRISTIAN –27 Fair Female, Dr. MBBS, Optician. Gods Fear Groom Dr. Chennai ,Blr Or Any Dist. 7358 638363

REDDY 34/165CM MBBS, MS Seeks Suitable Groom from Chennai / Dubai / Singapore CNB 8925640111

SURGEON BC 27,174 cm, Good Looking, Seeks Suitable Doctors. Contact :7200365364

FAIR, SMART, Pretty, cultured, homely Doctor Girl, 35/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist Reputed Hospital, Chennai from affluent family of Doctors, Father Cardiac Surgeon from Kerala based in Chennai. Mother from Tamilnadu. Looking for PG Doctor & Engineer grooms from good families.98400 50381 / 98409 85383

HINDU Vannar (MBC) 28 yrs Girl MBBS MD Radiology UPSC [CHS] passed, Seeks DR's Groom. CNB BC/MBC preferable. Ct: 9003796291.

HINDI

BRAHMIN GIRL 1996 / 173cm, BA-LLB, Company Secretary, Working in Mumbai, Known Business Family of Nagpur, MH. All Hindi Speaking Brahmins Accepted, Preference to Metro Cities. Contact: 9371490165

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

LOOKING GROOMS
For daughters
(32/157 & 34/156) both M.Tech.,
Examiners of Patents & Designs, Level-10, Gr. 'A' Gazetted Officers, Central Civil Services, IP Office, Delhi, Govt. of India
Brother: Doing Ph.D. in USA
Mother: Medical Officer (Expired)
Father: Former Joint Registrar Trade Marks, Govt. of India
R/o Moradabad, U.P. (now at Delhi)
Caste: Rathore (Teli), OBC
Preferable:
Group 'A' Gazetted Officers in IP Office/ Central Civil Services
CASTE : NO BAR
No dowry, Simple marriage
Share profile with recent photo:
rathorebc@hotmail.com
Call/W'App : 8130408940

KANNADA

HINDU VOKKALIGA Gowda 30, BE from Coimbatore seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 97917 68175.

MALAYALAM

AFFLUENT MALAYALEE Nair girl 28/Sep'96, 155, Karthika, CA(UK), employed in UAE, seeks alliance from professionally qualified (PG) and well settled Nair boys employed in India or abroad. Please Whatsapp +971504947205

WARM, BEAUTIFUL 35, 157cm, well–educated (MS), US–based professional. Seeks kind, compatible, sorted groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365

GROOM WANTED
Keralite Nair Doctor MBBS, MS serving in Indian Airforce, born in June 1993,160 cm is looking for alliances from forward communities especially doctors, engineers, officers, scientists and professors, ideally those in defence, central government and civil services.
CONTACT : 9497855381

MARATHI

V. Bhavna Harithsa, 25, Anusham, Harithsa Gothram, Madhwa Desistha, Thanjavur Marathi speaking,BE comp science, working Bangalore,25 LPA, Bangalore based working Marathi speaking Groom preferred Contact +91 7868815488, 7825847444

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN GIRL 35 years engineer working in MNC as an executive well settled at chennai wanted working engineer bridegroom not married below 40 years from a decent christian family–cont 9445931257

SEEKING NEVER Married Tamil/ Telugu Bridegroom age 42–45 for a Software Engineer Girl, 42. Ct:9962956416

✔ TAMIL MUSLIM girl 38 yrs, Engineer, seeks for Tamil Muslim employed, never married Groom. 9444235779

TAMIL

CSI TAMIL M.Sc., M.Phil., 35/149, Asst.Prof. Pvt. Seeks Groom, FC/BC, below 39 yrs. Ct: 98946-77892.

CHRISTIAN, SC, Age 26, B.E completed, looking for an educated groom. Contact 8138900553

CHRISTIAN, RC, Age 30, B.E, MS, Project manager at MNC, PA 30 Lakhs. Contact 8138901383

MUSLIM 27 studying MD 1st yr seeks suitable boy Chennai. SMS 9444721694

CHRISTIAN, CATHOLIC, age 31, MD studied settled at USA, well settled family. Ct 8138900498.

CHRISTIAN, NADAR, Age 34, Divorced, MA completed, ready to relocate. Ct 8138901383.

CHRISTIAN, RC, age 29, B.Arch, Architect, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138900523.

RC, PIOUS, Wheatish, 29y/163cm, B.Sc.(Bio–Che), DMLT, wanted liberal minded, suitable match, Caste no bar, msn26my@yahoo.com MPh:8870530836

BORN AGAIN Christian, 44yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

CHRISTIAN GROOM wanted to Singapore Bride Age 26. Contact:+65–88142881. Email: darameshkkumar@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN BE 35/164cm Handsome BC Girl Working CTS (SWE) in USA H1B Visa seeks good looking groom working with SWE/Professional in USA. CNB. CT: 81488 25673 Brokers Excuse

CHRISTIAN RC/ AD 35yrs MBBS, Pursuing MD TN Govt Service Sks suitable Groom from Dr/Er Chennai 9600150637

CHRISTIAN, RC/ AD, 31 yrs, MBBS, MD Completing Sep.2026, Seeks suitable Groom from Doctors. Ct:9600150637

BRIDEGROOM (AGE 40 to 45) Wanted with Clean Habits for Muslim (Sunni) Girl Aged 39, Divorced. 9884930086

COMPATIBLE GROOMS from decent, well educated family wanted for a slim, fair Tamil girl (BE, MS, PhD), aged 32, height 156 cm working in Denmark. Ph: 09551441789

BRIDEGROOM WANTED for a well–to–do hindu family's bride age 42, first marriage, degree–MSW, want from (FC, BC, MBC), working within India. CT: 9080359664.

SENGUNTHA MUDALIAR Hastham-39, 153Cms., B.E., MBA., M.S (Boston,USA), Working in Canada RBC - Upper Class family - Seek Bride Groom. Contact : 98430 92595.

CASTE NO Bar, 27yrs, B.Tech, MS, Elite Family background, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9962791888

MUDALIAR 26 BE,MBA 160cm Good Looking,Well Settled Family Seeks Groom CNB Contact: 8778514465/ 7200866346

GROOM WANTED Mudaliyar 27yrs B.Tech, MS, Running Own Schools in Chennai, Elite business family 6385293227

VANNIYAR, BDS, 32, Revathi, Employed, Middle class family, Groom from same community needed. 98409 61251

HINDU SCA 26/160/Fair/ BE–CSE working in IT MNC, Chennai Seeks IT Groom. Contact : 9894767123, 9994494546

MARUTHUVAR CA 12L PA / Fair Good Looking. Seeking Suitable Groom. Call or WhatsApp Call +91 96007 76871

AGAMUDI MUDALIYAR Upper Middle Class 33 / 165 cm PG Mirugasirisham,Raghu in Lagnam Seeks IIM / PG Graduates, Age upto 37yrs. Ct: 9176780777

HINDU SC AD 38yrs BE Sr.Software Engineer TCS Chennai Rs 1.40 LPM seeks qualified employed groom. Ct: 9952147216

HINDU VANNIYAR Age 23yrs Girl, BE, Working IT company Chennai. Seeks Groom in same community 9094777677.

NAIDU 28 MBA GNiit 158cm working Chennai seeks Professional Naidu Groom Geetham 9884858014

HINDU, NADAR, Divorced, Age 25, B.Tech, PGDCA, Business at Madurai, Well settled family. Ct 8138901189

HINDU, MUDALIYAR, Divorced, Age 28, B.E, Analyst at MNC, PA 8 Lakhs. Contact 8138901294

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 22yrs, B.Com, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai Cont:9380791999/ 9841329471

RICH MUDALIYAR, 28yrs, BE, Divorce, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 6385293227

HINDU/SC AD, 29 years, 5'4" MCA Team lead @ an MNC, 13LPA, owns a new 2BHK Flat in Chennai, Simham Magam Bride(same caste) 9840365908

HINDU, CHETTIYAR, age 32, MS, IT professional, income 1 crore. Ct 7356483111.

HINDU, NADAR, age 26, B.Com, CMA, Business, Income 1 crore. Ct 8138900412.

RC NADAR, 27yrs, ME, 1lakh pm, Business Family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

TAMIL CHETTIYAR, 25yrs, BE, Elite business family in Coimbatore, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

YADAVA NAIDU girl, 26 yrs , 165 cms, fair , PG graduated, working in chennai, affluent family , seeks suitable bride groom Cont : 9790943360

MUDALIAR, 36, Pusam, MTECH working as a Senior Manager in a Big4 company, Father- IPS, Mother - Doctor seeking like minded well educated elite Hindu groom from respectable family. CNB,community no bar. 9884383944

HINDU GIRL. SC –DKV 30/ MBBS, M.S (OG) seeks suitable alliance same community, Chennai. Ct: 9159662409

TAMIL, Age 37, M.Sc.,B.Ed, Private school teacher seeks bridegroom. Caste no bar. Widower, Divorcee also ok. Cell: 9159808045.

HINDU, NADAR, Age 28, Divorced, MS, Doctor, 12 Lakhs. CT 8138900553

TAMIL

HINDU, PILLAI, Age 28, MBBS, Private, 5 Lakhs. CT 8138901294

HINDU, GOUNDER, Age 30, BE, Banking, 12 Lakhs. CT 8138901189

THEVAR AGAMUDAYAR 1995 born 178 cms BE, MBA Infosys - 18L/PA @ Chennai seeks Qualified Groom from Mukkulatthor Community. WhatsApp 9489378378

SC/AD/ B.SC. MBA, DOB:19.3.1980, Ashwini, Bride Seeks suitable Qualified Groom. 9943629339 / 8248933352

DKV/SC MAY 1994/ 167cm Fair BE Parents Hindu / CSI, Seeks Groom Dr./Er. Govt Employee. 8056143638

MUDALIAR (CNB): 27/V.Fair & Beautiful, MBBS, MD doing, Chennai, Elite family, Seeks Groom Doctor / Business – 9962530015

WANTED TAMIL Brahmin US Citizen working in US, tall, 24-26 years, 165cm for US Citizen girl working in US IT field, Harita, Poorattadhi (3), Kumbam. lss1320613@gmail.com.

GROOM WANTED
Hindu Nadar
Age 26, Entrepreneur, B.Tech, MBA, PhD
Dhanusu Rasi Pooradam seeks suitable Chennai Settled Groom
Ct 98401 10602

Arcot Mudaliar
Mirugasirisham 31/167
BE, MS (Comp. Science)
working in Bangalore
seeks alliance from
Mudaliar/ Pillai/ any Sub Caste,
Post Graduate grooms based at
Chennai/ Bangalore/ Hyderabad,
from Upper Middle Class families
Mob: 98403-64704

✔ 24 Years, Studied MS & Working in Melbourne, Australia, Father & Mother well Settled Business in Coimbatore, Seeking Educated well settled Working/Business Groom with good values, from Tamilnadu or Australia preferably from Vishwakarma / Kongu Vellala Goundar Contact - 9894043614.

Sozhiya Vellalar, 25, BE, MBA, 1 lakh pm, MNC, Bangalore, Subcaste no bar, IT / Non IT, Bangalore/ Chennai/ Coimbatore preferred. Ct: 9994996319

Tamil Vanniyar Girl, Mumbai, Dob 19/09/93, MNC, Sal: 1 LPM, Rich, Caste No Bar, Contact: 8667248379.

TELUGU

KAMMA, 26/161cms, fair, IT Professional in Prime MNC Abudhabi, Looking for Elite KAMMA UAE Professional/Bussiness class. Contact: 98947 82255

NAIDU 24/165 Fair Beautiful MBBS, MD–Doing, 700000.PA, Well Settled Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

26/163 cm / MBBS PG Girl Seeks IAS, Dr. Group1, (Caste No Bar: Kamma, Kapu, Reddy) 100 cr Hyderabad Boy Phone: 7660803720, 6305502298.

URDU

SINGAPORE TAMIL Muslim Girl 33 years seeks abroad well settled Engineer Groom. Contact 6380744638

MUSLIM, SEEKING 45-50 yrs Groom with Clean Habits, Permanent Income for Govt. Employee Bride, Ist marriage, 43 Yrs Whatsapp: 79048 81441

URDU SMU M.Tech Employed Very Fair 33/165 Seeks Bridegroom with Clean Habits. Ct: 9842023966.

SUNNI URDU family Chennai seeks religious, professional groom (under 29) settled in Saudi/Germany, for 25–yr fair, religious IT bride working in Saudi. WhatsApp: +966569772471

BRIDES WANTED

HINDI

32 YEARS BTech graduate self entrepreneur office in S Korea and India never married brides from Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu same community preferred Boys parents and brother doctors WhatsApp 9080758678

MALAYALAM

KERALITE MUSLIM, 35/173, fair, B.Tech from IIT, working in Chennai seeks proposals from parents of Bride below 28, fair, normal physique. Contact: 7356258787.

HINDU– NAIR boy 33/175 B.Tech, Asst. Manager in a well Reputed firm at Hyderabad. Ph:–7994200250.

NRI

NAIDU, 30 Pooratathi, BTech, MS, Research Engineer, Sweden Citizen, Upper Middle Class CNB bride willing to relocate call father 9566682220

PUNJABI

Looking SM for Dec 1983 born Punjabi Handsome Never-Married Boy. MSc PGD working in a MNC at Sr Post 70 LPA. Contact: 9820727061

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN 39 years engineer working in MNC+BUSINESS well settled at chennai wanted a graduate girl from a decent Christian family–cont 9884825317

CHRISTIAN RC 1973 born 165cm MBA Sr. Manager 1.1 L/Pm Govt PSU divorce seeks suitable bride Ct. 8148842983

LECTURER 27.06.92, 182cm MA Phd Mesham Bharani Well Settled in Chennai. Seek Christian Tall, Fair Girl. CNB. Cont: 9789847577

MUSLIM 31 Divorced Tamil/Urdu Chennai Native,UK Resident seeks Muslim Bride willing to reside in UK 00447440730671 (W)M:basha17294@gmail.com

PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN, 29yrs, BE, MS, 170cms, Robotics Engineer in USA, H1B Visa, seeks Born again, God fearing Bride. Parents whose daughter is either working or studing in USA. Contact WhatsApp: 8122785230

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED Agamudaiyar Mukkulothor 30 178 Cm working in US H1B financially well off looking for a bride same community either in US or those who willing to go. Ct 9884049959

CHENNAI, MUDLR. Any Cast, PhD, Tetolr Divorcd, 41yrs.GM Chess Govt 2Lac /mth.Edu Girl.No expt :9884171419

PERMANENT RESIDENT in United Kingdom, post graduate software engineer seeks doctor/engineer/C.A bride living in India or abroad. Hindu B.C., 33yrs,178cm,70 Kg. Contact /WApp message parents in Chennai /Nagercoil (Tamilnadu) 9841294930.

ALLAINCE INVITED from non- Srivatsam, 37-43 yr old Brahmin girl for 43 yr old Brahmin Engineer, AGM Japanese firm, Kancheepuram/ Chennai. Salary 25 L/yr. Ct: 94877 19495.

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 31yrs, B.Tech, MS (US), Working in US, Elite business family Ct: 6385293227

SC (AD), 32yrs, MBBS, MD, Well Educated Family background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 6385293227

DKV Divorce Son with Mother 44 / 1.5 LPM DGM PSU CNB 8903778148 / 9994567839.

MUDHALIAR 39 /185cm Msc Citibank IT Chennai seeks professional Bride Mud /pillai ok Geetham 9884858014

AYIRAVAISHYAR 38 ReMarriage 174cm Advocate Pondy seeks Suitable Bride Mud /Pillai ok Geetham 9884858014

B.Tech Bits Pilani 183cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91 MNC Bangalore Sal 80 lacs seeks Bride from same Allied castes, Tamil, Telugu. Ph: 7382620365

HINDU, CHETTIYAR, Age 31, B.E Completed, Working as Engineer, PA 8 Lakhs. Contact 8138901227

HINDU, CHETTIYAR, Age 26, B.Tech, MBA, Analyst, Income 20 Lakhs. Contact 8138901097

TAMIL

SAIVA PILLAI 39, Divorcee.BE/MBA, MNC, Bangalore, Seeks First Marriage Bride in Thirunelveli/ Thanjavur Saiva Pillai/ Karkathar Society only.Ct: 8072215374/ 9344701672

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 27yrs, B.Tech, Business Family background, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9962791888

TAMIL HINDU graduate bride from TN, good family background, willing to relocate – for UK graduate (British Indian, 34, 183cm, MNC) from good family background. Pls send all details to punaggai@outlook.com

SC / Intercaste, Hindu, 30 yrs B.Com MBA, Manager (HDFC Bank) Chennai, seeks bride.9444123939 /9176265079

1990, B.TECH MBA, Chennai. Works from home in US IT firm. Seeks suitable bride. GEN/OBC. Ph: 9600097474

MUDALIAR BE Mech Very Fair Age 24 165' Star Anusham working in TVS. House in Annanagar Chennai 8610889128

HINDU, 38/183CM, fair, handsome. PG Engg. Consultant. Divorced (no kids). Seeks well–educated, good–looking girl, unmarried/divorcee (no kids) from good Tamil family (Mudaliar, Pillai, Chettiar, Naidu preferred). Ct: 9566221110

HINDU, MUDALIAR, Age 28, MBBS, Doctor, 10 Lakhs. CT 8138901227

RICH MUDALIYAR, 35yrs, M.sc, Well Educated Family background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride. 6385293227

HINDU, CASTE NO BAR, Age 25, Self employed, 15 Lakhs. CT 8138901097

HINDU, NADAR, Age 28, MS, Doctor, 5 Lakhs. CT 8138900412

HINDU CHETTIAR 31 / 178cm M. S(ECE), Puratathi, Handsome, settled in Australia, Seeks Bride from Equal or Sub Caste. Contact : 8122980640

GOUNDER CHENNAI–BASED Canadian Citizen Sr Software Engg BE MS–USA 89 born height 167cm Fair Slim Affluent Caste No bar Ct: 9363635101

VANNIAKULAKSHTRIAR GROOM 43yrs, Divorced shortlived no issue. B.E, M.B.A(UK). Working in IT Company Chennai. 15laks/PA Contact: 9944928521, 9487935521.

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED
31yrs, 182cm/75kg, Fair, B.Tech NIT Trichy, post-graduate software engineer, well employed, non-vegetarian, teetotaller, non-smoker.
Affluent, ultra high net worth Chennai and Bengaluru based, Elite Tamil Vellalar family.
Looking for suitable bride from similar background (Caste No Bar).
Contact: +91-6381092899

BRIDE WANTED
MS (CSE) 29/180, fair, good-looking, high-earning tech professional with established career and strong financial background based in Chennai, from a well settled, affluent Agamudayar family. Seeking an educated, and family-oriented bride (below 28 yrs) from a good family background (Tamil)(CNB).
+91 78458 21205

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

Naidu Affluent Family Chennai 29/165 Thiruvonam, ME Structural Engineer in MNC additional own Business and Rental Income, CNB Contact: 9841097110.

Hindu 58years 165cm Central Govt. Jr. Engineer Rs.1.40 Lakhs PM. Never Married Own House. seeks Bride Divorcee or Widow. Ct: 87786 30870.

HINDU TAMIL NADAR 45/181 B.E Carleton University IISC 99943-51766 vimalkrishna@tamilfilmmakerspro.com

Smart/ Sep 95/180 cm/ Mtech Professional, affluent Pillai Family seeks Educated Bride preferably from Ahmedabad/ Mumbai/ Delhi / Email: cbechn1995@gmail.com

HINDU SC, 27yrs, Own Business, OMR, Chennai, seeks Fair Bride Ct: 94456 67237 / 86672 15468

AD/ 42/ Divorcee/ V.Fair/ MS (Engg), Phd, Scientist, Bangalore needs BE/ MCA Employed Girl, CT: 7358485802

CSI NADAR, 1995 born/ 167cm, Fair, Slim, B.Tech., Family business /manufacturing Factory in Nagercoil seeks Fair, Slim Bride same community MBBS/ BDS/ B.Arch/ B.E./ B.Tech. Contact: 9442616881

TELUGU

KAMMA 34/171, MCA, working in MNC, contact: 9840269792

GAVARA, 24, Associate Analyst, Wells Fargo, Hyderabad, 10 Lakhs, working Chennai girls preferable, Contact : 8939835453

RICH REDIYAR, 34yrs, M.sc (UK), Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact:6385293227

AGE 28, Male, B.E, Software Engineer, Chennai is seeking BRIDE 24–27yrs, educated & employed Balija/ Gavara Naidu #9094937080

RICH NAIDU, 31yrs, BE, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 6385293227

NAIDU 27/180, Handsome, MBBS MS–Doing– 900000.PA, Well Settled Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

(CNB) NAIDU, Fair & Handsome 32yrs/ 172cm/ B.tech/ Salary 1.3L pm. Own House and Property settled in Chennai. Looking: Suitable educated and working Bride. Contact with (Astrological) details via WhatsApp 9677284433 / 8939915105

CHENNAI TELUGU, 30 years 168 cm B.Tech, MBA, Business Entrepreneur settled family, looking for suitable bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9003239626

BALIJA NAIDU 32yrs Rohini Rishabam Fair Business (Surgical Manufacturer & Distributors) Seeks Any Telugu Caste Bride. 9790963402.

URDU

MUSLIM, TAMIL speaking, Age 42/ B.Sc. seeking suitable bride +2/ any Deg. Ct: 9360285747 / 9486282337

URDU

TN MUSLIM Syed Urdu 28/166 cm Handsome Doctor MD.DM.AIIMS, Delhi seeks beautiful urdu,syed/sheik MD/M.S. religious bride TN/Pondy Cell 9952828485

SMU 34/168, B.Tech., MBA, Software Engr in MMC Chennai, well todo family seeks Educated Bride. Ct:8122989086

MARRIAGE BUREAU

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

DOCTORS, BRIDES, Grooms All Cast, Religions 1st & RE–Marriage Ct: 7358638363 Visit Tamilagadoctorsmatrimony.com, Indiandoctorsmatrimony.com.

THE HINDU
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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

MUDALIYAR, 29, 183 cm, MS in Eng, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for suitable match from similar community from India. Contact: 6366448343

NADAR, 33, 180 cms, MBA, Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from similar community from India. Contact: 6366448343

INTERCASTE, 31, 183 cms, Entrepreneur, Bsc. Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

PARKAVAKULAM UDAYAR, 46, 180 cms, Divorced, Working Professional, BE. Lives in Trichy. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

NAIDU, 32, 162 cms, MS in Eng, Working Professional. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

NAIDU, 27, 158 cms, Masters in Medicine. Lives in Kallakuruchi. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Preferably Doctors. Contact: 6366448344

KONGU VELLA GOUNDER, 33, 165 cms, Doctor, MD. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

CHRISTIAN CSI NADAR, 30, 173 cms, PhD, Working Professional. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

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TAMIL

RC Christian B.Tech (CSE) working in MNC 16LPA seeks bride between 21-27yrs. CNB. Ct: 97909 07244

Christian BC, 1995, 171cm B.Tech (NIT)M.S.(USA)works in USA, H1B Visa, Seeks Educated Girl Working/ willing to settle in USA.Ct: 9443714023

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT–9500188067

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 36yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride.9003983230

CHRISTIAN, NADAR, Age 28, ME, Private, 50 Lakhs. CT 8138009235

RC NADAR, 31yrs, BE, Central Govt Job, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Bride. 9380791999/ 9841329471

SM4 HINDU, 56/155cm, Sengunthar, widower, engineer, financially secure, non–vegetarian, non–smoker, seeks homely woman, 40–50, for remarriage. Contact 9514551155 or Ravibalasubra@gmail.com with biodata and photo

KARUNEEGAR, VEG, 28, 174cm, LLM, Lawyer, Law Firm, 8 LPA, Seeks Bride. Contact: 8056012034

CHETTIAR 40/ 170cm unmarried. Clean habits, Head of marketing at London. Family in Pondy. Seeking educated bride 30–38 caste/status no bar. Ph: Whatsapp +44–7760779256

32. CHRISTIAN. Working in a PSB. Looking for financially independent, intellectually inclined Tamil/ Malayali woman as life partner. Caste/ Division no bar. Ctct:9789227517

AGE–52, HINDU, Mudaliyar, Business, Divorcee. Seeks Any Mudaliar OK. Divorcee/ Widower Ok. Ct: 9840776650

VELLORE AGAMUDAYA Mudaliyar Rishabam 39/165 BE, SWE,MNC/Chicago/USA,1L USD/A,Seeks working SWE.9487624807

PILLAI/ MUDALIYAR 38/BE, Swathi. Employed. Upper Middle Class Seeks Suitable Bride. Coimbatore 9843252888

CSI NADAR, 31yrs, M.Arch (US), 185cms, Business Family, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact K.A.Raman 9380791999

1985 MUDALIYAR Chennai Assistant Manager Private, Decent Background Seeks Bride 9952010118, 8610518808

TAMIL

HINDU, GOUNDER, Age 26, DME, Own Business at Coimbatore, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138900412

DKV 36YRS B.Tech Manager Working in PSU Bank 18 Lac PA Chennai Seeking Suitable Bride. Call: 9940507235

HINDU, REDDIAR, Age 26, MBA, IT professional at Bangalore, PA 12 Lakhs. Contact 8138009235

AGE 51, 168cm Good body structure Very comfortable Expectation Good comfort Beautiful helpful attitude Bride needed Age Religion No restriction. Mail: arunbalaji2333@gmail.com

TAMILIAN, 57, WORKING for an Australian university, non–smoker, non–drinker, seeks Tamilian lady around 50 for matrimony. Religion, caste, children, wealth no bar. Contact: mthalaivan@yahoo.com

HINDU UDAYAR, 28, 178 cms, B.Tech, Software professional, TCS, deputed to UK.Looking for a like minded match from same community. Contact:8754503002

THULUVA VELLALA Agamudaya Mudaliyar, 31, Rishabam, Kiruthikai II Patham, B.E., Software Company Job, Good Salary Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 96119 66466, 98860 70800

HINDU NADAR 29/178 B.E MBA well settled MNC Chennai seeks educated good looking bride.Cont:9445663691

CHENNAI–BASED HINDU Divorced Groom (US Citizenship) 46 yrs, Height 180cm, MS Engg., Working (60LPA). Seeks Divorced/Widowed Bride (1 Kid Ok). Contact: 8220765305

SEEKING BRIDE from a good family background from Mudaliar / Pillai, for my son born in 1994. Tall, Fair & Handsome with clean habits Presently working in the US. 9841457050

HINDU, MUDALIYAR, age 28, MBBS, MD, looking for a Doctor bride. Ct 8138900312.

HINDU, CASTE NO BAR, age 29, B.E, IT professional, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138900537

HINDU, VANNIYAR, Age 26, B.E, Banking professional, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138900316.

TAMIL

PARVATHA RAJA kulam (CNB) : 41/ Handsome, Master in Nautical Science, Captain (Merchant Navy Officer), Chennai, 80,00,000 PA,Well Settled Family, Seeks Bride preferable engineer or doctor– 9884321098, 8925019776

HINDU MUDALIYAR 48, Handsome, VVIP, Remarriage, Chennai, seeks good looking Decent, VIP bride. 7401489892

VANNIYAKULA Kshatriya 1987 MS MBA employed in UK Glasgow wants bride employed in UK or willing to move to UK.Ct:9342994247, 9442910057

MUDALIYAR 34YRS /165cm B.Tech Msc,Revathy/Meenam.Well Paid Job in Germany Seeks Suitable Bride. 9442135216

IYER, Meena Rasi, 27 Yrs /178 cm/ Fair/Slim, MBA Groom, Chennai now in Bangalore @ KPMG. Seek 162/ Slim, Bride. Contact: 9791158816

TAMIL IYER, 1986, Hastham, BE, ME, MBA, PhD Asst. Prof. B'lore 12.5L PA, Seeks Any Brahmin girl. WA: 9092501181 jsshyammohan@gmail.com

WANTED BRAHMIN Bride below 42y, for 49y old bachelor, Koundinyam, Makham. Chennai based SW professional. Contact pbjmatrimonial@yahoo.com.

WANTED BRIDE for a Well–Educated, Cultured Family Invites Alliance for their Son:39years, Height :174/ Centimeter, Fair, Beautiful, B.Sc(Maths), M.Sc(IT), Working in MNC, based in Bangalore. Looking for a Professionally Qualified Girl, 33–39 years, Preferably from a Reputed Family, Any Metro City, Caste– Any Brahmin. Serious Inquiries Only. Mail ID:manikandan.tvg@gmail.com. PH:+91–9500118505 / 8825509525

BE BRAHMIN 1973 differently abled Chennai seeks likeminded bride. Living together considered. 9884473503

IYER GIRL above 162cm for 1994/ 181cm Iyer boy Kaushika Anushum BTech/MS Proj Management Professional working in Ireland.Contact 9810529286

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

HANDSOME, SUCCESSFUL 36, 188cm, well–spoken, from cultured S. Indian family. Seeking well–educated, compatible bride. Call or WA 9345634365.

KARKATHAR PILLAI 37, height 170cm, fair and handsome, BE (Telecom), Officer Indian Army IT Branch, 30 lacs PA, never married, son of retd army officer looking for affable and well educated girl. Equal and sub caste no bar. 9448307862.

Mumbai based 35 year old Muslim IIM graduate (5'10) from a highly educated and affluent family working in a MNC with roots in Kerala looking for a well educated girl from a reputed family. Father a retired Class One officer now working in Riyadh. Had a brief 6 month long nikah that ended legally in 2021 without any liabilities on both sides. Ct: +91 7400098442 / 7021185489

HINDU, 32/ 174cms, well educated and good looking Maharashtrian boy having own business in Chennai. From an affluent family, looking for a bride from similar community. Contact – 9840882465

DIVORCEE

RETIRED MALE civil engineer, 60+, second divorcee, owns a house, seeking a kind–hearted divorcee or widow without children to share a serene future. Caste, language no bar. Genuine alliance only.contact – 63857 54610

DOCTOR

MUDALIYAR– CAST No Bar. Age –30, MBBS, MS, Seeks, MBBS Female Dr. Any District. Ct : 7358 638363.

HINDU KERALA Mudaliyar, 28yrs, BHMS, Homeopathy Doctor seeks Bride AYUSH Doctor. Ct: 9629913309

ENGINEER

WANTED WORKING bride for Brahmin boy 29, 170cm, works in MNC ex Class I Officer. 9424676820, 8770456112

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Chennai. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

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(AGE: 52)
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‘Construction of outfall drains in city to start in September’

The ₹500 crore project taken up during 2014-19 TDP regime was halted by YSRCP govt. later, leading to waterlogging problems, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Minister Ponguru Narayana inspecting outfall drains along with Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanachandra H.M., in Vijayawada on Saturday. G.N. RAO

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) Ponguru Narayana on Saturday said the construction and widening of outfall drains, intended for addressing waterlogging in the city, will begin in September. Outfall drains would be constructed in the city soon to address waterlogging.

After touring the city to inspect outfall drains, he said the construction of outfall drains, taken up at ₹500 crore during the TDP regime between 2014 and 2019, was stopped after the YSRCP came to power, leading to waterlogging. The Minister added that encroachments have come up places where the drains were built.

He inquired with Vijayawada Municipal Corporation officials why the width of the outfall drains in the city is different at different places.

He noted that some drains are two feet wide, whereas its width should be 10 feet. He pointed out that encroachments have to be removed and the drains widened.

If any individual loses their house to the drain widening, they will be allotted TIDCO houses, he said. The Minister also spoke about encroachments along the Budameru drain in the city.

He added that the Irrigation Department has constituted a committee and that it is going to submit a report soon. VMC Commissioner Dhyanachandra H.M. and other officials accompanied the Minister.

Trupti canteens will aid women financially: MA&UD Principal Secy.

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The State government is trying to improve the economic conditions of poor women and lead them on a path of self-reliance, said Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) Principal Secretary S. Suresh Kumar on Saturday.

Inaugurating the city’s first Trupti canteen at Panja Centre in Vijayawada on Saturday, Mr. Suresh Kumar said the government has come up with the idea of Trupti canteens to encourage women part of the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas(DWCRA) to become entrepreneurs.

Mr. Suresh Kumar said the government plans to set up 750 canteens, under the auspices of Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA), across the State. The first in the State, which came up in Nellore, is running successfully, he said, adding that women are getting an income of ₹10,000-15,000 a day.

He said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has given them a target of training 30,000 women as entrepreneurs, and it is as part of the target that they have asked women to manage the canteens.

Main purpose

Mr. Suresh Kumar said the main purpose of these canteens is to provide food at low prices and also to provide employment to women. There are 28 lakh DWCRA women’s groups in the State, and such initiatives will help them financially, the officer said. Every canteen will be managed by four women, and they would be provided training. Such canteens will be set up at important junctions and places along highways, Mr. Suresh Kumar said.

MEPMA project director N. Tej Bharat said the canteens were launched in line with the Chief Minister’s action plan to have one entrepreneur in every family. He added that they are working towards training 30,000 women as entrepreneurs.

‘P4’ model BC welfare hostels opposed

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The decision of A.P. government to build BC welfare hostels in ‘P4’ (Public Private People Partnership) model is being opposed by the SFI State committee. SFI State president P. Rammohan Rao on Saturday demanded that the government drop the move, saying that the move would either lead to privatisation of hostels or their closure over a period of time. The SFI leaders demanded that new buildings be constructed for the hostels functioning from rented buildings.

INBRIEF

Sniffer dog Lucky laid to rest with police honours

A sniffer dog, Lucky, who served the police force for 10 years, died due to age-related problems at NTR Police Commissionerate, on Saturday. Lucky, who belonged to the Labrador Retriever breed, was trained to detect explosives. Lucky helped the police in providing security during VIP visits and bandobusts at the Commissionerate, and participated in search operations under the supervision of dog handler C.H.D. Prasad. Deputy Commissioners of Police A.B.T. Udaya Rani and K.G.V. Saritha and S.D.V. Prasad and other officers placed the wreaths and paid tributes.

The CAT 2025 advertisement has been published in several newspapers in multiple languages across the country, however the information contained in the CAT website shall be considered as final.

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COMMON ADMISSION TEST CAT 2025

The Indian Institutes of Management will conduct a computer-based Common Admission Test 2025 (CAT 2025) on **November 30, 2025** in **three** sessions. Detailed information on CAT 2025 may be obtained from the CAT website.

CAT website: https://iimcat.ac.in

CAT 2025 is a prerequisite for admission to various Post Graduate and Fellow/Doctorate programmes of IIMs. CAT 2025 scores are allowed to be used by listed non-IIM member institutions. A list of such institutions is provided on the CAT website. IIMs have no role in the selection process of non-IIM institutions.

CAT 2025 ELIGIBILITY

Please refer to the detailed notification on the CAT website. **Applicants should note that mere fulfillment of the minimum eligibility criteria will not ensure consideration for shortlisting by IIMs.**

RESERVATIONS

Refer to the CAT website for information regarding reservation of seats for various categories of applicants. **No change in the category will be entertained after CAT registration.**

REGISTRATION FEES

₹1300 for SC, ST and PwD category candidates.
₹2600 for all other categories of candidates.
Please note that a candidate needs to pay the registration fees only once, irrespective of the number of institutes he/she is applying for. Fees once paid cannot be refunded under any circumstances.

IMPORTANT DATES

Registration opens	: **August 01, 2025 (10:00 am)**
Registration closes	: **September 13, 2025 (5:00 pm)**
Admit card download	: **November 05-November 30, 2025**
Test date	: **November 30, 2025**
Result declaration	: **First week of January, 2026 (Tentative)**

TEST CENTRES

CAT will be conducted in test centres spread across around 170 test cities. Candidates will be given the option to select any five test cities in order of their preference. The list of cities may be subject to changes based on the discretion of the CAT authorities.

DISCLAIMER

This advertisement is only intended to be an announcement for CAT 2025. For detailed information, rules and procedures regarding CAT and the admission process of various IIMs and other updates, candidates should visit the CAT website.

Any dispute concerning CAT 2025 would be subject to the jurisdiction of the competent Courts within the territorial jurisdiction of the city of Kozhikode only.

IMPORTANT

Candidates must declare and maintain a valid and unique email account and a mobile phone number throughout the selection process.

Officers of Police, Prosecutions, Excise, Transport and other departments participating in the crime review and coordination meeting in Eluru on Saturday

IGP ask DSPs to review status of cases weekly

The Hindu Bureau
ELURU

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Eluru Range, G.V.G. Ashok Kumar on Saturday directed the Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) to review progress of the on-going investigation of cases, station-wise every week.

Participating in the ‘Crime Review and Coordination Meeting’ here on Saturday, Mr. Ashok Kumar enquired about the progress of the cases in Polavaram, Jangareddygudem, Nuzvid and Eluru sub-divisions.

Superintendent of Police K. Pratap Shiva Kishore has asked the officers to utilise the technology to detect cases, and provide security to the public.

The police officers reviewed the progress of POCSO Act, cyber crimes, road accidents, property disputes and other cases in the crime review meeting.

Excise Superintendent A. Avulaiah, Deputy Director (Prosecutions) M. Sarada Mani, officers from Medical and Health, Transport and other departments and Public Prosecutors participated in the event.

Legal aid services centre opened for soldiers

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (APSLSA) has opened a Legal Aid Services Centre under aegis of ‘NALSA Veer Seva Sahayata Yojana - 2025’, here on Saturday. ACB Special Court judge P. Bhaskar Rao inaugurated the centre at State Sainik Board. Free legal aid will be given to soldiers, ex-service personnel and family members at the centre.

Timings
VIJAYAWADA

SUNDAY, JUL. 27		
RISE	05:47	SET 18:41
RISE	07:56	SET 20:42
MONDAY, JUL. 28		
RISE	05:47	SET 18:41
RISE	08:47	SET 21:17
TUESDAY, JUL. 29		
RISE	05:47	SET 18:40
RISE	09:36	SET 21:50

Vijayawada Weather	max	min
Machilipatnam	31	26
Guntur Town	30	23
Vijayawada City	31	25

Vijayawada City Today
31°C The weather will be mostly dry. Night will be comfortable. Day will be little warm.

Vijayawada City Tomorrow
33°C Morning wil be comfortable. Day will be warm. Night will be comfortable. Mosty dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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FAPTO demands revocation of leader’s suspension

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

State leaders of the Federation of Andhra Pradesh Teachers Organisations (FAPTO) on Saturday demanded that the suspension orders issued against the federation’s Tirupati district chairman S. Suresh be revoked. In a statement, FAPTO State chairman I. Sai Srinivas accused the Chittoor District Education Officer of harassing teachers during the transfer process. The FAPTO leaders said that though the issues were brought to the notice of authorities, no action was taken. Instead, Tirupati FAPTO chairman, who questioned the harassment, was suspended.

APPOINTMENT

THE GANDHIGRAM INSTITUTE OF RURAL HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE TRUST
(An Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India,New Delhi)
SOUNDRAM NAGAR, AMBATHURAI(R.S), GANDHIGRAM POST-624 302, DINDIGUL DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

VACANCY NOTIFICATION

R.No.GIRH/ESTT/01/PRC- 1155/2025-2026 Date: 27.07.2025

Applications are invited to fill up the following vacant positions at the **Population Research Centre (PRC), Gandhigram**:

1. **Assistant Professor** - 2 Nos. - Regular
2. **Research Investigator** - 1 No. - Regular
3. **Research Investigator** - 1 No. - Contractual
4. **Field Investigator** - 1 No. - Contractual
5. **Data Assistant** - 1 No. - Contractual
6. **Office Superintendent** - 1No. - Contractual
7. **Lower Division Clerk** - 1 No. - Contractual

For further details : **www.girhfwt.org**
Last date for receipt of applications: **29.08.2025 at 5.00 pm**
Date:27.07.2025

Dr. K. Vanaja
Director

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Tel: 044-24349833 / 24346807
CIN - L40101TN1965GOI005389

EXTRACT OF THE STATEMENT OF AUDITED STANDALONE AND UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
		Three Months Ended			Year Ended	Three Months Ended			Year Ended
		30.06.2025	31.03.2025	30.06.2024	31.03.2025	30.06.2025	31.03.2025	30.06.2024	31.03.2025
		Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	**Total income from operations**	**18692.61**	**20592.98**	**20365.28**	**71093.43**	**18692.74**	**20593.00**	**20365.28**	**71075.19**
2	**Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)**	**(80.10)**	**581.71**	**469.64**	**208.10**	**(63.58)**	**601.68**	**484.07**	**248.66**
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(80.10)	581.71	469.64	208.10	(63.58)	601.68	484.07	248.66
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(56.62)	449.96	342.60	173.53	(40.10)	469.93	357.03	214.09
5	**Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]**	**(49.99)**	**447.25**	**340.93**	**164.55**	**(33.47)**	**466.85**	**355.36**	**204.74**
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - ₹ 10 each)	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	7489.56	7539.55	8534.94	7539.55	7774.23	7807.70	8777.33	7807.70
8	Securities Premium Account	250.04	250.04	250.04	250.04	250.04	250.04	250.04	250.04
9	Networth	7888.51	7938.50	8933.89	7938.50	8173.18	8206.65	9176.28	8206.65
10	Paid up Debt Captial / Outstanding Debt (Bonds / Debentures) excluding Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	810.00	810.00	810.00	810.00	810.00	810.00	810.00	810.00
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares (50,00,00,000 {2024:50,00,00,000} Non-Convertible Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of ₹ 10 each) (Not listed)	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
12	Debt Equity Ratio	0.50	0.39	0.49	0.39	0.48	0.38	0.48	0.38
13	Earnings Per Share (of ₹. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)								
	(i) Basic (₹ / share)	(3.80)	30.22	23.01	11.65	(2.69)	31.56	23.98	14.38
	(ii) Diluted (₹ / share)	(3.80)	30.22	23.01	11.65	(2.69)	31.56	23.98	14.38
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1000.00
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve				-				-
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.65	6.13	0.65	0.90	1.85	6.31	0.66	0.93
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	2.91	12.11	14.00	4.33	3.36	12.42	14.30	4.50

Note:

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com. The same is also available on the company's website www.cpcl.co.in
2. For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to stock exchanges (BSE and NSE) and can be acessed on www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Rohit Kumar Agrawala
Director (Finance)
DIN: 10048961

Place : Chennai
Date : July 25, 2025

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From Page One

Busy schedule awaits Naidu in Singapore

Mr. Naidu and other delegates will meet the Indian High Commissioner in Singapore, Shilpak Ambule. Then, they will hold discussions with senior executives of Surbana Jurong. This will be followed by a meeting with Tan Sri Dato A.K. Nathan, Chairman of Eversendai Engineering Pvt Ltd.

On the second day, Mr. Naidu will meet the Minister of Trade and Industry of Singapore, visit Bidadari Estate, and participate in a roundtable on sustainable urban development. Further, the Chief Minister and his entourage will visit Singapore Sports School, Tuas Port to study port-led industrialisation and port-based ecosystem. They will participate in the A.P.-Singapore Business Forum Roadshow aimed at building strong networks with investors.

On July 29, Mr. Naidu will hold a series of meetings with top firms, including AI Singapore, SIA Engineering, Keppel, and GIC, and participate in the IT & FinTech Business Roundtable with more than 10 international companies.

Later, he will meet Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, and former Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Then, the A.P. delegation will visit the Jurong Petrochemical Island to study industrial development models, and take part in a CEO Roundtable with leaders of top companies in Singapore to discuss ports and infrastructure development. Mr. Naidu's other engagements include meetings with representatives of CapitaLand, Sumitomo Mitsui Bank, and Temasek, Singapore Ministers Vivian Balakrishnan (Foreign Affairs) and K. Shanmugam (Home).

The delegation comprises Ministers N. Lokesh (IT, Electronics & Communications, RTG, and HRD), P. Narayana (MA&UD), and T.G. Bharath (Industries & Commerce and Food Processing); Secretaries Bhaskar Katamneni (ITE&C), N. Yuvaraj (Industries & Commerce), and Kartikeya Misra (CMO); APCRDA Commissioner K. Kannababu; and APEDB CEO C.M. Saikanth Varma.

Maoist couple, 13 other cadre surrender

She was in-charge of the Mobile Academic Political Organisation School (MAPOS). "Due to lack of public support, poor recruitments, death of senior cadres in the Maoist party, and disillusionment with the party ideology, the couple decided to give up arms, avail of the benefits of the Surrender and Rehabilitation Policy, and join the mainstream," Mr. Gupta said. "The Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) district police had unearthed three Maoist dumps between July 23 and 25, and seized one AK-47, five SLRs, two INSAS rifles, five 303 rifles, two BGL weapons, one pistol, 16 BGL shells and 20 cartridges, 15 detonators, eight walkies, huge quantity of ammunition, a telescope and other material," the DGP said. He handed over cheques for ₹22 lakh to 13 other Maoists who, too, surrendered before him.

Stern warning

Issuing a stern warning to members of the banned outfit to either surrender or get neutralised before the seven-month deadline expired, the DGP said, "Maoists should drop guns and choose the ballot." "We are hopeful of wiping them out in A.P. by the end of this year," he told *The Hindu*. "At present, there are no Naxal recruitments," he added.

DSPs Chakradhar Rao and H. Santha Rao.

2 DSPs die in accident

The accident took place when the vehicle in which the officers were travelling from Vijayawada to Hyderabad lost control, jumped the divider, and fell on the other side of the road, where a lorry hit the vehicle, killing the two DSPs on the spot. Ministers V. Anitha (Home), M. Ramprasad Reddy (Transport), and B.C. Janardhan Reddy (R&B) expressed shock over the death of the two DSPs.

INBRIEF

CM congratulates Ashok on becoming Goa Governor

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu congratulated senior TDP leader P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju on being sworn in as Governor of Goa on Saturday. In a message on X, Mr. Naidu said Mr. Ashok Gajapathi Raju had always acted with dignity and in a democratic manner, whatever be the position he held. Meanwhile, Union Minister K. Rammohan Naidu, Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries Bhupatiraju Srinivasa Varma, Ministers N. Lokesh and Kondapalli Srinivas, TDP State president P. Srinivasa Rao, MLA P. Aditi Vijayalakshmi Gajapathi Raju, and BJP State president P.V.N. Madhav were among those who attended the swearing-in ceremony.

Rain fury: 21 houses damaged in E.G.; all tourist spots in ASR district closed

No entry to Papikonda National Park and Gudisa grassland till further orders, says ITDA Project Officer; 4.36 lakh cusecs of flood water being released at Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage

T. Appala Naidu
CHINTOOR/DOWLESWARAM

The Godavari Region continues to bear the brunt of inclement weather conditions. At least 21 houses were partially damaged due to heavy wind at Velichintala Gudem in East Godavari district in the early hours of Saturday, while all tourist destinations in Alluri Sitarama Raju district have been closed till further orders, after heavy rain lashed the region.

Around 20 trees were uprooted at the Velichintala Gudem village in Gopalapuram mandal of East Godavari district. Electricity poles were also damaged, disrupting the power supply to the village.

However, no casualties have been reported, said Kovvuru Revenue Divisional Officer Rani Susmitha after inspecting the village.

"A community hall and a government primary school have been opened for the relief of the affected families. The villagers will stay at these facilities till the power supply is restored. The restoration of power and other facilities is expected by Sunday," said Ms. Rani Susmitha.

Meanwhile, all the tourist destinations in Rampachodavaram Agency of Alluri Sitarama Raju district, including Papikonda National Park and waterfalls within the park, Gudisa grassland and other places, have been closed.

Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) Rampachodavaram Project Officer Katta Simhachalam appealed to the tourists not to visit the Agency until further orders. "The police have been directed to put up warning boards about the closure of the tourist places," said Mr. Simhachalam.

Alert in Chintoor

In Chintoor agency, the Godavari, Sabari and Sileru are in spate. With heavy inflows into these rivers, the Koya and Konda Reddi tribals have been alerted aboput the expected rise in the water level by Sunday.

The tribal people from Chintoor, V.R. Puram and Kunavaram mandals in Alluri Sitarama Raju district are getting ready to move into the temporary huts they erected in the hilly areas to tackle flood situation.

The officials said that relief camps would be set up only after the second Godavari flood warning is issued for the upstream areas at Bhadrachalam in Telangana.

At Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowleswaram, 4.36 lakh cusecs of floodwater is being released into the sea, while 7,000 cusecs of water is being diverted into the Godavari Delta, where paddy sowing activity is in full swing.

Kovvuru RDO Rani Susmitha inspecting the houses damaged by heavy wind at Velichintala Gudem in East Godavari district on Saturday.

Subdued rainfall in State next week: IMD

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

After receiving moderate to heavy rain in coastal districts for over a week, the State is likely to see subdued rainfall from July 28 up to August 2, according to IMD, Amaravati.

On Saturday, the State received only moderate rain, the highest of which was recorded in Paderu of Alluri Sitarama Raju district, at 70 mm. Other places in the State received less than 50 mm rain between 8.30 a.m. and 7 p.m., according to realtime rainfall information by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics.

On July 27, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, ASR and Parvatipuram Manyam districts may receive light to moderate rains. Isolated or scattered rains have been forecast for other districts.

From Monday, there will be little to no rains. Isolated places may see thunderstorms, lightning and strong winds. A.P. State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) MD Prakhar Jain has asked people in low-lying areas to be cautious.

Water level rises in Godavari

Rajulapudi Srinivas
ELURU

Officials sounded alert in the villages located in the tribal Agency areas of Eluru district, as water level was rising in Godavari on Saturday. Water level in the river at Bhadrachalam was recorded at 35 ft and may rise further.

With the water level increasing in Godavari River, villagers staying on the river bund and in the low-lying areas were asked to shift to safer places. Flood level is rising for the second time in the last ten days.

Many streams were overflowing in the Agency mandals owing to incessant rains that have been lashing for the last two days. "Discharge from Bhadrachalam was about 5 lakh cusecs on Saturday. Flood level at Polavaram spillway was recorded at 29 metres and the officials released 4 lakh cusecs to the downstream," the irrigation officials said.

The officials cautioned the people staying in the downstream as the flood level may rise further owing to heavy rainfall in the catchment areas. Tribals and non-tribals, staying in low-lying habitations were moving to the nearby hilly areas, and were seen erecting tents.

"Velerupadu mandal received 72.6 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours, 56 mm rainfall occurred in Kukunur mandal, Pedavegi and Buttaigudem mandals received more than 30 mm in the district," the officials said. Collector K. Vetriselvi has directed the officers deployed on flood duty to be alert and shift the villagers to safer places.

The Collector asked the officials to stay in the flood-prone villages and monitor the rescue operations.

Couple escape leopard attack on Tirumala road

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

A couple on a two-wheeler had a miraculous escape from a leopard attack near Zoo Park Road on Tirumala ghat road around 7 p.m. on Friday (July 25).

A video footage of the incident, recorded from a car behind the two-wheeler, is doing the rounds on social media from Saturday morning.

The couple were going on a motorcycle, and a leopard suddenly came charging towards the vehicle. The animal tried to catch the pillion rider but missed and fell on the road after hitting the bike. The rider managed retain control of the vehicle and sped away.

The leopard was spotted by the locals near Arvind Eye Hospital at Friday midnight too.

Sources said several couples were sitting on the culverts built on the ghat road despite the leopard threat. Forest officials advised pilgrims and travellers to be alert as leopards and other wild animals are moving near the ghat road.

'CAG data indicates worsened fiscal stress'

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The government's fiscal stress has worsened in the first quarter of FY 2025- 26 as per the monthly key indicators released by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG), says YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

In a message on X, the former Chief Minister said the figures suggest a precarious outlook for the financial stability of the Government, which had been adversely impacted by the bifurcation, and that public finance management was a challenging task for the State. Only the right quantum of government expenditure in necessary areas of welfare and development could trigger private consumption and investment, thereby promoting a virtuous cycle, he observed.

Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

The YSRCP chief alleged that the State's revenues from demonstrated dismal growth on a year-on-year basis due to rampant corruption.

Besides, he said growth was subdued among all the categories of revenues, which resulted in a bleak scenario, both in the State government's own tax and non-tax revenues during the first quarter.

"It is apparent that the economic buoyancy is lost, as evident from the abysmally low growth across some categories of government revenues and negative growth in others," he noted.

Further, he said he GST and sales tax revenues were lower during the period when compared with the corresponding period the previous year, and the year-on-year growth during the period was already subdued.

On year-on-year basis, during the first quarter of 2025-26, the State's revenues had grown by 3.47% and revenue receipts as a whole, which included receipts from the Centre, grew at just 6.14%. The debt increased at an alarming pace of 15.61%, in Q-1 alone, he said. Reliance on sources other than the government's own revenues for meeting the expenditure was evident from that, he added.

Police count on welfare steps to keep Maoists at bay in tribal areas

Harish Gilai
PADERU

The Alluri Sitharama Raju police have been coming up with a series of community welfare initiatives aimed at steering the tribal youth away from Maoist ideology. Organised in collaboration with government and private agencies, these initiatives focus on building trust, boosting confidence and enhancing job opportunities.

Under the 'Saral' programme launched in January, Superintendent of Police Amit Bardar and ASP K. Dheeraj interacted with 42 students from Maoist-hit mandals such as G. Madugula, Pedabayalu and Munchingput. The sessions offered career guidance and awareness on job opportunities. Based on the students' qualifications, further assistance is being extended to help them secure jobs in the private sector.

SP Amit Bardar addressing tribal youth during a sensitisation programme at Paderu in Alluri Sitharama Raju district.

Another major initiative, 'Prerana', organised employment melas at Paderu, Chintapalli and Rampachodavaram. Notably, 80 youth from Chintapalli secured jobs in Tamil Nadu. Uver 60 youth were trained in Inventory control and welding through a programme organised in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding (CEMS) and funded by the SDR arm of Visakhapatnam Port Authority.

In September last year, a job mela, held in association with APSSDC and SEEDAP at Araku, placed 52 tribal youth in organisations such as Apollo Pharmacy, Amazon and Muthoot Finance. Under 'Nirman', the police are introducing tribal students to opportunities for personal and professional development. A tailoring course was organised in coordination with ITDA-Paderu, in which training was offered to 80 tribal women. Mr. Bardar said such programmes received positive response from the tribal communities.

Ship building cluster at Dugarajapatnam to give fillip to maritime sector

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh will have a shipbuilding cluster at Dugarajapatnam in Tirupati district, adjacent to the upcoming seaport there . Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to make an announcement of the project in August . It will be one of the three such clusters proposed to be developed in India, the other two being in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

The proposal to have the cluster at Dugarajapatnam is set to be placed before the Union Cabinet for approval, said Secretary (Industries & Commerce) N. Yuvaraj, who told *The Hindu* that a 2,000-acre land parcel has already been identified at Dugarajapatnam, and the process of acquiring land and commissioning other civil works will begin after the Centre gives the green signal.

Half the land will have the shipbuilding facility, and the remaining 1,000 acres will be allotted to the downstream industries.

The Centre, the State government and private shipbuilders will sign a tripartite agreement and float a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the project.

The GoI's role will be to construct the seaport while the State gives land to the ship builders, who will develop the cluster. The land lease rent will be the revenue for the SPV.

The State is batting for the development of the shipbuilding cluster at Dugarajapatnam due to the availability of the required 2,000 acres there.

Moreover, Dugarajapatnam has a higher draft of 14 meters compared to 10 meters each at the other two places.

Tadepalli gang rape accused gets 20-year jail term

The Hindu Bureau
GUNTUR

Additional District and Sessions Judge (V) K. Neelima on Friday sentenced Seeru Krishna Kishore (32), the second accused in the 2021 Tadepalli gang-rape case, to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed on him a fine of ₹62,000.

On June 19, 2021, a nurse working at a Vijayawada hospital was returning home with a friend after her night shift. The duo stopped at the Seethanagaram ghats in Tadepalli. While leaving, they were accosted by Ramalingam Prasanna Reddy alias Venkat (still absconding) and Krishna Kishore.

The accused allegedly seized their phones, tied up the victim's companion using her duty dress, and took her under an old railway bridge, where they raped her.

KTR once proposed merger of BRS with BJP: Anakapalli MP

The Hindu Bureau
ANAKAPALLI

Anakapalli MP C.M. Ramesh.

BJP MP from Anakapalli C.M. Ramesh on Saturday stirred a political storm by alleging that working president of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) had once approached him with a proposal to merge his party with the BJP. Addressing the media, Mr. Ramesh alleged that Mr. Rama Rao had put forth the proposal in Delhi, and that he had video evidence of it.

"A few months ago, KTR had come to my house with the proposal and, in return, sought that no cases are registered against and investigation made into the scams allegedly committed by the BRS government. I have video proof ," Mr. Ramesh alleged, and dared the BRS leader to swear by God and tell whether he had approached him with such a proposal or not.

Meanwhile, leaders of various parties opined that Mr. Ramesh's allegations were in response to the remarks of Mr. Rama Rao against the BJP leader.

"Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is giving Telangana contracts to A.P. contractors. There is a secret understanding between Mr. Revanth Reddy and Mr. Ramesh," the BRS leader had alleged recently.

Vishram Sadan with 150 beds to be built at Kurnool GGH

The proposed building will be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹14.15 crore, and will have an office, recreation facilities, generator, solar rooftop, a pumphouse and overhead water tank

The Hindu Bureau
KURNOOL

A new facility for the attendants of the patients admitted to the Government General Hospital, Kurnool, will be built soon. The building, 'Vishram Sadan', will be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹14.15 crore and the entire cost is being borne by Secunderabad-based Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCI).

Minister for Health Satya Kumar Yadav has given approval for the construction of the Sadan after a detailed examination of the project, an official statement said.

The 'Vishram Sadan' will have 150 beds for the attendants of in-patients and will have an office, recreation facilities, generator, solar rooftop, a pumphouse and overhead water tank.

Minister for Health Satya Kumar Yadav gives approval for the construction after a detailed examination of the project. FILE PHOTO

The PGCI will hand over the building to the GGH after its completion and the district collector will select an NGO for maintaining the building by charging a minimal fare from those who want to use the facility.

Presently, the attendants of in-patients are taking shelter at three sheds in the GGH premises which are lacking basic facilities, security and sanitation. Minister Satya Kumar thanked the PGCI for coming forward to construct the Vishram Sadan under corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Mr. Satya Kumar asked officials to prepare guidelines for operating the Sadan, the criteria for giving beds to the attendants, the fare to be collected and others.

The Kurnool GGH has 1,700 beds for in-patients of which 150 have been allocated for cancer patients. An average of 90 % beds are filled with patients on a day, GGH Superintendent K. Venkateswarlu said and added the new facility will provide the much needed relief to the attendants.

INBRIEF

'Shivachatusaptaha' bhajans begin at Srisailam temple

Five 'Bhajana Mandalis' from Kurnool and two from Karnataka have been selected to render 'Shivachatusaptaha' bhajans during the auspicious 'Sravana Masam' that commenced on July 25, at the Sri Bharamaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy temple in Srisailam. The authorities conduct `Shivachatusaptaha' bhajans during the auspicious months of 'Sravanam' and 'Karthika' every year. The bhajans will be held break-free entire month at Veerashiro Mandapam.

20 students fall ill at tribal residential school at Neravada

Nearly 20 students of the Tribal Boys Residential School at Neravada in Panyam mandal of Nandyal district fell ill reportedly due to suspected water contamination. The students complained of vomiting and diarrhea on Friday night, after which they were shifted to hospital. Health officials said that poor sanitation at the hostel might have led to water contamination. A damaged water pipeline near the sewer area might have caused the problem, health officials said, and added that the damaged part had been repaired. District Medical and Health Officer (DM&HO) Dr. Venkata Ramana and others rushed to the school to assess the situation. Of the 20, four are being treated at the Government Hospital in Panyam, while the remaining were provided medical care at the hostel. Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav instructed the Director of Secondary Health Dr. Siri to assess the situation and extend all possible medical care to the affected children. Collector G. Rajakumari took a serious view of the incident and directed the Health and Education department authorities to ensure such incidents do not recur.

Keep politics out of Pawan's moive, say fans

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

Members of the Pawan Kalyan Fans Association and Jana Sena Party (JSP) leaders have appealed to rival political parties not to politicise the screening of *Hari Hara Veera Mallu*, starring Desputy CHief Minister and actor K. Pawan Kalyan.

JSP leaders K. Kiran Rayal and Chinnamgari Ramana, on Saturday, distributed sarees to sanitary workers deployed at theatres screening the film. The gesture was described as a token of gratitude for the workers' support during the benefit shows.

Addressing the media, the leaders urged political opponents, fans of other film stars, and a section of both mainstream and social media to refrain from spreading negativity about the film.

"The film is a must-watch for people across all social groups and categories. It offers a glimpse into our history. However, a section of social media affiliated to a particular political party is deliberately circulating negative feedback," the leaders alleged.

Claiming that the film has already grossed ₹200 crore, the Jana Sena supporters expressed confidence that it would soon touch the ₹500 crore mark, which they said would reflect "the might of Pawan Kalyan's popularity".

To the brim

A view of the swollen Krishna at Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada on Saturday. Continuous rain in the catchment areas upstream of the river in the past few days has led to heavy floodwater inflow into the barrage. G.N. RAO

Commerically-licensed mini-theatre at Prakruthi Vedhika Cultural Centre near Konthamuru on the outskirts of Rajamahendravaram.

20-seater cinema, first in State, opens in Rajamahendravaram

The Hindu Bureau
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

Collaborated with Qube cinema, the theatre is meant for audience at a government-fixed ticket cost

The Andhra Pradesh State's first 20-seat capacity theatre has been thrown open exclusively for families and groups to enjoy the latest movies.

Located near Konthamuru on the outskirts of Rajamahendravaram City on the Prakruthi Vedhika Cultural Centre (PVCC), the commercially-licensed theatre has raised its curtains with the screening of *Hari Hara Veera Mallu* starring Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan.

"We have collaborated with Qube Cinema for screening the new movies. The families and groups can book the theatre for ₹5,000 per show. The innovative idea has been proven economically viable as its operational cost is low," claimed PVCC founder G. V. Sri Raj.

The theatre guarantees a comfortable environment as there won't be the presence of a strange audience. "We have obtained a commercial license from the State government, meeting the eligibility criterion to screen the new movies that are supplied by the exhibitors," said Mr. Sri Raj.

TTD probing 'consecration of idol' in its Delhi temple

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

A group of staff and priests at the TTD's Sri Balaji Mandir at Gol Market in New Delhi allegedly attempted to install a 'Naga' idol at the temple complex last month without securing permission from the authorities concerned and without following due religious rituals.

According to sources, the idol was brought from an unverified source in Visakhapatnam, to which special 'puja' was performed ahead of its consecration. However, the installation was opposed by another group of employees, which blew the lid off the matter and alerted the TTD. The authorities have traced the entire episode to Special Officer K. Rama Rao, under whose alleged guidance the 'unofficial consecration' we done, sources said.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

E. SELVARAJ (73), Retired Assistant Engineer (Composing), The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 25-July-2025 Address: 3/546, Third Street, Thiruvalluvar Nagar, Jelladianpet, Medavakkam, Chennai - 600100. Contact: 7092161111

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. P.BALASUBRAMANIAN
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We remember him with deep gratitude and profound respect.
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Applications invited for JRF posts by Lakireddy Hanimireddy Degree College at Mylavaram

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Department of Botany in Dr. Lakireddy Hanimireddy Government Degree College, Mylavaram, has invited applications for the position of Junior Research Fellow (JRF) for a period of three years under the research project titled "Study of Orchidaceae Family Plants in Andhra Pradesh" sanctioned by Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), New Delhi.

In a statement on Saturday (July 26, 2025), project Director J. Ramudu said the candidates must have completed M.Sc in Botany/ Plant Sciences/Plant Biotechnology. Preference would be given to candidates who have qualified CSIR-UGC NET, GATE or SLET/SET. They should not have completed 28 years of age as on the date of application and age relaxation would be given as per government norms for SC/ ST/BC/PWD/Women candidates.

Dr. Ramudu said candidates should e-mail bio data and scanned copies of educational qualifications in PDF format to rusabotany2024@gmail.com by 5 p.m. on August 10. For further details, aspirants can contact the Project Director, Dr. J. Ramudu, head of the department of Botany, Dr. Lakireddy Hanimireddy Government Degree College, Mylavaram, NTR district, Andhra Pradesh - 521230.

Officials told to hasten Vizag Metro Rail land acquisition

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad has asked the officials to speed up the land acquisition work for the Visakhapatnam Metro Rail project and expansion of railway lines.

Participating in a review meeting with the officials on Saturday, the Collector enquired about the status of land acquisition, issuance of notifications, and other requirements for the Metro Rail project and railway line expansion.

He enquired about the land acquisition to be made for the Visakhapatnam-Gopalapatnam 3rd and 4th lines, proposed flyover between Pendurthi and Simhachalam North stations and Vadlapudi Junction, Gajuwaka-Kanithi Road, and the Duvvada-Simhachalam development works. He also reviewed the land acquisition process for the three corridors under Phase-1 of the Visakhapatnam Metro Rail project and issued guidelines to the authorities concerned. He asked the revenue officials to speed up the issuance of Form-2 notifications and submit the reports within the given time.

Visakhapatnam Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad

The Collector discussed land acquisition for the three corridors of Phase-1 of the Metro Rail project. He asked the officials to identify the displaced families and ensure smooth rehabilitation. As many as 9.22 acres of private land at different locations in the city would be acquired, he said. The Andhra Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (APMRC) on Friday signed an MoU with SYSTRA to provide design, supervision, and technical support for the metro rail projects proposed in Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. Nearly 20% of the cost will be borne by the Central government, 20% by the State, and 60% through a low-interest loan facilitated by the Centre. Tenders have already been invited for Visakhapatnam Metro's Phase-1 work in 46.23 km. To optimise space, double-decker corridors have been planned in 20 km in Vizag.

'Ayodhya Ram Mandir' exhibition shut down

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

Following a string of controversies surrounding it, the 'Ayodhya Ram Mandir', model featuring in a commercial exhibition on the Beach Road was shut down on Saturday.

The scheduled event of 'Sree Seetha Rama Kalyanam' on July 29 was also reportedly called off after objections from the members of the Sadhu Parishad and Hindu organisations. The row began when the organisers reportedly announced plans to conduct 'Sree Seetha Rama Kalyanam' on July 29, charging ₹3,000 a ticket. They allegedly claimed that priests from Bhadrachalam would be participating. In response to their advertisement, the Bhadrachalam temple responded to the unauthorised use of their name and said they are not attending any such event.

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INBRIEF

Sandra Thomas to run for top post of Kerala film chamber

Malayalam film producer Sandra Thomas arrived at the Kerala Film Producers' Association on Saturday wearing a burqa to file her nomination for the election to the executive committee of the body on August 14. She is contesting for the post of president amid her rift with the current leadership of the association over their silence on the Hema Committee report. She said that wearing a burqa was the safest option while visiting a space that has been dominated by men.

Manager of Kollam school dismissed over student death

The Kerala government dismissed the manager of High School for Boys, Thevalakkara, in Kollam district and entrusted the District Education Officer with the school's administration after the death of a 13-year-old student by electrocution from an overhead power line on the school premises on July 17. Minister V. Sivankutty told media that a report of Director of General Education had found grave dereliction of duty by manager R. Thulasidharan Pillai.

SHRC faults coercive retention of certificates in TG

The State Human Rights Commission on Saturday directed the Chief Secretary to issue binding instructions to all higher educational institutions in the State prohibiting coercive retention of original academic certificates of students. It was hearing the case of one Vangala Sruthi, a student who alleged that KLR College of Pharmacy, Palvancha, has illegally retained her original academic certificates and demanded ₹3 lakh, despite her withdrawal from the course.

Day after Kannur jailbreak, CM orders high-level probe

Pinarayi Vijayan orders comprehensive inquiry by a special team headed by a former HC judge and ex-State police chief; new Central Prison, staff transfers, better video recordings mooted

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has directed a comprehensive inquiry into the incident of Govindachamy, convicted of the rape and murder of a 23-year-old woman in 2011, escaping from the high-security block of the Kannur Central Prison on Friday. The police captured him a few hours later.

A police investigation and department-level inspections are under way. In addition to these, a detailed investigation will be conducted by a special team headed by former Kerala High Court judge C.N. Ramachandran Nair and former State police chief Jacob Punnoose.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting called by the Chief Minister. He said the incident is extremely serious and warrants a detailed investigation to take corrective action.

It has been decided to make electric fencing fully operational in all four major jails in the State within the next three months. Intelligent CCTV that can capture detailed footage will be installed in the four major jails. Staff who have completed five years in each jail will be transferred to other places. Further, intelligence activities will be strengthened inside jails.

Many of the convicted criminals are currently lodged in high-security jails. Inter-State jail transfers will also be considered for such convicts, the Chief Minister said.

Steps would be taken to strengthen the existing video conferencing system in the jails.

A new central jail will be started given the fact that existing jails have more prisoners than their carrying capacity. Efforts will be made to find land in Kottayam and Pathanamthitta for this purpose

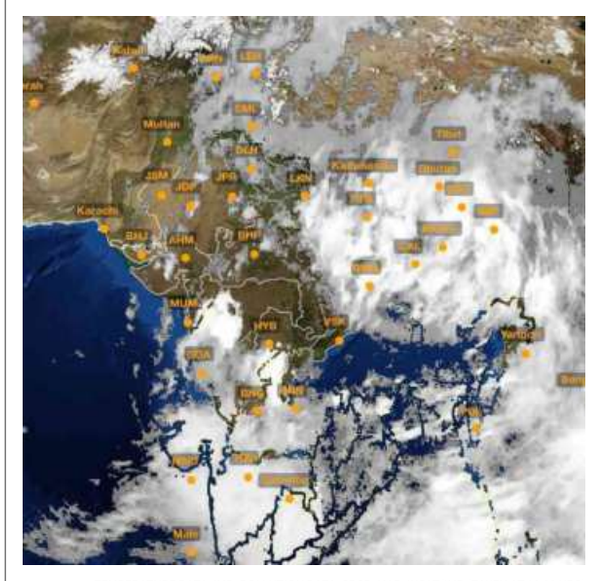
Security lapse: Govindachamy was caught hours after his escape and brought back to the Kannur Central Prison on Friday. S.K. MOHAN

Convict moved to another jail

KANNUR
Govindachamy was shifted to Viyyur Central Jail in Thrissur under tight security on Saturday. Three officials were suspended for dereliction of duty following the convict's short-lived jailbreak. The incident has raised serious questions about prison security protocols in Kerala.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Saurashtra & Kutch, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.7	27.0	Kozhikode	51	24.5	22.5
Ahmedabad	—	34.2	27.8	Kurnool	0.5	30.5	25.1
Aizawl	28	32.2	22.7	Lucknow	11	34.9	25.6
Allahabad	59	30.2	25.0	Madurai	—	34.5	27.1
Bengaluru	0.2	26.6	19.8	Mangaluru	20.9	27.8	22.4
Bhopal	33	27.6	22.6	Mumbai	97	29.5	25.1
Bhubaneswar	0.1	32.0	25.8	Mysuru	2	27.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	36.9	27.8	New Delhi	—	36.8	27.0
Chennai	—	34.8	27.7	Patna	8	32.6	27.7
Coimbatore	—	28.7	21.6	Port Blair	13	29.6	24.8
Dehradun	35	35.6	23.3	Puducherry	—	35.4	26.2
Gangtok	15	20.6	18.7	Pune	22.8	28.3	23.9
Goa	22	28.5	24.3	Raipur	135.2	27.6	24.5
Guwahati	—	36.5	27.2	Ranchi	24	26.3	24.0
Hubballi	—	26.0	22.0	Shillong	12	25.3	18.6
Hyderabad	19	24.9	22.1	Shimla	6	27.8	19.8
Imphal	15.6	30.6	23.2	Srinagar	3	30.7	20.1
Jaipur	33	32.1	23.1	Thiruvananthapuram	35	29.3	21.5
Kochi	42	29.2	22.6	Tiruchi	—	33.1	26.6
Kohima	—	25.0	20.2	Vijayawada	28	30.5	24.8
Kolkata	72	31.8	26.2	Visakhapatnam	—	31.2	26.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	15	53	24	57	69	Moderate
Bengaluru	12	9	35	29	101	Moderate
Chennai	6	32	—	33	122	Moderate
Delhi	10	42	26	72	138	Moderate
Hyderabad	38	16	38	84	92	Good
Kolkata	3	55	18	39	36	Good
Lucknow	—	38	93	23	26	Good
Mumbai	27	18	30	65	74	Good
Pune	—	50	77	27	34	Good
Visakhapatnam	34	48	14	47	64	Good

Yesterday
In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nandesari, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 176 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Amravati, Maharashtra recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

One killed as rain batters Kodagu district

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Incessant rain has been lashing many parts of Kodagu in Karnataka for the past few days, and multiple incidents of damage to property have been reported from across the district in the last 24 hours.

A woman was killed and another person was injured when their house collapsed in the early hours of Saturday at Hanagallu village in Somwarpet taluk.

At Biligunda village Virajpet taluk, a portion of the roof of a house and the rear wall collapsed due to rains. At Shanivarasanthe, a house was damaged when a tree got uprooted and fell on the roof, forcing the residents to vacate the place.

Similar incidents of house damage as a result of heavy rains were reported in several villages across Sampaje hobli, Napoklu hobli, Somwarpet taluk, Kushalnagar taluk, and Bhagamandala hobli.

The district received 54.01 mm of rainfall during the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday. An orange alert has been issued for the district till 8.30 a.m. on Sunday.

Flood warning
The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) has issued a flood warning to people living in the downstream of the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir as the outflow from the dam was increased to 50,000 cusecs on Saturday evening.

Plan to auction 17 land parcels in Hyderabad's Raidurg area

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC), whose decision earlier this year to auction 400 acres of prime land in Kancha Gachibowli created a furore, is now proposing to put on block as many as 17 land parcels totalling more than 66 acres in Raidurg and Osman Nagar.

Like in the case of Kancha Gachibowli lands, the objective behind this auction is mobilisation of resources. While Raidurg is a well-known hub of technology development offices or the global capability centres of some of the leading firms across industries, Osman Nagar is part of the fast developing area, also in west Hyderabad.

What documents show
Documents accompanying a call for selection of transaction advisory consultant for providing assistance in the auction show 13 land parcels are in Osman Nagar, including one that is 17.35 acres and largest in the lot. The remaining four are in Raidurg, with the largest 11 acres. Two small parcels of the lot – 0.47 and 0.50 acres – are in Raidurg.

TGIIC, which is the nodal agency of the State government for development of industrial infrastructure, has estimated the per acre market value of the parcels in Osman Nagar from ₹18.7 crore to ₹25 crore. In line with the premium it has come to command, Raidurg's land parcel's market value are estimated at ₹71.6 crore per acre for a 7.67 acre parcel; and ₹63.3 crore per acre for the 11 acres plot.

Come rain or shine

Daily pickings: A man feeds a flock of pigeons on a rainy day at Musallam Jung Pul in Hyderabad on Saturday. PTI

Cong. leader quits as district president after phone call leak leaves party red-faced

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A leaked telephone call purportedly involving Thiruvananthapuram District Congress Committee (DCC) president Palode Ravi embarrassed the Congress on Saturday, leading to Mr. Ravi's resignation from the post at the close of the day. Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president Sunny Joseph accepted the resignation.

Meanwhile, the party expelled A. Jaleel, its Vamanapuram block general secretary, who, it is said, was at the other end of the phone call, upon finding that he was involved in anti-party activities.

Palode Ravi

The leaked tape, containing disparaging predictions about the Congress faring poorly in the local body polls later this year and falling headlong in the Assembly, had put the party on the defensive through the day.

While Mr. Ravi, former MLA and Deputy Speaker in the Kerala Assembly, sought to portray the contents of the conversation as a wake-up call and a warning routinely issued to party workers down the chain of command, the State leadership was not pleased and sought an explanation from him.

"Interestingly, he did not deny saying what was on the tape. He just tried to defend himself," said a senior party leader.

While none has been given the charge of the DCC president for now, sources in the party said a replacement would be made soon.

For five tribal settlements in Munnar, access to proper road remains a distant dream

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

In a stark reminder of the brutal realities faced by indigenous communities, a tribal woman from the remote Valsapettykudy tribal settlement in Anamudi Shola National Park under the Munnar Wildlife Division writhed in pain for hours with no ambulance in sight – because there is no proper road.

Injured on the way to the MGNREGS work site, she was finally carried to the nearest hospital in Marayur on a bamboo stretcher by over 50 fellow tribespeople, trudging six kilometres through treacherous terrain. This ordeal unfolds as monsoon rain leaves nearly 330 Muthuvan tribal families in five settlements cut off from basic services, trapped in isolation by the government's failure to build a proper road.

Arduous journey: A tribal woman moved on a bamboo stretcher over six kilometres to a hospital on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to Idukki block panchayat member C. Rajendran, there is a motorable road from Vattavada to Chilanthiyar and from Ollavayalkudy to Marayur. Between Chilanthiyar and Ollavayalkudy, which is a 13-km stretch, there are tribal settlements such as Valsapettykudy, Moolavallikudy, Vayaltharakudy, Swamiyaralakudy, and Koodallarkudy which are struggling for want of a proper road. One has to travel 103 kilometres to reach these settlements through the Munnar-Marayur route. Absence of proper road has forced families to shift children to hostels at the age of five to attend school, Mr. Rajendran added

Former Vattavada grama panchayat president R. Ramaraj alleged that officials from the Munnar wildlife division were obstructing the road construction intended for tribal settlements. "People's representatives and local people tried to build a motorable road on the 13-kilometre stretch, but the Forest department opposed it.

Forestland required
Munnar Wildlife Warden K.V. Harikrishnan said the construction of a road connecting the settlements would require 3.5 hectares of forestland.

"The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) can provide one hectare of land. If more land is needed, the user agency of the project should submit an application to MoEF through the Parivesh portal for permission. The Forest department will not oppose the road construction," said Mr. Harikrishnan.

Goa CM's remarks on Mahadayi slammed by farmers' outfits

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's statement in the Legislative Assembly about Union Minister for Forest and Environment Bhupendra Yadav's "assurance" that the Mahadayi project will not be approved has been condemned by farmers' organisations fighting for the Kalasa-Banduri Nala Project (which is part of the Mahadayi project).

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil have condemned the statement and said that such development was an "injustice to the federal system" .

The issue has put the BJP leaders from the State on the back foot. Union Minister for Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi has issued a statement saying that Mr. Sawant had made a "personal statement" and it had nothing to do with the Union government.

President of the Karnataka Raita Sene Shankrappa Ambali said that all the Karnataka MPs should exert pressure on the Centre to get the required clearances as the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal had given its verdict, and the detailed project report had also been approved.

From Page One

Modi, Muizzu signal major reset in relations

The revival in ties between India and the Maldives could be seen in the memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and agreements signed during the Prime Minister's visit to the island nation. Notably, Mr. Muizzu and Mr. Modi inaugurated a new building of the Maldives' Ministry of Defence in Malé, along with other jointly executed infrastructure projects.

The sentiment also came through in Mr. Muizzu's address at the state banquet hosted for Mr. Modi on Friday. Asserting that India has long stood as the "closest and most trusted partner" of the Maldives, he pointed to this year marking 60 years of diplomatic relations between the Maldives and India. He called it "a milestone" that reflects the shared history of the countries, and "the depth and resilience" of the partnership.

The political opposition in the Maldives welcomed the Muizzu government's shift in its India policy.

A senior politician, who requested anonymity, told *The Hindu* that the turnaround in ties was possible after Mr. Muizzu's "realisation" that he needed to work with India "no matter what". He added: "India's broad shoulders and thick skin also helped."

'I feel sorry to be backing Bihar govt.'

Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Mrityunjay Tiwari, in a response to Mr. Paswan's remarks on the Nitish Kumar-led government's 'inability' to manage law and order, said his party had been drawing attention to the issue. "What Mr. Paswan is saying today, we have been crying for months – that the law and order situation in the State has collapsed. Our party leader, Tejashwi Yadav, has been flagging the ever-spiralling criminal incidents in the State daily. Mr. Paswan has called a spade a spade," he said.

The Congress shared a video of Mr. Paswan's remarks in an attempt to highlight apparent cracks in the ruling NDA. "We agree with what Chirag Paswan has said over the deteriorating law and order situation in Bihar. Every citizen in the State is feeling the same and that's why we have shared Mr. Paswan's video," party spokesperson Rajesh Rathore told *The Hindu* over phone.

Hindustani Awam Morcha-Secular chief and former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, also an NDA partner in Bihar, disagreed that Mr. Paswan's remarks suggested a rift between the allies.

Bihar SIR to restore trust in poll rolls: EC

The annexure includes complaints made by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) before the Delhi Assembly polls, and by the Congress and its allies about alleged additions made to voter lists during the Maharashtra Assembly polls last year, as well as by the BJP, AIADMK, and Shiv Sena.

"...several recognised political parties across the spectrum have raised serious concerns with the Commission regarding inaccuracies in the electoral rolls – citing the inclusion of ineligible and deceased individuals and exclusion of eligible voters. These concerns arise from the limitations of the summary revision process which does not require fresh preparation of electoral rolls," the EC affidavit said.

Some of the names that could be struck off the draft roll belong to deceased voters, or those who have migrated out of the State, while other voters were registered to vote in two locations or failed to complete their enumeration forms.

Opposition parties, led by the Congress, have been consistently attacking the Election Commission alleging that electoral rolls were manipulated during the Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly polls.

The poll body said that political parties across the spectrum have also voiced concerns regarding the accuracy of the electoral rolls revised through the summary revision process, regarding the wrongful inclusion of the names of deceased, migrated and non-citizen voters. In order to restore public confidence and address these concerns, it has decided to undertake the SIR, the EC said.

'Journalists in trouble over reports on officials'

The criminal charges most frequently invoked against journalists were offences related to public tranquility, criminal intimidation and insult, promoting enmity, defamation, offences against public servants, and offences relating to religion.

G.S. Bajpai, vice-chancellor, NLU, told *The Hindu* that the growing trend of invoking criminal laws against journalists raises serious constitutional concerns. "This report reveals that journalists, particularly from smaller towns, are increasingly being targeted through penal provisions. While it is true that journalists must uphold professional standards and exercise due responsibility in their reporting, the data emerging from this study points to a troubling pattern of criminalisation. Such developments do not bode well for the health of a constitutional democracy, where freedom of the press is a foundational pillar," he said.

Operation Sindoor a stern message to Pak.: Army chief

Any power that tries to challenge the sovereignty of India will be given a befitting reply, says General Dwivedi; President, Prime Minister and Defence Minister pay tributes to Kargil heroes on Vijay Divas

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Operation Sindoor was a message to Pakistan as well as a response to the Pahalgam terror attack that supporters of terrorism would not be spared, said the Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, on Saturday.

"This time India did not only mourn but also showed that the response would be decisive," Gen. Dwivedi said at the Kargil War Memorial in Drass. Addressing a gathering on Vijay Divas, he said a stern response to the adversary was the new normal established by India.

"Any power that tries to challenge the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of India or harm its people will be given a befitting reply," he said.

Gen. Dwivedi said that during the operation, the Army had eliminated nine high-value terrorist targets in Pakistan with zero collateral damage. "India attained a decisive victory by effective targeting of terror infrastructure in Pakistan during Operation Sindoor," he said.

Warm gesture: Students of a government school tie rakhis on General Upendra Dwivedi at the Kargil War Memorial on the 26th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Divas at Drass in Kargil on Saturday. PTI

In his keynote address, Gen. Dwivedi paid a heartfelt tribute to the fallen soldiers of the Kargil War. He reflected on the Indian Army's historic victory in 1999 and its resolute defence of national sovereignty during recent Operation Sindoor.

Calling upon youth to serve the nation with honesty and dedication, he closed with a resolute commitment to safeguarding India's unity, sovereignty, and honour.

Tributes on Vijay Divas

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday led the nation in paying tributes to the armed forces personnel who fought to defend India's territory and handed a crushing defeat to Pakistan in the 1999 Kargil conflict.

On July 26, 1999, the Indian Army announced the successful culmination of Operation Vijay, declaring victory after a nearly three-month-long battle on the icy heights of Kargil in Ladakh. More than 500 Indian soldiers died in the conflict that began with Pakistani soldiers intruding into Indian territory. The day is observed as Kargil Vijay Diwas every year.

"This day symbolises the extraordinary valour, courage, and steadfast determination of our jawans. Their dedication and supreme sacrifice for the nation will forever inspire its citizens," Ms. Murmu said in a social media post.

Various events were organised across the country to mark the occasion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Kargil Vijay Diwas reminds the country of the unparalleled courage and valour of its soldiers who sacrificed their lives in defending the country's pride.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the top military brass paid tributes to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial.

(With inputs from PTI)

'India's rising stature will lead to security challenges in future'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that India's rising stature would lead to increasing national security challenges in the years to come. He said such challenges need to be addressed through better coordination for which "homogenous teams of Central and State agencies should be formed".

Mr. Shah was speaking at the conclusion of the two-day 8th National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference-2025 organised by the Intelligence Bureau (IB).

The conference, held in hybrid format, was attended by around 800 police and intelligence officers from across the country.

He also instructed the involvement of young police officers in each State to brainstorm on national challenges and devise solutions to address them.

The Union Minister emphasised that the next 5-10 years would be very important for the development and security of the country. He said that internal security challenges would remain dynamic in view of India's geopolitical neighbourhood, asking State and Central security agencies to adopt the motto of "*Suraksha*, *Sajagta*, and Samanvay (Security, alertness, and coordination)".

Action on drug cartels

He asked for strict action against big drug cartels, besides focusing on extradition of narco-offenders. The Director Generals of Police (DGPs) were directed to make anti-narcotics drive the prime agenda of the police for the next three years, pointing out that the police station was the focal point of intelligence collection.

Stressing upon the need for all-round development in left-wing extremism affected areas, the Minister urged the DGPs to coordinate with State administrations to ensure the implementation of more than 300 Central and State development schemes at the grassroots level.

Rajasthan govt. announces ₹10 lakh each to kin of children killed in school roof collapse

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Amid demands for the resignation of State Education Minister Madan Dilawar, the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Rajasthan on Saturday announced an ex-gratia assistance of ₹10 lakh each to the next of kin of seven children killed in the school building collapse in Jhalawar district. One member of each family will also get a contractual job with the State government.

The bodies of six children were cremated together in Piplodi village, where a portion of the government school in which they were studying collapsed on Friday morning. The seventh child was cremated in Chandpura Bheelan village, situated nearby.

The police stopped Congress MLA from Khanpur, Suresh Gurjar, and student leader from Jaipur, Nirmal Choudhary, on the Kota-Jhalawar road when they were going to meet the injured students admitted to hospital. Another political leader, Naresh Meena, was detained when he staged a dharna outside the District Hospital in Jhalawar.

Panel to review safety

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma announced the formation of a permanent committee to review the safety of government schools, colleges, hostels and Anganwadi centres and to undertake the repairing of dilapidated buildings. He also announced an increase from 15% to 20% in the permissible allocation for these buildings in Dang, Magra and Mewat regions.

Gross negligence: Parents mourn the children who lost their lives in the Jhalawar school roof collapse, on Saturday. ANI

Mr. Sharma said at a high-level meeting here that a provision of ₹375 crore was made in this year's Budget for repairing of schools and construction of new school buildings, besides the release of ₹3 crore to each Assembly constituency for the purpose.

"The MLAs will also be entitled to recommend an expenditure of 20% of their annual allocation under the local area development fund in schools," Mr. Sharma said.

Civil rights groups in the State have termed Friday's mishap as an instance of "gross administrative negligence" and demanded the immediate resignation of Education Minister Mr. Dilawar. People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL)-Rajasthan president Bhanwar Meghwanshi said, "Mr. Dilawar's sole focus has been on communalising educational institutions."

The PUCL urged the State government to learn from the Piplodi accident and immediately conduct a comprehensive safety audit of all school buildings.

Safety audits must be done in schools, says Centre

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Education has issued a directive to all States and Union Territories mandating them to conduct audits of safety mechanisms and facilities for children in schools, officials said on Saturday.

"States and UTs must take urgent steps to ensure student's safety and their well-being. This includes mandatory safety audits of schools and child-related facilities as per national safety codes, training for staff and students in emergency preparedness, and the provision of psychosocial support through counselling and peer networks," says the directive.

Cong. demands CBI-led, judge-supervised probe into 'organic cotton scam'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Alleging a "scam" worth over ₹2.1 lakh crore in the name of organic cotton in India, the Congress on Saturday demanded the formation of a Special Investigation Team led by the Central Bureau of Investigation under the supervision of a High Court judge.

The party said that the scam had severely harmed the global credibility of India's organic products.

Speaking at a press conference at the All India Congress Committee headquarters, senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Digvijaya Singh, alleged that certain traders were falsely labelling non-organic cotton as "organic" and earning six-fold profits, while genuine farmers struggled to get even the minimum support price. He added that the scam involved massive tax and GST evasion.

Digvijaya Singh

'Govt. aware of scam'

The Congress leader said that the government had been aware of irregularities in the certification process and the scam since 2017, but had not taken any strict action.

Mr. Singh explained that in 2001, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), which is implemented by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. The goal is to certify and regulate organic exports. Under this programme, NPOP accredits certification bodies that verify Internal Control Systems (ICS). After ICS verification, a transaction certificate is issued, declaring the group as organic.

"Most farmers shown as registered in these ICS groups neither grow organic cotton nor are aware of their inclusion in the system. These ICS groups have deliberately committed fraud by including farmers' names to obtain transaction certificates," he said.

728 rounds of ammunition, 90 firearms and explosives seized from Imphal Valley

Press Trust of India
IMPHAL

Security forces on Saturday seized at least 90 firearms and over 700 rounds of ammunition and explosives from multiple operations across five districts of Manipur, the police said. A senior police officer said that several of the seized firearms were reportedly looted from police armouries after ethnic conflict erupted in the State in May 2023.

Acting on a tip-off, coordinated operations were launched simultaneously at multiple sites in Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Kakching, and Bishnupur districts, a police statement said.

Joint operation

During the operations by joint teams, comprising the Manipur Police, Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, Army and Assam Rifles, 90 weapons, including three from the AK series, one M16 rifle, five INSAS rifles, one INSAS LMG, four SLRs, 20 pistols, four carbines, seven .303 rifles and eight other rifles, were seized.

Seized booty: Security personnel with the arms and ammunition recovered during a joint operation in Manipur on Saturday. PTI

"A total of 728 ammunition [rounds] and explosives, including 21 grenades and six IEDs, besides 21 magazines and 24 wireless handsets, were also seized," it said.

Miscreants had looted over 6,000 firearms from police armouries after ethnic violence broke out in the State on May 3, 2023. More than 3,000 of the looted firearms have been recovered, including over 1,500 after President's Rule was imposed in February.

Cong. accuses BJP of doing 'petty politics' in Justice Varma row

Opposition party cites Dhankhar to say notice for Justice Varma's removal was admitted in Rajya Sabha, countering reports to contrary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of doing "petty politics", ignoring Constitutional principles.

The party was referring to reports that the Opposition-backed notice in the Rajya Sabha for the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma, who faces allegations of corruption, had only been submitted and not admitted in the Upper House.

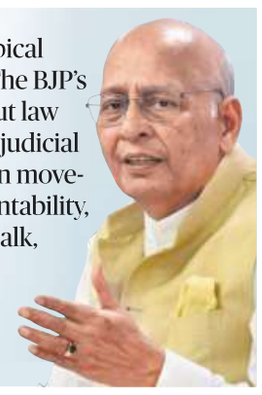
At a press conference, Congress spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Abhishek Singhvi quoted former Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar's July 21 statement in the House to argue that the notice, signed by 63 Opposition members, had been admitted by the Chair.

Mr. Singhvi further argued that the former Chairman's comments had made it clear that only a statutory committee of inquiry, under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, had to be formed after consulting with the Lok Sabha Speaker since an identical motion was submitted in the Lower House.

Mr. Singhvi accused the BJP of adopting double standard in its approach to judicial matters, particularly regarding Justices Varma and Shekhar Yadav, against whom the Opposition had moved a notice for removal.

"We are very concerned about this selective outrage and selective silence... This is typical BJP's double standard. The BJP's game of motions is less about law and more about optics... On judicial propriety, on anti-corruption movement and on judicial accountability, the BJP's mantra is talk the talk, never walk the walk. It is the worst example of hypocrisy on this entire episode," he said.

> This is the BJP's typical double standard. The BJP's game of motions is less about law and more about optics... On judicial propriety, on anti-corruption movement, and on judicial accountability, the BJP's mantra is talk the talk, never walk the walk
>
> **ABHISHEK SINGHVI**
> Congress spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member



Rejection of widely held documents in SIR 'inconsistent, arbitrary': ADR

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Association for Democratic Reforms on Saturday countered the Election Commission's refusal to accept Aadhaar, voter ID, and ration card as valid "standalone" proof for inclusion on the electoral roll during the special intensive revision (SIR) as "patently absurd".

In a rejoinder filed in a batch of petitions challenging the EC decision, the ADR, represented by advocates Prashant Bhushan and Neha Rathi, said any of the 11 documents listed by the commission for the verification of voters was equally prone to fraud.

On July 10, the Supreme Court had asked the commission to consider these three documents for the SIR, reasoning that they formed the foundational records to obtain any of the 11 documents, including residence and caste certificates, listed. The EC justified that Aadhaar, the elector photo identity card, and the ration card could easily be faked.

"It is pertinent to note that the 11 documents included in the approved list are equally susceptible to being procured on the basis of fake or false documentation, thereby rendering the EC's rationale baseless, inconsistent and arbitrary," the NGO's rejoinder said.

A booth-level officer checks documents for the revision of electoral rolls at Kamalpur village in Bihar. ANI

The NGO referred to data in the EC's affidavit detailing the expansive coverage of the 11 eligibility documents, including 13.89 crore residence certificates and 8.72 crore caste certificates issued from 2011 to 2025.

"It is interesting to note that the same far exceeds the total number of electors in the electoral rolls. If residence certificates can be accepted as eligibility proof of SIR 2025, despite their total number exceeding Bihar's current aggregate population, there is no reason why ration cards should be rejected as a document on the grounds of being prone to forgery," the NGO argued.

It said Aadhaar was accepted as proof for obtaining several of the 11 eligibility documents, including a permanent residence certificate, Other Backward Class (OBC)/Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificate, and passport. "This makes the EC's rejection of Aadhaar, which is the most widely held document, patently absurd," the rejoinder said.

The EC had filed a counter-affidavit on July 21 claiming plenary powers to conduct the SIR and the authority to determine citizenship. It said a large portion of the population in Bihar already possessed one or more of the 11 documents.

The NGO countered a claim by the EC that political parties were fully backing the SIR.

"Not a single political party had asked EC for a *de novo* exercise such as the one prescribed in the instant SIR order. The concerns were on the issue of addition of non-existent votes, and deletion of genuine votes supporting the Opposition parties, and on the issue of casting of votes after closure of polls... the EC's counter affidavit fails to substantiate or justify the necessity of the SIR in Bihar, or the broader push for a nationwide citizenship verification of electors," the NGO said.

It said people whose names are not found in the draft electoral roll for Bihar would not have the time to file appeals, prove their citizenship, and get re-enrolled in time for the Bihar Assembly election.

Cong. must shift focus to Gujarat, says Rahul Gandhi

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

In a sharp political pitch from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home turf, Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday called the Election Commission (EC) a "biased umpire". He stressed that defeating the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in its base in Gujarat, which is also Union Home Minister Amit Shah's stronghold, was critical for the party's national resurgence.

Addressing newly appointed District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents at a training camp, Mr. Gandhi said the Congress must shift its focus from just Uttar Pradesh or Bihar to Gujarat if it aims to defeat the BJP across the country.

The training camp is part of the Congress's preparations for the 2027 Gujarat Assembly election. It follows the appointment of new DCC chiefs across the State and will conclude on July 28.

Surendranagar Congress president Naushad Solanki quoted Mr. Gandhi as saying, "We believed we must work hard in U.P. and Bihar to defeat the BJP. But Rahul*ji* told us: if you defeat the BJP in Gujarat, it can be defeated everywhere."

Mr. Gandhi also accused the EC of playing unfairly. "In cricket, if you keep getting out, you start doubting yourself. But then you realise, it's the umpire who is biased," Mr. Solanki quoted him as saying.

Newly appointed Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda said that Mr. Gandhi had assured the cadre that the party leadership stood firmly with them. "He guided the district presidents and assured them that their inputs would be considered during candidate selection," he said.

17 MPs named for Sansad Ratna Awards for performance in LS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Seventeen Members of Parliament – including Supriya Sule (Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar), Ravi Kishan (Bharatiya Janata Party), Nishikant Dubey (BJP), and Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) – have been selected for the Sansad Ratna Awards, 2025 for their exemplary performance in the Lok Sabha.

The honours also include four special jury awards, recognising their consistent contributions to parliamentary democracy across three successive terms.

The special awards have been conferred on Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJP, Odisha), N.K. Premachandran (Revolutionary Socialist Party, Kerala), Supriya Sule (NCP-SP, Maharashtra), and Shrirang Appa Barne (Shiv Sena, Maharashtra). All of these leaders have maintained top performance since the 16th Lok Sabha.

The award-winning MPs include Smita Uday Wagh (BJP), Naresh Mhaske (Shiv Sena), Varsha Gaikwad (Congress), Medha Kulkarni (BJP), Praveen Patel (BJP), Bidyut Baran Mahato (BJP), and Dilip Saikia (BJP), among others.

In the committee category, the Standing Committee on Finance, chaired by Mr. Bhartruhari Mahtab, and the Standing Committee on Agriculture, chaired by Dr. Charanjit Singh Channi (Congress), were recognised for the quality of their reports and contributions to legislative oversight.

Tej Pratap Yadav to contest Bihar Assembly polls as Independent

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Tej Pratap Yadav, who is the elder son of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad, announced on Saturday that he would contest the upcoming State Assembly election from the Mahua constituency in Vaishali district as an Independent candidate.

In the 2020 Assembly polls, Mr. Tej Pratap Yadav had won on RJD ticket from the Hasanpur Assembly constituency in neighbouring Samastipur district, and before that, in 2015, he was elected from the Mahua Assembly constituency.

Tej Pratap Yadav

After being mired in a controversy recently over a relationship with a girl in a video post, he was expelled from the party and ousted from the family by his father.

Since then, he has been mulling over contesting the upcoming Assembly poll as an Independent candidate.

While speaking to pressmen in Patna, Mr. Tej Pratap Yadav also announced that Nitish Kumar would not be the Chief Minister again after the election.

Frequent disruptions in Parliament harm Opposition, says Rijiju

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday said that frequent disruptions in the House hurt the Opposition more, as they lost the crucial opportunity to hold the government accountable.

The remarks came after the first week of the ongoing Monsoon Session was largely washed out by repeated protests by Opposition MPs.

"Officers are relieved when Parliament doesn't function because they escape the grilling. When the House runs, Ministers face tough questions. When it adjourns within minutes, those questions don't even get raised," he said.

"Those who stall the House think they are damaging the government, but in truth, they are weakening their own role in a democracy," he added.

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-TENDER NOTICE

O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Consultancy Wing, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_778290_1 PAC:Rs. 84.25 Crores
Last Date: 12.08.2025 03.00 pm
O/o the Chief Engineer (Transmission South), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_777775 PAC:Rs. 9,55,00,000/-
Last Date: 21.08.2025 05.00 pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in Ref : PR/MC1/E572/E-tender/2025

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Advertisement No. ICMR-VCRC/Admn.Recruit/2025-26 dated 25.07.2025

Online application are invited to fill up the following administrative posts under Direct Recruitment at ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre, Puducherry.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Pay Level	Classification	No. of posts
1	Assistant	Pay Level - 6 (₹ 35,400 -1,12,400)	Group-B (Ministerial)	3
2	Upper Division Clerk	Pay Level – 4 (₹ 25,500 – 81,100)	Group-C (Ministerial)	1
3	Lower Division Clerk	Pay Level – 2 (₹ 19,900 – 63,200)	Group-C (Ministerial)	4
			Total	8

* Vacancies shown are as per current position and may vary at any stage of recruitment. For detailed Recruitment Notification, please visit website **https://icmr.gov.in.** Link for submitting the online applications: **https://joinicmr.in** is live from **25.07.2025** and will expire on **14.08.2025.**

Director

राष्ट्रीय समुद्र प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEAN TECHNOLOGY
(पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
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Pallikaranai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 100

MoES-DOM-PDF स्थिति के अंतर्गत प्रस्ताव हेतु आमंत्रण
Call for proposal under MoES-DOM-Post Doctoral Fellowship

विज्ञापन संख्या Advertisement No.: NIOT/MoES-DOM-V6/01/2025

ऑनलाइन आवेदन की शुरूआती तिथि:
Starting date of submission of online application: **28/07/2025 at 10:00 IST**

ऑनलाइन आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि:
Last date for receipt / submission of online application: **11/09/2025 at 17:30 IST**

पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय (एमओईएस), डीप ओशन मिशन (डीओएम) के अंतर्गत राष्ट्रीय समुद्र प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (रासप्रौसं), चेन्नई, डीओएम वर्टिकल-6 द्वारा वित्तपोषित पोस्ट–डॉक्टरल फेलोशिप के लिए अत्यधिक प्रेरित और योग्य भारतीय नागरिक उम्मीदवारों से आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है। जो मिशन के सभी छह वर्टिकल को कवर करने वाले एमओईएस–डीओएम पोस्ट-डॉक्टरल फेलोशिप (एमओईएस–डीओएम–पीडीएफ) कार्यक्रम का हिस्सा है। / National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Govt. of India invites applications from highly motivated and eligible Indian citizens for Post-Doctoral Fellowship, funded under Vertical-6 of the Deep Ocean Mission covering all six verticals of the mission.

फेलोशिप / Fellowship	पदों की संख्या / No. of Posts			बजट / Budget	
	DOM Verticals	Vacancy	Institute	S.No Item	Amount in Rs.
पोस्ट – डॉक्टरल फेलोशिप Post-Doctoral Fellowship	V1	5	NIOT	i) Fellowship	80,000/Month + HRA**
	V2	2+1	INCOIS/External*	ii) Research grant	2,50,000/Year
	V3	2+2+1	NIOT/CMLRE/BARC	iii) Overhead charges	1,00,000/Year
	V4	2+1	NCPOR/External*	iv) Travel (National) & International***	30,000/Year & 1,00,000 for 2 Years
	V5	2+1	NIOT/External*		
	V6	3+3	NIOT/External*		
	Total Vacancy	25			

Place of work: Depending upon the mentor institution. *Including collaborative project Institutions of DOM.
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Director (NIOT)

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No.:- 363-369 Date:- 01-07-2025

Notice Inviting Bid No. 04/2025-26

Bids for 11 (11 Nos) Road Work are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM dated 01.07.2025 to 31.07.2025. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portel (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and PWD departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 2682.65 Lacs.
NIB NO. PWD2526A1685
1. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB05972 2. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB05975
3. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB05977 4. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB05979
5. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB05980 6. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB05982
7. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB05985 8. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB05988
9. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB05994 10. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB05995
11. UBN NO. PWD2526WSOB05998

Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chirawa
DIPR/C/10245/2025

National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur (NIFTEM-T)
(An Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India), Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur - 613 005, Tamil Nadu
Tel.: 04362-228155 Email: registrar@iifpt.edu.in Website: www.niftem-t.ac.in

No: NIFTEM/Admin/Projects/2025 Date: 27.07.2025

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National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur (NIFTEM-T) - an Institute of National Importance, is inviting online applications from bright, dynamic and highly motivated candidates for the following time-bound and temporary positions.

S.No	Position	No. of Vacancies	Interview Location
1.	Research Associate	01	NIFTEM-Thanjavur Tamil Nadu
2.	Senior Research Fellow	04	
3.	Young Professional	05	
4.	Corporate Relations Manager	01	
5.	Food Analyst	01	NIFTEM -T, Liaison Office Guwahati, Assam
6.	Senior Research Fellow	01	

Application Fee: Rs. 500/- (exempted for SC/ST/PWD/Women Candidates).
For online application and further details on Age, Educational qualification, Eligibility criteria, Emoluments, tenure and terms & conditions, visit our website: https://niftem-t.ac.in/careers.php

- Commencement of online application is on **28th July 2025 @ 10.00 am** onwards.
- Last date for the submission Online application is **18th August 2025 @ 6.00 pm.**

Registrar

Er. Arabinda Tripathy
Chief General Manager (P&C)

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IDCO/SFP/34/2025 21480 Date: 21.07.2025

BID IDENTIFICATION NO - P&C/ EST/ E - 29/2025-26

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL OF GOVT. OF ODISHA

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Invites Request for Proposal from renowned Firms / Agencies through e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha for **"Operation, Maintenance & Management of Block Ice Unit and Cold Storage at CPC of Sea Food Park, Deras, Khurdha, Odisha."**

Firms/Agencies having experience in day-to-day operation, maintenance & management of Cold Storage/ Block Ice/ shrimp processing business are only invited to submit their proposal. The Bid Document comprising of eligibility criteria, Instruction to Bidders, Scope of the work, BOQ, etc. can be seen in e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha from **17:00 Hours of Dt.30.07.2025 to 17:00 Hours of Dt.20.08.2025.**

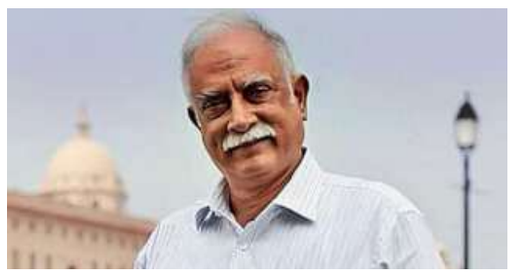
The pre-bid meeting will be held on Dt. 08.08.2025 at 11:30 Hours (Pre bid query must be submitted through mail id cgmpc@idco.in before prebid meeting).

The Technical Bid will be opened online on **21.08.2025 at 11:30 A.M.** IDCO has the right to accept or reject the Notice/ EOI without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/- **Chief General Manager (P&C)**

CAD-1259: OIPR-14003/11/0215/2526

INBRIEF



Ashok Gajapathi Raju takes oath as Goa Governor

Former Union Minister for Civil Aviation and veteran politician Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju was sworn in as the 22nd Governor of Goa on Saturday, replacing P.S. Sreedharan Pillai. The swearing-in ceremony was held in the Raj Bhavan at Dona Paula, Goa. Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court Alok Aradhe administered the oath of office to the new Governor. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and other dignitaries were present at the ceremony. A veteran Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader from Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Raju served as the Civil Aviation Minister between May 27, 2014, and March 10, 2018.

Interim compensation paid to 166 families, says Air India

Private carrier Air India on Saturday said it had paid interim compensation to the families of 166 victims of the Ahmedabad plane crash last month. Besides, payment to the families of another 52 victims is in the process, it added. The plane crash involved a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner operating as Air India flight AI171. On June 14, Air India announced that it will provide an interim compensation of ₹25 lakh to the families of each of the deceased and survivors of the Ahmedabad plane crash to help address immediate financial needs. The interim payment will be adjusted against any final compensation, the Tata Group airline clarified. PTI

4 Maoists killed in encounter with security forces in Bijapur

Security forces have gunned down at least four Maoists in an ongoing operation in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur, the police said on Saturday. "So far [update issued at 7 p.m.], four bodies have been recovered in the ongoing exchange of fire between security forces and Maoists in Bijapur district. A huge quantity of weapons, including INSAS and SLR rifles, has been recovered from the spot," a police statement said. It added that as the operation was still in progress, details such as the exact location and the troops involved in the operation could not be shared to ensure the safety of the personnel involved.

Fishing boat capsizes off Alibaug coast, three missing

Three fishermen went missing after a boat carrying them and five of their colleagues capsized in the Arabian Sea in Raigad district of Maharashtra on Saturday morning, triggering a multi-agency search operation, the police said. The incident occurred around 8.30 a.m. off Khanderi when the boat from Karanja in Uran had gone for fishing in the sea near Alibaug, an official said. Due to heavy rain and rough weather, the boat toppled and started sinking, prompting the fishermen to jump into the water and start swimming to save themselves, he said. Of the eight fishermen on board the boat, five swam to the Alibaug coast, but three remained missing, he said. PTI

SUDOKU

		1	7					
	4			9	2	5		3
3							9	8
	3		4	2				1
4				1	9		8	
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7		8	9	6			4	
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No. SS6593 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

'Targeting of Bengali-speakers in BJP-ruled States must stop'

West Bengal CM calls the development a 'shame' and adds that now even international human rights organisations have started taking note 'of the linguistic terrorism unleashed in India'

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Highlighting that the Human Rights Watch (HRW), an international human rights organisation, has raised the issues of harassment, persecution, and illegal deportation of Bengali-speaking people of India by the BJP governments in various States, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said that such targeting should stop at once.

She called the development a "shame", and said that now even international human rights organisations had started taking note "of the linguistic terrorism unleashed in India".

Taking to social media, Ms. Banerjee said the human rights organisation had released a report saying what she had been saying: Bengali-speaking Indians (of different castes and communities) were being arbitrarily abused and pushed out in a concerted manner by the BJP establishment.

Three persons who were allegedly detained by the Odisha Police on suspicion of being Bangladeshi nationals and later released. ANI

'Arbitrary expulsion'

"Elaine Pearson, Asia Director at HRW, has on record said, BJP is fuelling discrimination by arbitrarily expelling Bengalis from the country, including Indian citizens. The authorities' claims that they are managing irregular migration are unconvincing," the Trinamool Congress chairperson has said.

Citing HRW, Ms. Banerjee said the international NGO reported that the targeting of migrants was happening systematically in the BJP-ruled States of Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and Delhi, following a directive by the Union Home Ministry.

The remarks by the Trinamool Congress chairperson come amid calls given by her to start a "language movement" to protest against targeting of migrants from West Bengal in BJP-ruled States. There have been reports of migrants from West Bengal being detained in Odisha, Haryana and Delhi on suspicion of being Bangladeshi nationals. Some migrant workers from the State have been pushed into Bangladesh.

Police launch workers' helpline

The West Bengal Police have started a helpline for workers to seek assistance in case of any harassment. In a social media post on X, the police said workers or their family members can send a message with their name, address and details of the issue on WhatsApp to 9147727666. The information will be verified and action taken in coordination with other State authorities, the police said.

Bengal BJP to launch protest for 'Bengali Hindu homeland'

Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

As the Trinamool Congress stepped up its campaign over the reported attacks on Bengali migrant workers in other States, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has intensified its rhetoric on "Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators", with Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Suvendu Adhikari announcing that he would take to the streets to demand a "Bengali Hindu homeland".

"I will take to the streets after August 15 to demand a West Bengal free of Rohingya and Bangladeshi infiltrators, as was imagined by Syama Prasad Mookerjee as the Bengali Hindu homeland," Mr. Adhikari told local presspersons on Saturday.

Reiterating his demand for a special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in West Bengal, on the lines of a similar exercise in Bihar, the BJP MLA alleged that several Muslim families in the State had married Bangladeshi Muslim women they met on social media, and they were subsequently issued "false Aadhar and EPIC cards" by the State government.

"Many of these Bangladeshi women stayed back with or without visas thanks to Mamata not fencing 540 km of our border. If 50 lakh voters are dropped in Bihar, 1 crore 25 lakh Bangladeshi Muslims and Rohingya will get dropped in West Bengal," Mr. Adhikari said.

He alleged that the State government had directed district authorities to issue large numbers of domicile certificates.

'Hindus facing harassment'

West Bengal Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari said that Hindus in West Bengal were frequently harassed by the police. "If you have been harassed by the police, please feel free to inform me with details via adhikarisuvenduwb1@gmail.com," he posted on social media, also seeking information on illegal immigrants and infiltrators.

Foreigners' Tribunals in Assam disregard constitutional safeguards, says NLSIU report

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The quasi-judicial Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs) in Assam have become routine instruments of exclusion by disregarding due process and constitutional safeguards, a comprehensive study of these tribunals and the broader legal crisis of India's citizenship adjudication has found.

The report by the Bengaluru-based National Law School of India University (NLSIU) and the Queen Mary University of London, to be formally released on Sunday, called for an urgent, fundamental rethinking of the legal structures governing citizenship in India given the possibility of an Assam-like exercise to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC) across the country.

In this 2019 photo, people wait at the Foreigner's Tribunal office in Barpeta in Assam. The State currently has 100 FTs. AP

Titled "Unmaking citizens: the architecture of rights violations and exclusion in India's citizenship trials", the report has been authored by Mohsin Alam Bhat of Queen Mary University, Arushi Gupta, and Shardul Gopujkar, with the support of researchers and law students from the NLSIU, and members of Parichay Legal Aid Clinic. "As of 2025, Assam's tribunals have declared nearly 166,000 people as 'foreigners'. In addition to more than 85,000 pending cases, these tribunals may also soon hear more than a million appeals from those excluded from the NRC," Mr. Bhat said. The report analyses more than 1,200 Gauhati High Court orders, key Supreme Court judgments, and extensive interviews with lawyers and litigants. It documents "widespread arbitrariness in decision-making, including the wholesale rejection of documentary and oral evidence, and the absence of legal norms to protect individuals from wrongful targeting".

Lacks legal foundation

"Citizenship adjudication engages constitutionally significant questions with profound consequences, including the risk of statelessness. Such determinations require bodies that are legally constituted, independent, impartial, and composed of competent legal officers," the study summarises in a chapter on "institutionalised arbitrariness".

The report argued that the FT system fails on all these counts. "It lacks a secure legal foundation, is vulnerable to executive interference, and is staffed by inadequately qualified adjudicators. It thus stands in stark violation of the rule of law and the right to an effective remedy under both domestic and international law," it said.

Assam currently has 100 FTs, each headed by a judge-like member, which were formed after the Supreme Court scrapped the controversial Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act of 1983 in 2005. Of these 100 tribunals, 36 are permanent and 54 require periodic extension of terms from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

India issues advisory amid border clashes in Cambodia

Press Trust of India
PHNOM PENH

India on Saturday advised its citizens in Cambodia to avoid travelling to border areas as the clash between Thailand and Cambodia over a disputed border entered its third day.

The flare-up, which began on Thursday, has killed at least 32 people – 19 in Thailand and 13 in Cambodia, according to reports.

"In view of the ongoing clashes at the Cambodia-Thailand border, Indian nationals are advised to avoid travelling to the border areas," the Indian embassy said in a post on X.

Indian citizens have been urged to contact the mission in case of any emergency at +855 92881676.

Two half-dose combination of drugs right for BP control in Indians: study

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

With evidence lacking thus far for guiding optimal combination hypertension therapy in South Asian patients, a recent study has recommended half doses of two drugs in a single pill combination right from starting treatment for hypertension.

The paper, "Comparison of dual therapies for hypertension treatment in India", published in the journal *Nature Medicine*, investigated the blood pressure (BP)-lowering efficacy and safety of three commonly recommended anti-hypertensive combinations in a single pill in a multi-centre trial across 32 sites in India. Nearly 2,000 adults with uncontrolled or untreated hypertension were studied and interventions included three single pill dual combinations – amlodipine with perindopril, perindopril with indapamide, and amlodipine with indapamide.

Around 2,000 adults with uncontrolled BP were studied and the interventions included three pill combinations. ISTOCKPHOTO

All three combinations, in patients aged 30-79, delivered equivalent reductions in BP and similar rates of BP control, researchers said. All combinations were equally safe and effective with high tolerability over six months, they wrote in the paper.

"It must be noted that we are not recommending a multi-drug regimen. Polypharmacy will only lead to discontinuation of treatment," says Prabhakaran Dorairaj, principal investigator of the study, from the Centre for Chronic Disease Control, New Delhi. "What we are recommending is to start with half doses of two drugs in a single pill combination. If BP control does not happen, then it is important to titrate to full doses. Despite this, if BP continues to be higher than 140/90, then additional drugs are to be added," he explains. "It is really astounding we have been basing treatment on Western guidelines, so far," Dr. Prabhakaran adds. This study tests the global guidelines for hypertension treatment among patients in India, since these combinations are already available here. These drugs work through multiple pathways and are synergistic, with low side effects, he says.

"Many physicians, even cardiologists, think that they should start with a low dose and then keep escalating it," says Nagendra Boopathy, co-author, and interventional cardiologist, Sri Ramachandra Medical Centre, Chennai. "Even patients are reluctant to start on drugs, but these combinations we have tested are really effective in bringing down BP, and the side effects are minor," he adds. The side effects observed during the trial included cough, swelling of feet and lower potassium in some sub-groups, and not statistically significant.

Dr. Prabhakaran adds: "The biggest problem in India is poor control of hypertension. Only around 20% of individuals with hypertension are treated to target in urban areas and it is even lower in rural areas."

HC sets three-month deadline for setting sample standards

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

In a move that could significantly improve diagnostic accuracy and patient safety, the Delhi High Court has directed the Union government to notify long-pending minimum standards in the collection of medical samples or specimens by laboratories and collection centres, and guidelines to transport them, within the next three months.

The order, if implemented, could help curb inaccuracy in test reports, especially when the samples are collected from the home of a patient, experts said. It could also reduce unsafe handling of biological specimens, and treatment errors caused by degraded samples, potentially saving lives, they added.

Currently, India lacks specific regulations governing how medical samples, such as blood, urine, or swabs, are collected, stored, and transported to diagnostic laboratories. This regulatory gap has led to widespread inconsistencies, particularly with private labs and home sample collection services that operate without strict oversight.

"Patients often assume their test results are scientifically reliable. But when samples are exposed to extreme heat or delayed in reaching the lab, the entire result can become invalid – without anyone realising it," Dr. Rohit Jain, who had filed a public interest litigation (PIL) plea on the issue in 2019, said. "Wrong results lead to wrong treatment. That's not just unethical – it's dangerous," he said. The court, while hearing Dr. Jain's plea on July 18, recorded the Union Health Ministry's assurance that the draft minimum standards, which the Ministry said had already been approved by the Directorate General of Health Services, were in advanced stages of being notified.

‘U.K.-India FTA may work in favour of patent owners’

Certain intellectual property and regulatory clauses may delay or limit the production of life-saving generics, impacting patients in India and across the Global South, warn experts

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The U.K.-India Free Trade Agreement has provisions on patents that tilt the balance in favour of patent owners and undermines access to medicines, experts said at a discussion on the agreement’s implication for access to medicines.

Expressing concern over provisions in the recently-signed agreement that could impact access and affordability of medicines in India, they noted that certain intellectual property (IP) and regulatory clauses may delay or limit the production of life-saving generics, impacting patients in India and across the Global South. “There is a progressive movement towards accepting the demands of FTA partners, which systematically debase public interest safeguards available in the Indian Patents Act,’’ warned Biswajit Dhar, former professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

He explained that the preference on voluntary licenses leaves the access to medicines in the hands of market forces and undermines the role of the government in facilitating access to medicines.

“Often voluntary licenses contain onerous conditions on the licensee and fail to bring sharp price reductions compared with the compulsory licenses,” he said. He further said that under the Indian Patents Act, every year, the patent holder must submit details of working of patents in India.

The annual submission information will now be submitted once in three years and the confidential information contained in the submission shall not be made available in the public domain.

“This effectively compromises the ability of potential compulsory license applicants to prove unmet demands, which constitute a ground for compulsory license. It clearly tilts the balance heavily in favor of pharmaceutical transnational corporations allowing them to easily get away by hiding the denial of access to medicines due to high prices on access,” said Jyotsna Singh, co-convenor of the working group on Access to Medicines and Treatment. “There are also provisions in the IP chapter which can potentially undermine the safeguards preventing evergreening of patents,’’ said K.M. Gopakumar, another co-convenor of Working Group on Access to Medicines and Treatment, adding that though couched in best endeavor language there are provisions that “facilitate the sharing and use of search and examination work of the parties.”

Alarm bells

Some provisions in the recently-signed agreement could impact access, affordability of medicines in India, caution experts

- Preference on voluntary licenses leaves access to medicines in the hands of market forces
- It also undermines the role of the government in facilitating access to medicines
- Voluntary licenses often contain onerous conditions on licensee, fail to bring sharp price cuts

'Weakens safeguards’

The implementation of this provision would lead to the harmonisation of patentability criteria and undermine safeguards against evergreening such as Section 3 (d) of the Indian Patents Act,’’ he said.

However, Sanjaya Mariwala, executive chairman and MD of OmniActive Health Technologies said that India’s exports to the U.K. had gone up by 12.6% last year, and the deal would provide a chance to build on that growth.

“But it’s not just about trade volumes—what stands out is the scope it opens-up in healthcare. With regulatory barriers coming down, Indian healthcare companies will find it easier to operate in the U.K., and that can lead to more affordable services and better collaboration between the two systems.

That’s a space worth watching. At the same time, we can’t lose sight of the fact that Free Trade Agreement (FTAs) only work well when businesses at home are strong. As more of these agreements are signed, we need to back our local entrepreneurs and MSMEs with the right support—finance, infrastructure, policy clarity,” he said.

“The India-U.K. FTA, by formalising zero duty access for nearly 99% of Indian pharmaceutical and medical device exports, provides long-term clarity and a much-needed boost for the Indian pharmaceutical industry.

With the U.K.’s pharma market projected to grow from about $45 billion now to $73 billion by 2033, and India’s generics segment already crossing $910 million in exports in FY24, this agreement will strengthen India’s presence in U.K. drug stores and broader supply chains. For niche, high quality manufacturers that align with global standards, this is truly a game-changer,” said Bhavin Mukund Mehta, director, Kilitch Drugs.

‘Tariff risks and geopolitical shifts call for supply chain reset’

Persistent disruption is setting the stage for supply chain diversification,: Allcargo founder

INTERVIEW

Shashi Kiran Shetty

Lalatendu Mishra

As the world is grappling to deal with geopolitical realignments and tariff risks leading to global supply chain disruptions, a new order is emerging in which India would gain from this realignment, says Shashi Kiran Shetty, Founder & Chairman, Allcargo Group.

How do you view the prevailing global supply chain scenario on the back of a tariff war and geopolitical realignments?

The global supply chain landscape remains volatile on the back of ongoing geopolitical shifts and economic uncertainties, particularly in Europe. The tariff war had posed a significant threat to trade flows, but recent signs of de-escalation, especially the progress in U.S.-China trade talks offer some respite. Nevertheless, the persistent disruption is setting the stage for supply chain diversification. Companies are reassessing their sourcing strategies and India stands to gain from this realignment. Tariff risks, changing global trade dynamics and geopolitical realignments call for a supply chain reset. Having said that, despite volatility, there are early signs of stabilisation, offering cautious optimism for stable global trade dynamics.

What were the challenges in turning around Gati?

After acquiring the controlling stake in Gati in 2020, we focussed on a strategic overhaul which included technology upgrades and cost optimisation. Our core focus areas included infrastructure, digitisation, sales acceleration, talent pool creation and operations. The goal was to align the company with the Group’s common culture and values. By strengthening the leadership team, reducing debt by divesting non-core business, developing cloud-based Gati Enterprise Management System or GEMS 2.0, rationalising resources, expanding shipment hubs and adopting sustainable mobility, we have created a path to sustained growth for Allcargo Gati.

INBRIEF

IRDAI slaps ₹3.39 cr. penalty on Star Health Insurance

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has imposed a penalty of ₹3.39 crore and issued a warning to Star Health and Allied Insurance Company for violations under IRDAI Information & Cyber Security Guidelines, 2023. The regulator, however, did not elaborate on the violations in its July 25 communication. Star Health said the penalty has been levied with respect to certain aspects pertaining to safeguard of data and cyber security.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q1 net profit falls 7% to ₹3,282 crore

Kotak Mahindra Bank reported a 7% decline in Q1 standalone net profit to ₹3,282 crore from ₹3,520 crore in the year-ago period excluding gain of Kotak General Insurance (KGI) divestment. Net interest income increased to ₹7,259 crore, up 6% YoY from ₹6,842 crore. Net interest margin was 4.65% for Q1FY26, the bank said in a filing. Consolidated net profit increased to ₹4,472 crore, up 1% YoY from ₹4,435 crore excluding gain of KGI divestment in Q1FY25.

IDFC First Bank Q1 net profit slumps 32% to ₹463 crore

IDFC First Bank reported a 32% fall in Q1 net profit to ₹463 crore from the same period last year largely impacted by microfinance business and interest rate movement. Net interest income grew 5.1% YoY from ₹4,695 crore to ₹4,933 crore. Net interest margin on AUM reduced by 24 bps QoQ, from 5.95% in Q4FY25 to 5.71% in Q1FY26, largely due to repo impact, asset mix change (including sharp decline in the micro-finance business) and decline in investment yields.

Software developers at risk as AI may eat up coding jobs

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

‘AI tools are capable of writing codes, providing real time suggestions and even writing full functions on simple prompts’

Tech India is witnessing a transformational shift, with its bellwethers currently busy deploying their AI-first strategy to nurture increased human+AI collaborations at their workplaces.

This means a few unpleasant things for the software developer community: most of the low-hanging, also some of the not so low-hanging coding jobs will go to their AI colleagues; AI will make some developers and their current contribution to coding fully redundant; developers will need to adapt and learn how to work with their AI partners. However, AI has the potential to free up developers from boring, repetitive tasks, allowing them to focus on deep-coding, for complex, intelligent and creative projects.

Lead tech players have been quite vocal about their focus on human+AI play, more so in the last couple of months, signalling an impending shift in the tech talent space.

Interestingly, both Wipro and Infosys recently announced the deployment of 200 AI agents each on certain functions to free up people.

“Given the transformational and disruptive capacity of AI, organisations no longer require an army of coders, most of them with low single digit experience in software development. The immediate impact we are seeing is the reduction in intake of junior level talent, and shrinking in size of project teams,’’ said Muthu Kumaran, Operating Partner and Head of India Operations, Recognize, a U.S.-based private equity firm.

Dr. Vikas Khare, Associate Dean School of Technology, Management and Engineering, NMIMS, at Indore said, many repetitive and template coding chores, including bug fixes, basic HTML/CSS web construction, basic CRUD operations, boilerplate generation, and test case writing, were currently being automated by AI.

Neeti Sharma, CEO, TeamLease Digital, said many AI tools were capable of writing codes, providing real time suggestions and even writing full functions on simple prompts, and therefore many junior developer roles such as web or mobile app development, testing and documentation would be replaced by AI in the next few years.

Flip side

However, she said, any kind of coding that involved creative problem-solving, strategic design, and understanding complex user needs is likely to remain human-centric. Developers would evolve into supervisors and collaborators who focus on strategic decisions, ethical considerations, domain-specific logic, security planning and creative problem-solving that AI cannot replicate, said experts.

NephroPlus to raise ₹353.4 crore via IPO

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Dialysis services provider Nephrocare Health Services, better known by its NephroPlus brand, has filed draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

The IPO proposed by the Hyderabad based company will be a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to ₹353.4 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of nearly 1.28 crore equity shares by the selling shareholders.

‘India-U.K. FTA a game changer for trade’

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Terming the India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) a ‘game changer’, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said that the Indian government had ensured the protection of all sensitive sectors of the Indian economy, while benefiting every section including farmers and the MSME sector. Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here on Saturday, Mr. Goyal also said that trade talks with the U.S. and Oman were continuing apace.

Piyush Goyal

“With this [India-U.K. FTA], India would be able to ship 99% of its exports to U.K. duty-free,” he said.

The Minister asserted that the agreement was signed with the U.K. “confidently” on India’s terms while protecting “sensitive items” like agriculture and ethanol.

“I believe that this FTA carries a very big message for the future economy of India. We will all see the benefits that India will get under it in the coming years,” he said. Mr. Goyal added that the agreement will open doors for India to the developed world.

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

BRIEF SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

No. CEE/T&P/SEE-1/2025-26/3729-41 **Date: 25.07.2025**

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on electronic mode for the following Works against the following Enquiry Number on **Partial Turnkey Basis.**

Sl. No.	Bid Enquiry No. / Name of the Works
1.	**KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2464** **Combined Package of the following works:** **Work-A:** Establishing 1x20 MVA, 110/33 kV and 2x20 MVA, 110/11kV substation at **Nekkilady** and construction of 110kV LILO line using Lynx conductor from existing 110kV Puttur-Karaya line to the proposed 110/11kV substation at Nekkilady for a distance of **0.03km** in Puttur Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District. **Work-B:** Establishing 2x20MVA, 110/11kV Sub-station at **Kuthlur** and Construction of 110kV LILO line on DC Towers using Lynx Conductor from one circuit of existing 110kV Kemar-Guruvayanakere DC line (on MCMV towers) to proposed 110/11kV Sub-station at Kuthlur for a distance of **0.362km** in Belthangady Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District. **Work-C:** Providing alternate source to 66/11kV **Hulimangala** Substation by running of 66kV, 1000Sq.mm single circuit UG Cable from 66/11kV Hulimangala substation to 66/11kV Electronic City (Velankani) Sub-station for a distance of **4.145kms** with associated 66kV Terminal Bay's at 66/11kV Hulimangala and Electronic City (Velankani) Sub-stations in Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. **Work-D:** Running of 66kV 1000Sq.mm Single Circuit UG cable from existing 220/66/11kV **Brindavan Alloys** sub-station to existing 66/11kV **Byadarahalli** Sub-station for a route length of **6.170kms** and connecting existing 66kV OH HTLS line from SRS Peenya directly to the outgoing 66kV Drake line of 66kV Byadrahalli-Kodigehalli - Tavrakere - V.G.doddi - Magadi line in Bengaluru North taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **“E Procurement KPTCL”** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **28.07.2025 @ 15:00hrs.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **07.08.2025 @ 15:00hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy.,
Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL,
3rd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru – 560 009.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DBT - BIOTECH INDUSTRIAL TRAINING PROGRAMME (BITP) 2025-26 UNDER SKILL VIGYAN

Applications are invited from bonafide Indian citizens residing in India for hands-on training in Industry. The programme provides excellent opportunity to biotech/bioinformatics students who have completed their education and intend to start their career in Industry to acquire practical skills and experience working on projects alongside industry experts as well as an opportunity to industry to identify potential candidates for their human resource requirements. The training will be for six months during which stipend will be paid to trainees and bench fee of **@ Rs. 23,350/-**per candidate will be paid to companies to cover the expenses towards training. The program is being implemented by DBT-HRD Project Management Unit at Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad on behalf of Department of Biotechnology.

ATTN: BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

Requisitions are invited from companies operating in areas of biotechnology & life sciences including Drugs & Pharmaceuticals, Diagnostics, Agri-Biotechnology, Biomedical, Environmental, Industrial Biotechnology, Therapeutics, Genomics & Proteomics, Bio-services, Veterinary, Bioinformatics and Computational Biotechnology, Contract research & manufacturing, Intellectual property, Food industry etc. interested to provide hands-on training for six months. The companies will also have to pay the stipend to the trainees as per the apprenticeship norms in addition to stipend paid by DBT. **‘Requisition Form’** can be downloaded from RCB website (**https://rcb.res.in/DBTBITP/**). **Duly filled and signed ‘Requisition Forms’ shall be submitted to bitp.dbt@rcb.res.in.**

ATTN: BIOTECHNOLOGY STUDENTS

Eligibility: Students with B.E/B.Tech/M.Sc./M.Tech./M.VSc./MBA in Biotechnology/ Bioinformatics and students admitted under DBT PG teaching program in Biotechnology. The degree should be from an Indian recognized university with a minimum of 50% marks or equivalent grades completed in year 2022-23, 2023-24 or 2024-25.

Mode of Selection: Candidates will be selected based on computer based test conducted in multiple city/centers across the country. Selection would be subject to meeting the eligibility criteria. Trainer company would be provided subject to availability.

Mode of Application: Candidates may apply online by visiting website **https://bitp25.onlineapplicationform.org/BITP/**. Detailed information on filling the application form, payment of application fee and uploading of required documents/ certificates in the prescribed format is given on the website.

Stipend structure: DBT will disburse a stipend @ Rs. 10,000/- per candidate per month upon successful completion of six months of training and assessment. Students will also get a minimum stipend of Rs. 9,000/- per month from trainer companies for the period of training, as per apprenticeship norms.

Certification: After completion of training, trainees will have to undergo an online ‘Assessment’ conducted by Sector Skill Council. Trainees who will qualify the Assessment will be awarded ‘Apprenticeship Certificate’ under National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) by Sector Skill Council.

Important Dates

S. No	Events	Dates
1.	Start date for submission of online applications	25th July 2025
2.	Closing date for submission of online applications	24th August 2025
3.	Period of training	Six months from date of joining

Note: In case of any query, please send email to bitp.dbt@rcb.res.in

Altermagnet's charge carriers change in different directions

The Hindu Bureau

Some materials conduct electricity mainly with one kind of charge-carrier everywhere: either negative electrons (*n*-type) or positive 'holes' (*p*-type). A rare class can breach this behaviour depending on direction, a feature called direction-dependent conduction polarity (DDCP). That is, it can conduct with electrons in one direction and holes in another. Such materials could act as both *n*- and *p*-type parts of a circuit or a thermoelectric device without needing two different crystals.

However, only a handful of such materials have been found thus far, and most of them are hard to make or unstable.

A study by researchers at the S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences and the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, both in Kolkata, has reported that the inexpensive and stable magnetic compound chromium-antimony (CrSb) also belongs to this elite group.

The researchers grew single-crystal plates of CrSb in sealed quartz tubes using chemical-vapour transport.

Then they measured the Hall effect and the Seebeck effect along the length and breadth of the crystal.

The Hall effect shows how a magnetic field bends moving charges, revealing whether electrons or holes dominate.

In the Seebeck effect, a voltage appears when one side of the crystal is warmed and switches sign between electrons and holes. Both effects revealed that along the plane of the crystal, electrons dominated whereas holes took over along the vertical axis. This behaviour proved that CrSb exhibited DDCP.

First altermagnet

CrSb is thus the first altermagnet, a recently discovered type of magnet, that displays DDCP.

Its easy synthesis, composition of abundant elements, and switchable polarity make it a promising platform for future electronics and thermoelectrics, where a single crystal can act as both halves of a *p-n* pair, and for spintronic devices.

In altermagnets, the minuscule magnetic moments, or spins, of atoms are arranged in a pattern where they cancel each other out, so the material has no overall magnetism. However, the way the atoms are arranged in the crystal causes electrons with different spins behave differently, even though the material isn't magnetic overall.

These unique properties make altermagnets exciting for future technologies like spintronics.

The scientists also found that when they replaced 2% of the Cr atoms with vanadium, the Hall and Seebeck signals both turned uniformly positive, meaning the whole crystal behaved as *p*-type, just as theory predicted.

Android phones brought early quake warnings to 98 countries

Google and the University of California Berkeley's Seismology Laboratory have released data pertaining to the Android Earthquake Alert system, detailing its methods and performance

Sandhya Ramesh

Android smartphones around the world have been actively helping provide earthquake alerts using their acceleration sensors. Between 2021 and 2024, these phones sent thousands of successful warnings to people living in quake-prone regions in 98 countries.

Since 2020, Google has included its Android Earthquake Alert (AEA) system in its phones to detect seismic P- and S-waves that precede an earthquake and provide alerts.

The company and the University of California Berkeley's Seismology Laboratory have released data in a new paper in *Science*, detailing the performance and methods of the algorithm over the last three years.

Monitoring and alerting

The AEA system was first rolled out in the U.S. in 2020, followed by New Zealand and Greece in 2021, and then the rest of the world.

It issued alerts for 11,231 events, including ahead of the Turkey-Syria (magnitude 7.8), the Philippines (6.7), and Nepal (5.7) events, all in 2023, and the 6.2-magnitude event in Turkey in April 2025. In the Philippines, Turkey-Syria, and Nepal quakes, users received 10 to 60 seconds of advance warning.

The system has thus far detected more than 18,000 quakes of varying magnitudes, including more than 2,000 strong quakes (moderate shaking or more on the MMI scale) and issued a total of 79 crore alerts. The AEA team also surveyed users between February 2023 and April 2024. Some 79% of 1.5 lakh users said they found the alerts very helpful.

AEA crowdsources signals from a phone's accelerometer, a sensor that measures acceleration. On stationary phones, accelerometers can sense the faster-moving P-waves from an earthquake, which stretch and squeeze the geological material they pass through.

When an accelerometer senses these waves, it sends a signal to Google's earthquake detection server, which then analyses data from other phones nearby to confirm the wave is real.

To sense an earthquake, smartphones bank on their accelerometers. ISTOCK

Sensors abound

The AEA has increased the number of people with access to quake early-warnings from 25 crore people in 2019 to 250 crore people

- Since 2020, the Android Earthquake Alert (AEA) system has used smartphone accelerometers to detect early seismic P-waves worldwide
- The AEA has issued over 79 crore alerts for more than 18,000 earthquakes in 98 countries, warning many people
- Users in recent major earthquakes, such as Turkey-Syria and Nepal, received advance warnings 10-60 seconds before shaking
- The system crowdsources vibration data from stationary phones to confirm earthquakes rapidly, aiming to alert users before S-waves arrive
- AEA issues two alerts: 'BeAware' for light shaking and 'TakeAction' for stronger shaking, plus audio warnings
- AEA sometimes struggles with magnitude accuracy and late warnings; improvements have been made to address these issues

This data is collected and processed rapidly together with the waves' location and magnitude. The goal is to issue an alert before the slower and more destructive S-waves arrive. While P-waves can travel through both solids and liquids, S-waves move only through solids. They also move up and down, displacing the material they move through.

AEA doesn't monitor surface waves, the third type of wave to arrive in an earthquake. Surface waves are much slower and traverse only the outermost layer of the crust, and are typically responsible for the most aboveground damage.

Algorithm at work

To detect an earthquake, all smartphones bank on their accelerometers to sense vibrations on surfaces and in the air. Earthquakes produce many such vibrations before the energy that causes damage actually reaches a location. The extent of damage caused by a quake increases with each type of wave that reaches a location on the surface.

The algorithm estimates the distance to the epicentre in one of two ways. If it's within 200 km of the surface, it's equal to the time difference between the arrival of the S- and P-waves multiplied by 8 km/s. For deeper epicentres, the algorithm includes additional methods to account for the waves' motion through the mantle.

The algorithm issues two kinds of alerts: 'BeAware' alerts for impending light shaking and 'TakeAction' alerts for stronger shaking; the latter are accompanied by an audio warning that overrides 'do not disturb' settings. Alerts can also be manually enabled and disabled.

According to the paper, the system has increased the number of people with access to earthquake early warning by nearly a factor of 10: from around 25 crore people in 2019 to 250 crore people in 98 countries.

The authors of the paper, who are also affiliated with Harvard University and Google Germany, also highlighted the AEA's shortcomings – including its inability to accurately estimate the magnitude and tendency to relay warnings after shaking has begun.

They also documented these issues in detail and specified tweaks to fix many issues, including lowering the median absolute error in the first estimates of a quake's magnitude from 0.5 to 0.25. They also traced three false positives in the 11,321 events to two hurricanes and one mass phone vibration from an unrelated alert, and included fixes for alerts to be issued faster.

"The proliferation of low-cost sensors in consumer products provides opportunities for new observations of our physical environment that are both dense and global in scale. AEA makes it possible to make global observations of earthquakes," the authors wrote.

(Sandhya Ramesh is a freelance science journalist)

The virtues of the tomato, a healthy vegetable

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

The evolution and growth of the humble tomato as an essential ingredient of our daily diet across the world is a fascinating story. Yolanda Evans writes in the June 5, 2025, issue of National Geographic magazine about the rise in tomatoes with myth and folklore and how tomatoes weren't always a beloved ingredient.

Once deemed sinful, stinky, and "poison apples", they were linked to superstition and illness, in part due to their reaction with lead in copper-based dinnerware. The use of a more appropriate vessel by farmers from Salem, New Jersey, to cook tomatoes shifted public opinion in the U.S.

Tomatoes were not native to India but brought to us by the Portuguese traders in the 15th century. They were then adopted by the British colonisers in the 16th century who started growing them across the country and added them to their menu. But the people were still wary of it.

As the independent journalist Ms. Sohel Sarkar has written, in 1938 the physician Dr Tara Chitale and her colleagues tried to convince people about the benefits of using tomatoes to cure common cold, scurvy, and iron deficiency, but the response was lukewarm.

The change finally transpired when more and more inputs came from travellers who recommended tomatoes in our diet, and experts from the National Institute of Nutrition in India pointed out the importance of vitamins and minerals in our daily diet and how tomatoes are rich in them.

Long journey: Tomatoes were not native to India but brought to us by Portuguese traders in the 15th century. AP

Health benefits

Plant biologists classify tomato as a fruit. The benefits that tomatoes offer to our daily health have been described among others by the dietitian and public health specialist Ms. Cynthia Saas of California. Let us highlight some of these. Tomatoes are rich sources of antioxidants that offer health benefits for the heart and brain. They have nutrients that reduce the risk factor for heart disease significantly. Increased tomato intake decreases high blood pressure, a noteworthy point for senior citizens. The cellulose fibre content in tomatoes helps to prevent constipation. The red carotenoid pigment called lycopene in tomatoes might help protect people above 70 years of age from Alzheimer's disease. Ms. Saas has warned that before cooking tomatoes, one must ensure they are thoroughly washed and free of any dust-borne germs.

Tomatoes are grown in farmlands all over India, numbering between 5,000 and 10,000 plants per acre. According to one estimate from Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University, India produced 210 lakh tonnes in the year 2022-2023, second only to China (680 lakh tonnes).

The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru, has been researching a variety of tomato plants. One, called 'Arka Rakshak', is a disease-resistant hybrid while another, 'Arka Shreshta', has a long shelf-life, making it easier to transport.

The top seven tomato cultivating States are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu. The average wholesale price is estimated to be about ₹1,700 per quintal.

Today, just about every house in the country uses tomatoes in their daily diet. A typical Indian dish these days invariably has some tomatoes in it, be it as a soup, added to a vegetable curry, chutney, added to rice or wheat as a 'rasam', and as ketchup for sandwiches and pizzas.

Having tasted the tomato and learnt that it is not sinful but in fact has several health benefits, let us enjoy this vegetable.

SNAPSHOTS

Ocean heatwaves imply earth close to tipping point

Scientists found that the 2023 marine heatwaves were the most extreme recorded. Sea-surface temperatures stayed above the 90th percentile for up to 120 days over 96% of ocean, producing 53.6 billion degrees C-days of thermal stress. The heatwaves were found to have been triggered by extra sunshine and a shallow mixed layer in the North Atlantic; fewer clouds and stronger currents in the Southwest Pacific; sustained heat gain in the North Pacific; and El Niño-driven ocean flows in the equatorial east Pacific.

Meta band tracks wrist muscles to use computer

Reality Labs has built a light wristband that listens to feeble electrical signals in forearm muscles to steer a cursor, write text, and zoom in/out on a computer. The team trained deep-learning models on recordings from thousands of volunteers, so the band worked out of the box for new users. The generic model lets users type at 20.9 words per minute, compared to the typical 36. The authors have called it the first scalable muscle-computer interface to match many tasks of a mouse, joystick or keyboard.

Quarter of people at some risk of zoonotic disease

Researchers combined disease records since 1975 with satellite and population data to find where animal diseases could jump to people next. Their analysis showed warm places that receive heavy rain are most outbreak-prone. After correcting for reporting blindspots, they found 9.3% of earth's land, mostly in Latin America and Oceania, was at high or very-high risk of zoonotic outbreaks. High-risk areas hosted 3% of people and those with moderate risk another 20%.

Question Corner

Air pollution

How does air pollution affect the brain?

Air pollution is increasingly being recognised as an important threat to brain health. Research has demonstrated that exposure to airborne pollutants like fine particulate matter (PM2.5), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), and ozone can affect brain structure, functioning, and even increase the risk of neurological and mental health disorders. On July 24, for example, scientists reported in *The Lancet Planetary Health* that after analysing data in 51 studies representing more than 26 million adults across four continents and follow-ups of up to 23 years, every additional 5 micrograms per cubic m ($\mu g/m^3$) of PM2.5 particles in the air increased the risk of dementia by about 8%. They also found a 10 $\mu g/m^3$ increase in NO_2 increased the same risk by around 3% and a 1 $\mu g/m^3$ increase of soot did so by 13%. The researchers rated the overall certainty of the evidence to be 'moderate'. They argued that improving air quality could cut future dementia risk in the population, lower healthcare expenses and ease familial burdens.

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

How do internal complaints committees work?

Are ICCs able to stop sexual harassment in institutions and workplaces across the country?

Priscilla Jebaraj

The story so far:

A young student's self-immolation at a college in Balasore, Odisha has put the spotlight on the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) which failed to validate her complaints of sexual harassment against her head of the department. The victim's family has claimed the members of the ICC were not trained adequately and that the environment in the college and within the ICC was biased in favour of the accused.

What is the law behind the ICC?

The Supreme Court first called for complaint committees to be set up in its 1997 judgment in response to a petition filed after Bhanwari Devi, a social worker in Rajasthan, was gang-raped when she tried to stop a child marriage. The Court provided basic definitions of sexual harassment in the workplace, and guidelines to combat it. Known as the Vishaka Guidelines, they called for an appropriate mechanism to be created by employers to ensure time bound treatment of complaints of sexual harassment. It said that the Complaints Committee should be headed by a woman, and include women as at least half its members, as well as a third party to prevent undue pressure from senior levels within the organisation.

It was not until the Nirbhaya killing in Delhi in December 2012 that the provisions were actually written into law. One of the several legislations that were enacted was The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, often called the POSH Act, which superceded the Vishaka Guidelines. It mandated the constitution of ICCs at all workplaces which employed more than 10 people. Women working in smaller enterprises in the informal sector could complain to Local Committees to be set up by district authorities.

> In December 2024, the Supreme Court took stock of the 'sorry state of affairs', noting 'serious lapses' in the enforcement of the POSH Act. It directed a survey of public and private organisations

What are the powers of an ICC?

Each ICC is to be headed by a Presiding Officer, who is to be a woman employed at a senior level at the workplace. At least two members should be employees preferably committed to the cause of women or who have had experience in social work or have legal knowledge, and another member should be from an NGO devoted to women's rights or a person familiar with sexual harassment issues. At least half of the members should be women. Any aggrieved woman can complain in writing to the ICC or local committee within three months of the date of the harassment incident or series of incidents. The committee can help to settle the matter at the request of the woman or begin an inquiry into the complaint.

The ICC has the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure. The inquiry is to be completed within 90 days. If the complaint is proved, the ICC must recommend the action to be taken against the accused. The employer is also required to aid the victim if she wishes to file a criminal complaint.

The law mandates confidentiality regarding the contents of the complaint, the identity and addresses of the aggrieved woman, the respondent and witnesses, any information relating to conciliation and inquiry proceedings, and the recommendations of the ICC.

What is the status of their implementation?

In the decade since the law was passed, though ICCs have been set up in some institutions, their coverage is far from universal. In December 2024, the Supreme Court took stock of the "sorry state of affairs", pointing out that it was "disquieting" to note "serious lapses" in the enforcement of the POSH Act. It directed immediate compliance within the government, and a survey of public and private organisations as well. "This law was designed to be monitored, but who is doing it? District officers are supposed to collect annual reports on compliance and sexual harassment cases from the Local Committees and ICCs, but what is done with that material?" asks Madhu Mehra, a lawyer advocating for women's rights, and the founder of Partners for Law in Development. Ms. Mehra points out that while the Women and Child Development Ministry is the line Ministry for the POSH Act, it is the Labour Ministry and Industries Ministry that deal with workplaces and employers. "Accountability is falling between the cracks. Where is the evidence-based analysis on how this law is functioning? It's a black hole."

She says the Balasore case shows that even where ICCs are in place, they are merely a "dead letter" if there is insufficient training for members, if the power imbalance in a workplace is not addressed, and if there is no confidentiality being maintained.

What makes NASA-ISRO NISAR satellite special?

What is the need for NISAR? What is synthetic aperture radar? How will NISAR serve India's needs, especially on agriculture, forestry, and disaster management? How was NISAR built? How soon will the data NISAR produces be available for users?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to launch the NISAR satellite from Sriharikota on July 30 onboard a GSLV Mk-II rocket. 'NISAR' stands for NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar and is a joint mission of the two space agencies. It is a sophisticated earth-observation satellite designed to study changes on the earth's surface in fine detail, covering earthquakes, volcanoes, ecosystems, ice sheets, farmland, floods, and landslides.

What's the need for NISAR?

NISAR is the first major earth-observing mission with a dual-band radar, which will allow it to observe changes more precisely than any other satellite. It will be able to see through clouds, smoke, and even thick vegetation, both at day and night, in all weather conditions. The three-tonne machine costs more than $1.5 billion, making it one of the most expensive earth-observing satellites to date.

The earth's surface is constantly changing. Natural disasters, human-driven changes, and climate shifts all affect environments and human societies. Satellites provide critical information by taking snapshots of these changes from space, helping scientists, governments, and relief agencies prepare for, respond to or study them. To this end, NASA and ISRO have created a powerful global mission that also allows ISRO guaranteed access to a stream of high-resolution data tailored to India's needs.

NISAR's science and application goals span six areas: solid earth processes, ecosystems, ice dynamics, coastal and ocean processes, disaster response, and additional applications (including tracking groundwater, oil reservoirs, and infrastructure like levees, dams etc.). The planned mission lifetime is three years although its design lifetime is at least five years. Notably, the mission's data policy entails that the data NISAR produces will be freely available to all users (typically) within a few hours.

> During a disaster, NISAR can collect data for 'damage proxy maps' to be delivered in under five hours

Ready for lift-off: A view of the NASA-ISRO NISAR ahead of its launch on July 30 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. ANI

How does NISAR work?

Once it is launched, NISAR will enter into a sun-synchronous polar orbit at 747 km altitude and an inclination of 98.4°. From here, instead of snapping pictures, NISAR's synthetic aperture radar (SAR) will bounce radar waves off the planet's surface and measure how long the signal takes to come back and how its phase changes. The ability of a radar antenna to resolve smaller details increases with its length, called its aperture. In orbit, deploying an antenna hundreds of metres long is impractical. SAR gets around this by mimicking a giant antenna. As the spacecraft moves forward, it transmits a train of radar pulses and records the echoes. Later, a computer coherently combines all those echoes as if they had been captured simultaneously by one very long antenna, hence the "synthetic aperture".

NISAR will combine an L-band SAR (1.257 GHz), which uses longer-wavelength radiowaves to track changes under thick forests and soil and deformations on the ground, and an S-band SAR (3.2 GHz), which uses shorter-wavelength radiowaves to capture surface details, such as crops and water surfaces.

Although NISAR will operate globally at L-band, ISRO has reserved routine, planned acquisitions with the S-band SAR over India. The latter acquisitions have extended sensitivity to biomass, better soil-moisture retrieval, and mitigate ionospheric noise – all capabilities tuned to India's needs in agriculture, forestry, and disaster management. Because the L-band radar is the principal tool for NASA's mission goals, the instrument is expected to operate in up to 70% of every orbit. This said, operating both radars together is an official implementation goal so that mode conflicts over the Indian subcontinent are minimised.

Polarisation is the direction in which the electric field of some electromagnetic radiation, like radiowaves, oscillates. SAR can transmit and receive radar signals with horizontal or vertical polarisation. Using different combinations will allow the instruments to identify the structure and types of different surface materials, like soil, snow, crop or wood.

The swath width, that is, the breadth of the bands on the ground the SARs will scan, is an ultra-wide 240 km. The radars' SweepSAR design will transmit this beam and, upon its return, digitally steer multiple small sub-apertures in sequence, synthesising beams that sweep across the ground track. This scan-on-receive method allows the 240-km swath without compromising resolution.

The resulting scans will have a spatial resolution of 3-10 m and centimetre-scale vertical mapping – enough to spot impending land subsidence in cities, for example – depending on the mode. Each spot on the ground will be scanned once every 12 days. The satellite also features a large 12-m-wide mesh antenna. NISAR will produce annual maps of aboveground woody biomass of 1 ha resolution and quarterly maps of active and inactive cropland. High-resolution maps of flooded versus dry areas will be available as well. During a disaster, NISAR can also be directed to collect data for 'damage proxy maps' to be delivered in under five hours.

This said, for certain acquisition modes, NISAR won't be able to achieve full global coverage at the highest resolution. Above roughly 60° latitude, every alternative observation will be skipped due to converging ground tracks. Similarly, some 10% of the surface may not be mapped from either direction (of the satellite's passage over the ground) in any given 12-day cycle.

How was NISAR built?

At the time the two space organisations agreed to build NISAR, NASA and ISRO decided each body would contribute equivalent-scale hardware, expertise, and funding.

ISRO supplied the I-3K spacecraft bus, the platform that houses the controls to handle command and data, propulsion, and attitude, plus 4kW of solar power. The same package also included the entire S-band radar electronics, a high-rate Ka-band telecom subsystem, and a gimballed high-gain antenna. The S-band electronics were designed and built at the Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad.

NASA's biggest contribution was the complete L-band SAR system. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) supplied all radio-frequency electronics, the 12-m antenna, a 9-m carbon-composite boom, and the instrument structure that carries both radars. The agency also fabricated the L-band feed aperture and provided the supporting avionics, including a high-capacity solid-state recorder, a GPS receiver, an autonomous payload data system, and a Ka-band payload communications subsystem. The spacecraft was to be integrated at the ISRO Satellite Centre in Bengaluru after the two radars were mated at JPL. Following observatory-level tests, the mission will lift off from Sriharikota onboard a GSLV Mk-II rocket, with ISRO providing end-to-end launch services.

While the mission operations are to be centred at the JPL Mission Operations Center, day-to-day flight operations will be led from the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network in Bengaluru.

Once NISAR is in orbit, most of its data will be sent through NASA's Near Earth Network facilities in Alaska, Svalbard (Norway), and Punta Arenas (Chile), which can together receive around 3 TB of radar data per day. They will be complemented by ISRO's ground stations in Shadnagar and Antarctica. After the raw data arrive, India's National Remote Sensing Centre will process and distribute all products required for Indian users, mirroring NASA's pipeline.

What does the new U.K.-India trade deal entail?

What are the contours and implications of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement? How will opening up the service sector to the U.K. help India? What is the Double Contribution Convention? When will the trade deal come into effect?

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:

India and the U.K. signed a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) on Thursday, after having announced the conclusion of negotiations on the deal in May this year. With negotiations starting in January 2022, the deal marks a more than three-year effort to enhance bilateral trade between the two countries.

What has broadly been agreed to?

Under the deal, the U.K. has removed tariffs on 99% of its product lines. However, not all of these product lines are exported by India to the U.K. According to an analysis by the Global Trade Research Initiative, about $6.5 billion or 45% of what India currently exports to the U.K. – such as textiles, footwear, carpets, automobiles, seafood, and fresh fruits such as grapes and mangoes – will now enter the U.K. duty-free. The remaining $8 billion worth of goods that India exports to the U.K. – petroleum, pharmaceuticals, diamonds, and aircraft components – already enjoy zero duty access. India has agreed to either eliminate or reduce duties on 90% of its tariff lines, which comprises about 92% of what the U.K. exports to us, according to data with the U.K. government. Alcohol from the U.K., especially whiskey, is set to become cheaper in India, as are British cars, and engineering products.

> For the first time, India has included cuts in its tariffs on imported cars in a trade deal

New pact: Union Minister Piyush Goyal and U.K. Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds sign India-U.K. CETA on July 24. ANI

The U.K. is a relatively small trading partner for India. About 3.3% of India's exports in 2024-25 went to the U.K., and the U.K. made up 1.2% of India's imports that year.

Is the deal restricted to the goods trade?

No, the CETA incorporates a significant section on services, which is especially of interest to India since services exports are a vital engine of growth. Under the 'economic' component of the deal, India has agreed to open up some key sectors of its service economy to U.K. firms, such as accounting, auditing, financial services, telecom, and environmental services.

What this means is that U.K. companies operating in these sectors can offer their services to Indian customers without first having to establish a local presence here. Despite this, they will be treated at par with Indian firms. India has also agreed to recognise U.K. professional qualifications in law and accounting, but not in legal services.

The U.K. has agreed to grant commercial presence rights to Indian companies in sectors such as computer services, consultancy, and environmental services. This means Indian companies operating in these sectors can set up branches, subsidiaries, or representative offices in the U.K.

One major positive for India arises out of the Double Contribution Convention (DCC), which is a parallel agreement between the two countries that was negotiated simultaneously, and that will come into force when the CETA does. Under the DCC, the U.K. will allow 75,000 Indian workers on short U.K. assignments to continue paying into India's social security system without also having to pay the same in the U.K. This is highly beneficial for Indian workers in the U.K. since many of them work there for so short a stint that they do not get to avail of the benefits of social security there while having to contribute to it.

Is the deal a standard one or does it include unusual aspects?

While the broad contours of the deal are pretty standard, dealing with tariff and non-tariff barriers, there are some aspects that are unusual. The first is to do with auto tariffs. India has, for the first time, included cuts in its tariffs on imported cars in a trade deal.

Large-engine luxury petrol cars imported into India from the U.K. will see their import duty cut to 10% over 15 years from the current maximum of 110%. However, this is subject to a quota starting at 10,000 units and rising to 19,000 in the fifth year of the deal. For mid-sized cars, the tariff has been cut to 50% subject to a quota, which will fall to 10% by year five.

Small cars will enjoy a similar tariff reduction and growing quota.

The idea behind the quota, according to government sources, is to allow the domestic industry enough time to prepare to compete with U.K. imports. Further, nascent industries such as electric vehicles have been further protected with no duty concessions being given for electric, hybrid, and hydrogen-powered vehicles for the first five years.

The other unusual aspect of the deal is that U.K. firms will now be allowed to participate in Indian central government procurement bids. India will open about 40,000 high-value contracts from central ministries and departments in sectors such as transport, green energy, and infrastructure.

So what next?

The deal does not come into effect immediately. It needs to be ratified by the Cabinets of both countries, a process that could take as long as six months to a year. For India, the deal also serves as a template for future deals with other economies, such as the U.S. and the EU, both of which are in various stages of negotiation.

DEFINING GENOCIDE Under the current UN Convention, genocide refers to any of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group

1. Killing members of the group
2. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part
4. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group
5. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

Israel's war on Gaza

Life and death

Twenty-one months into the war, Gaza lies in ruins: over 2.5% of its pre-war population has been killed, more than 6% wounded, nearly all of its 2.3 million people displaced and mass hunger is spreading across the strip; the scale of death, destruction of infrastructure, and starvation has intensified accusations that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in the enclave.

By **Stanly Johny, Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Sambavi Parthasarathy, Devyanshi Bihani, Milan Cijo and Renuka Ramakrishna**

When Israel launched its war on Gaza, following the October 7, 2023 cross-border attack by Hamas – which killed at least 1,200 people – it declared two objectives: the destruction of Hamas and the release of the 251 hostages taken by the Palestinian militant group. Twenty-one months later, both goals remain largely unmet. Hamas is far from being destroyed. Of the hostages, 148 were released and 56 bodies returned during two short ceasefires – in November 2023, and between January and March 2025. Israeli troops rescued eight hostages, while around 50 remain in captivity.

On the other side, Israel's war has devastated Gaza, a 365 sq. km territory, home to 2.3 million people, sandwiched between Israel proper and the Mediterranean Sea. At least 59,000 Palestinians have been killed since the war began – that is 2.57% of Gaza's entire population. Of the dead, more than 17,000 are children. Thousands more remain missing. More than 1,40,000 people, over 6% of Gaza's population, have been wounded. These figures make Gaza one of the deadliest battlefields in the 21st century. Nearly the entire population of Gaza has been displaced, most of them multiple times. Since March, when the second ceasefire collapsed, Israel has tightened its blockade of the enclave, triggering a mass starvation crisis. According to the UN, at least 1,000 Palestinians were shot dead at aid centres while seeking food since May. Dozens of children have died from starvation and malnutrition. The scale of death, starvation and displacement has intensified accusations that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.

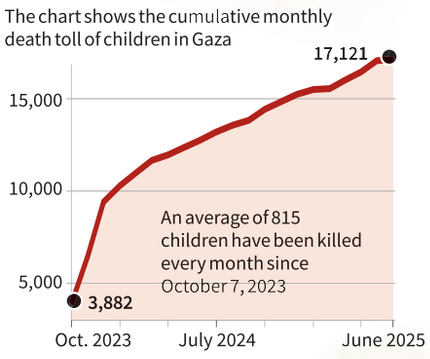
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government has rejected these charges, insisting that Israel is fighting Hamas. Efforts to reach a ceasefire have stalled, as there is no consensus on the "day after" in Gaza. Hamas demands a full Israeli withdrawal, while Mr. Netanyahu insists on "total victory". As the war grinds on, the suffering in Gaza deepens, with no end in sight.

ILLUSTRATION: SOUMYADIP SINHA

GRAPHICS: A. GANESHAN

NUMBER OF CHILDREN KILLED

The chart shows the cumulative monthly death toll of children in Gaza



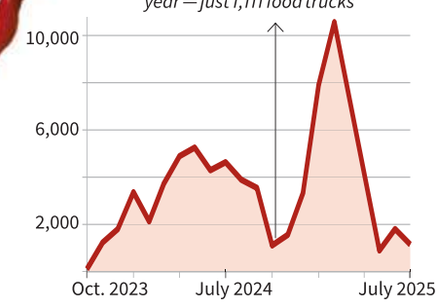
Breakdown of child deaths by age group

- *0–12 months: 937*
- *1–5 years: 4,517*
- *6–12 years: 6,325*
- *13–17 years: 5,342*

(Data available till June 2025)

DISRUPTED FOOD SUPPLY

The number of food trucks entering Gaza per month is much lesser than the UN's estimated requirement of **500** aid trucks per day to meet the population's basic needs



The chart shows the number of food aid trucks that entered Gaza every month. *After Israel imposed new customs rules that affected UN convoys, aid deliveries dropped in October 2024 to their lowest point that year — just 1,111 food trucks*

On July 23, 2025, over 100 aid organisations and human rights groups warned that "mass starvation" was spreading in Gaza

59,676

Killed as of July 26, 2025. The number of Palestinians killed in Israeli attacks continue to rise with no end in sight. More than a lakh have also been injured and over **10,000** remain missing

A brief truce: **After 15 months of conflict, a ceasefire deal was reached on January 19, 2025. But it wasn't long before the killings began again**

127

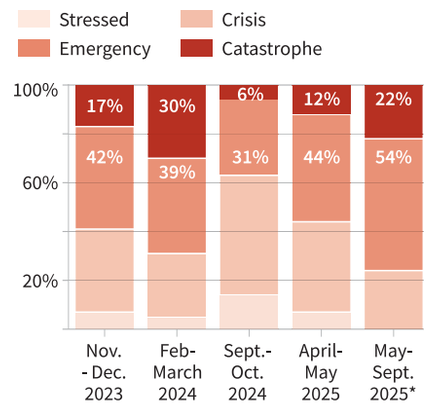
persons have died due to starvation in Gaza as of July 26, 2025. The toll includes **85** children

40,221

Killed as of August 2024. The number of persons injured crossed the **90,000** mark

ALARMING FOOD INSECURITY

The chart depicts acute food insecurity levels (as defined by IPC) based on the severity of food consumption gaps at the household level (**Projected*)



- ***Crisis:*** *Barely meet minimum food needs by depleting key livelihood assets*
- ***Emergency:*** *Severe food gaps managed only through extreme coping and asset liquidation; high malnutrition and excess deaths*
- ***Catastrophe:*** *Total lack of food and basic needs despite all coping efforts; marked by starvation, death, and critical malnutrition*

~2 mn.

According to OCHA, more than two million Palestinians are now squeezed into an area lesser than 45 square kilometres

~700

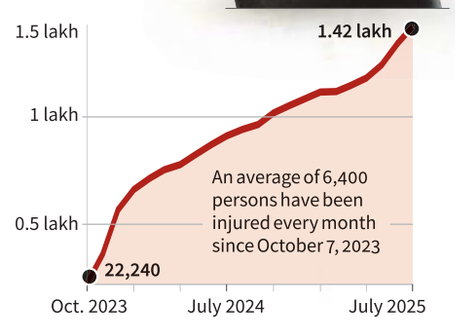
Nearly 500 aid workers and more than 200 journalists have been killed so far in the conflict

20,063

Killed as of December 2023. The number of persons injured touched the **56,000** mark

NUMBER OF PERSONS INJURED

The chart shows the cumulative monthly number of people injured in Gaza



A short pause: **Israel and Hamas agreed for a temporary pause in fighting in November 2023, which lasted seven days**

88%

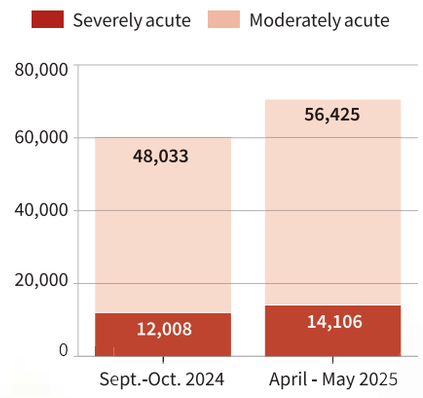
of the Gaza Strip currently falls within Israeli-militarised zones or has been placed under displacement order

According to the UNICEF, the Gaza Strip has the **highest number of child amputees per capita** than anywhere else in the world

The line shows the cumulative number of deaths in Gaza due to Israeli attacks since October 7, 2023

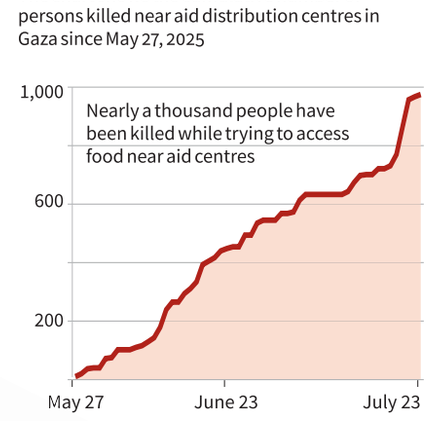
SURGING CASES OF MALNUTRITION

The chart shows acute malnutrition cases among children aged 6 months to 5 years



AID-SEEKERS KILLED AT DISTRIBUTION SITES

The chart shows the cumulative number of persons killed near aid distribution centres in Gaza since May 27, 2025

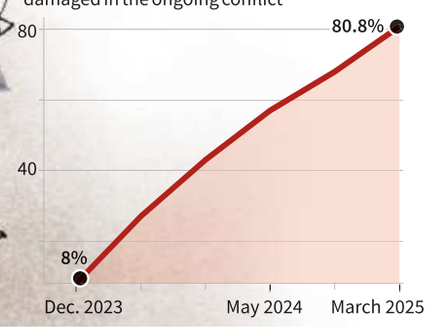


Sources: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Mapping Tool, OCHA Health Cluster, ACLED, UNOSTAT, FAOSTAT, COGAT. Figures for July 2025 in the charts are as of July 23, 2025 | *Milan Cijo and Renuka Ramakrishna are interning with The Hindu Data Team*

Photos: AP, AFP

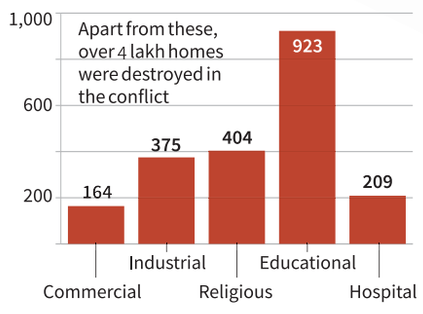
CROPLAND DESTROYED

In Gaza, 80% of the total cropland was damaged in the ongoing conflict



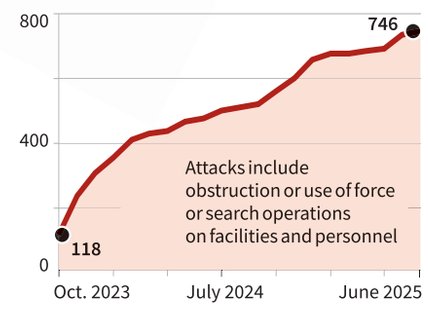
REDUCED TO RUBBLE

The chart shows the number of buildings damaged as on April 4, 2025



ATTACKS ON HEALTH SERVICES

The cumulative number of attacks on health aid, facilities, transport and personnel



KUALA LUMPUR

Thousands of Malaysians protest rising living costs, 'lack of reform'

REUTERS

Tens of thousands of Malaysians protested at Merdeka (Independence) Square in Kuala Lumpur against rising living costs and unfulfilled reform promises by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's government. Organised by Opposition parties, the rally demanded his resignation despite his recent populist economic measures. AFP

LAGOS

Over 600 malnourished children die in six months in Nigeria: MSF

REUTERS

Over 600 malnourished children died in northern Nigeria within six months as foreign aid sharply declined, a medical charity has said. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) reported a 208% rise in severe child malnutrition. Aid cuts from the U.S., U.K., and EU, combined with insecurity and rising costs, intensified the crisis. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia says it seized two villages in central Ukraine; strikes kill six

REUTERS

Russia on Saturday said it captured Maliyevka in Dnipropetrovsk and Zeleny Gai in Donetsk, marking rare advances in Ukraine's mining heartland since the 2022 invasion. Overnight strikes by both countries killed at least six persons, as Russian troops push closer to key Ukrainian cities. AFP

WASHINGTON

Pakistan says it is close to U.S. trade deal, Washington gives no timeline

AP

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday said the U.S. and Pakistan are "very close" to finalising a trade deal, possibly within days, after meeting Secretary of State Marco Rubio. However, U.S. officials have not confirmed any timeline, only discussing expanded trade in critical minerals. REUTERS

At least 25 killed in Israeli attacks in Gaza, some while seeking food

The majority of victims were killed by gunfire as they waited for aid trucks close to the Zikim crossing; UN experts say Palestinians are at risk of famine, with reports of increasing numbers of people dying from causes related to malnutrition

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

At least 25 people were killed by Israeli air strikes and gunshots overnight, according to health officials and the ambulance service on Saturday, as ceasefire talks appear to have stalled and Palestinians in Gaza face famine.

The majority of victims were killed by gunfire as they waited for aid trucks close to the Zikim crossing with Israel, said staff at Shifa hospital, where the bodies were brought.

Israel's army did not respond to request for comments about the latest shootings.

Palestinians struggle as they wait to receive food from a charity kitchen, amid a hunger crisis, in Gaza City on Saturday. REUTERS

Those killed in strikes include four persons in an apartment building in Gaza City among others, hospital staff and the ambulance service said.

The strikes come as ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas have hit a standstill after the United States and Israel recalled their negotiating teams on Thursday, throwing the future of the ceasefire talks into further uncertainty.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Friday his government was considering "alternative options" to ceasefire talks with Hamas. His comments came as a Hamas official said negotiations were expected to resume next week and portrayed the recall of the Israeli and American delegations as a pressure tactic.

'Temporary' pause

Egypt and Qatar, which are mediating the talks alongside the United States, said the pause was only temporary and that talks would resume, though they did not say when.

For desperate Palestinians a ceasefire cannot come soon enough.

The United Nations and experts say that Palestinians in Gaza are at risk of famine, with reports of increasing numbers of people dying from causes related to malnutrition.

While Israel's army says it is allowing aid into the enclave with no limit on the number of trucks that can enter, the UN says it is hampered by Israeli military restrictions on its movements and incidents of criminal looting.

The Zikim crossing shootings come days after at least 79 Palestinians were killed trying to reach aid entering through the same crossing.

Voters in Taiwan reject bid to oust KMT lawmakers

Associated Press
TAIPEI

Taiwanese voters rejected a bid to oust about one-fifth of their lawmakers, all from the Opposition Nationalist Party, in a recall election on Saturday, dampening hopes for the ruling party to flip the balance of power in the self-ruled island's legislature.

The independence-leaning ruling Democratic Progressive Party won last year's presidential election, but the China-friendly Nationalists, also known as the KMT, and the smaller Taiwan People's Party have enough seats to form a majority bloc.

While vote-counting was still under way, preliminary results showed that the recall efforts failed to remove any of the two dozen KMT lawmakers. The scale of the recall elections is unprecedented, with another seven KMT lawmakers facing a similar vote on August 23.

Moment of relief: Taiwan's KMT chairman Eric Chu (third from left), hugs lawmakers after a recall election in Taipei on Saturday. AFP

The KMT currently holds 52 seats, while the ruling DPP holds 51 seats. For the DPP to secure a legislative majority, at least six KMT lawmakers would need to be ousted, and the ruling party would need to win the by-elections, which must be held within three months of the announcement of results.

For the recall to pass, more than a quarter of eligible voters in the electoral district must vote in favour of it, and the total number of supporters must exceed those voting against.

Taiwan's Central Election Commission will announce the official results on August 1.

At least six persons killed in southeast Iran 'terror' attack

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

At least six persons, including law enforcement, were killed on Saturday during a "terrorist attack" on a judicial building in southeast Iran, the judiciary said.

"The number of martyrs increased to six," the judiciary's *Mizan* online said following earlier reports of a death toll of five, with 13 injured.

Provincial chief justice Ali Movahedi-Rad, cited by *Mizan*, later announced the injured count had reached 22.

All three of the gunmen, who had tried to enter the building disguised as visitors and were wearing explosive vests, were killed, he added. The death toll also included three law enforcement members.

Iranian media said shortly after the attack that Jaish al-Adl (Arabic for "Army of Justice"), a Baloch jihadist group based in Pakistan but active in Iran, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Trump tees off in Scotland as protesters take to the streets and criticise his visit

Reuters
EDINBURGH

U.S. President Donald Trump kept a low profile on his Scottish golf course on Saturday, ahead of meetings with top British and European leaders, as questions swirled at home about his ties to disgraced financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Mr. Trump arrived on Friday on a visit that has triggered protests in Scotland, with hundreds lining the streets of the capital Edinburgh waving placards saying: "NOT MY PRESIDENT."

A demonstrator holds a cut-out during a rally, protesting the visit of Donald Trump in Scotland on Saturday. REUTERS

The U.S. leader told reporters on arrival that he would visit his two golf properties in Scotland – one in Turnberry and the other near Aberdeen. He is also due to meet British PM Keir Starmer, Scottish leader John Swinney and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, whom he called a "highly respected woman".

Frustrated by continued questions about his administration's handling of investigative files related to Epstein's criminal charges and his 2019 death in prison, Mr. Trump told reporters to focus on bigger issues and other people.

"You make it a very big thing over something that's not a big thing," Mr. Trump said. "Don't talk about Trump. What you should be talking about is the fact that we have the greatest six months in the history of a presidency."

Thailand-Cambodia clashes spread along frontier as toll rises

Agence France-Presse
SAMRAONG

Thailand and Cambodia pounded each other with heavy artillery fire for a third day on Saturday, as a border conflict that killed at least 33 people and displaced more than 1,50,000 from their homes spread across the frontier.

Both sides say they are open to a truce in the combat, but have accused the other of undermining armistice efforts.

Cambodia's Defence Ministry said 13 people have been confirmed killed in the fighting since Thursday, including eight civilians and five soldiers, with 71 people wounded.

Thai authorities say 13 civilians and seven soldiers have been killed on their side, taking the toll across both nations higher than it was in the last major round of fighting between 2008 and 2011.

Former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra visited shelters on Saturday to meet evacuees.

Sport

Tanvi, Vennala sign off with bronze medals

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SOLO (INDONESIA)

Rising shuttlers Tanvi Sharma and Vennala Kalagotla signed off with bronze medals as India ended its impressive campaign at the Badminton Asia junior championships here on Saturday.

A first

It was a historic first for India, with two women's shuttlers finishing on the podium in the same edition of the event.

Vennala fought valiantly against China's Liu Si Ya before going down 15-21, 18-21 in 37 minutes.

Down 15-20 in the second game, the Indian saved three match points to raise hopes of a comeback. However, an error at crucial time allowed Liu to seal the contest in straight games.

On the other hand, second seed Tanvi Sharma lost 13-21, 14-21 to eighth seed Yin Yi Qing of China in 35 minutes.

Up and down

After dropping the opening game, Tanvi staged a spirited fightback, racing to a 6-1 lead in the second.

However, Yin clawed her way back to make it 8-8 before racing to the finish.

It was another good show by Tanvi, who had finished runner-up at the U.S. Open Super 300 tournament last month.

Time And Tide wins Bangalore City Sprint Championship Gold Cup

RACING

BENGALURU: Adiraj S. Jodha-trained Time And Tide (Sandesh up) won the Bangalore City Sprint Championship Gold Cup (1,200m), the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (July 26). The winner is owned by Bachhawat Farms Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Vikram Bachhawat.

THE RESULTS

1. BRAVE DANCER PLATE (1,800M): DOUBLE SCOTCH (Antony) 1, Sea Diamond (Vinod Shinde) 2 and Highland Dream (Abhishek Mhatre) 3. Not run: Royal Whisper. 2-1/4 and Shd. 1m 58.21s. Rs. 21 (w), SHP: 20, FP: 35. Favourite: Highland Dream.
Owner: Mr. Ramesh R. Trainer: S. Shobhan Babu.

2. RED DIVINE PLATE (1,100M): EFFICACY (Shreyas S) 1, My Honey (L.A. Rozario) 2, Midnight Blue (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and White Secret (A. Ramu) 4. Not run: Agrima. 7-1/2, 1-3/4 and 2. 1m 08.20s. Rs. 14 (w), 11, 15 and 14 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 42, FP: 31, Q: 32, Trinella: 70/21, Exacta: 309/227. Favourite: Efficacy.
Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. Maloji Baburao Bhosale & Mrs. Anasuya Gupta. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

3. HONEY DAY PLATE (1,400M): DOUBLE VISION (G. Vivek) 1, Able One (Salman Khan) 2, Super Kind (Abhishek Mhatre) 3 and Gandolfini (Akshay K) 4. 3-1/4, 3/4 and 6-1/4. 1m 29.15s. Rs. 32 (w), 13, 19 and 13 (p), SHP: 58, THP: 46, FP: 491, Q: 237, Trinella: 771/358, Exacta: 2,662/992. Favourite: Gandolfini.
Owner: Mr. A. Muniraja. Trainer: S. Shobhan Babu.

4. LUMBINI STUD PLATE (1,200M): DEFENCE COUNSEL (Abhishek Mhatre) 1, Knotty Scotty (G. Vivek) 2, Storm Shadow (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Darrion (L.A. Rozario) 4. Not run: Felisa. 3/4, 2-3/4 and 5-1/2. 1m 14.98s. Rs. 78 (w), 18, 10 and 31 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 52, FP: 212, Q: 103, Trinella: 1,328/1,012, Exacta: 5,602/1,846. Favourite: Knotty Scotty.
Owner: Mr. M. Venkatesh. Trainer: S. Dominic.

5. LT.COL. GAUNT MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200M): DON CARLOS (G. Vivek) 1, Knotty Blush (Srinath) 2. Whirlwind (Hindu S) 3 and Perfect Legend (Abhishek Mhatre) 4. 4-1/2, Shd and 1-1/4. 1m 15.25s. Rs. 69 (w), 16, 22 and 14 (p), SHP: 52, THP: 37, FP: 448, Q: 193, Trinella: 1,502/339, Exacta: 5,204/1,911. Favourite: Perfect Legend.
Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co Pvt Ltd, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

6. BANGALORE CITY SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP GOLD CUP (1,200M): TIME AND TIDE (Sandesh) 1, Imperial Blue (Arvind K) 2, Aldgate (4) Antony 3 and Crown Drive (Hindu S) 4. 5-1/4, 1/2 and Shd. 1m 13.54s. Rs. 12 (w), 10 and 41 (p), SHP: 55, THP: 30, FP: 65, Q: 57, Trinella: 227/67, Exacta: 346/111. Favourite: Time And Tide.
Owner: Bachhawat Farms Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Vikram Bachhawat. Trainer: Adiraj S Jodha.

7. XISCA PLATE (1,500M): KISS OF GREY (Suraj) 1, Sunlit Path (Srinath) 2, Thrill Of Brazil (Antony) 3 and Hyperdrive (Pavan) 4. 6-1/2, Lnk and Nk. 1m 34.98s. Rs. 21 (w), 12, 17 and 11 (p), SHP: 48, THP: 36, FP: 102. Q: 73, Trinella: 197/88, Exacta: 399/200. Favourite: Kiss Of Grey.
Owners: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP, Mr. B.P. Devaraja, Mr. Teja Gollapudi & Dr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni. Trainer: S. Narredu.
Jackpot: Rs. 5,055 (94 tkts); Runner-up: 1,138 (179 tkts); Treble (i): 448 (21 tkts); (ii): 158 (94 tkts).

Prana and Mayne Magic may fight out the finish

BENGALURU: Prana and Mayne Magic may fight out the finish of the Karnataka Mile Championship Cup (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Sunday (July 27).
False rails (width about 3.5m from1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 LIVELY EMPREY PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 2.00 p.m.: 1. Princess Jasmine (6) Suhas K 62.5, 2. Chinky Pinky (2) Trevor 61.5, 3. Emeraldo (9) R. Pradeep 59, 4. N R I Millennium (4) Dhanu S 58.5, 5. Phoenix Surprise (3) Pavan 57.5, 6. Meghann (1) Laxman S 57, 7. Embosom (5) G. Vivek 56.5, 8. Estefania (8) Aleemuddin 54.5 and 9. Chiraag (7) Akshay K 54.
1. CHINKY PINKY, 2. PRINCESS JASMINE, 3. EMBOSOM

2 CAMINETO PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 2.30: 1. Roadrunner (8) Abhishek Mhatre 60, 2. Cascais (1) Trevor 59.5, 3. Silicon Star (3) A. Ramu 59.5, 4. Temperance (5) Shreyas S 58, 5. Legendary Impact (7) G. Vivek 57, 6. Royal Deccan (2) Antony 57, 7. Whitney (6) L.A. Rozario 57 and 8. Equalizer (4) M. Rajesh K 54.5.
1. SILICON STAR, 2. CASCAIS, 3. LEGENDARY IMPACT

3 ESQUIRE PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3.00: 1. Aces Up (11) A. Ramu 56, 2. Get Set Go (12) Salman Khan 56, 3. Konkrah (10) Sandesh 56, 4. Power Of Gold (4) Antony 56, 5. Striker (9) A.S. Peter 56, 6. Zeppelin (1) L.A. Rozario 56, 7. Divine Right (5) Hindu S 54.5, 8. Hushed (8) R. Pradeep 54.5, 9. Mai Tai (6) Trevor 54.5, 10. Romping Home (2) Yash 54.5, 11. Solara (3) Akshay K 54.5 and 12. Zephyrine (7) Arvind K 54.5.
1. ROMPING HOME, 2. MAI TAI, 3. KONKRAH

4 SALAZAAR PLATE (1,200m), rated 60 to 85, 3.30: 1. Never Give In (1) Antony 61, 2. Del Aviz (6) Akshay K 59.5, 3. Dun It Again (7) Koshi K 59.5, 4. Jersey King (9) Abhishek Mhatre 58.5, 5. All Attraction (2) G. Vivek 57, 6. Mazal Tov (3) Trevor 56, 7. Metzinger (5) Vinod Shinde 56, 8. Victoria Doresaani (11) Sandesh 55, 9. Excellent Lass (8) Suraj 54.5, 10. Invincible (10) Angad 53.5 and 12. Grizzly (4) Laxman S 53.
1. EXCELLENT LASS, 2. MAZAL TOV, 3. GRIZZLY

5 ADMIRAL HENRY JOHN ROUS TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 4.00: 1. Sensational (1) A.A. Vikrant 61.5, 2. Asagiri (7) Darshan 61, 3. Circle Of Dreams (6) Trevor 58.5, 4. Elfin Knight (2) R. Pradeep 58, 5. Pole Star (5) G. Vivek 58, 6. Power Of Beauty (8) Antony 58, 7. Stravinsky (4) Angad 55.5 and 8. Sir Winston (3) Neeraj 50.5.
1. CIRCLE OF DREAMS, 2. POWER OF BEAUTY, 3. ELFIN KNIGHT

6 KARNATAKA MILE CHAMPIONSHIP CUP (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4.30: 1. Prana (3) Suraj 60, 2. Monteverdi (4) Neeraj 58.5, 3. Galahad (2) Trevor 55.5 and 4. Mayne Magic (1) Antony 55.
1. PRANA, 2. MAYNE MAGIC

7 CAMINETO PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5.00: 1. Eleanora (3) Suraj 61.5, 2. True Punch (2) Antony 61, 3. Monterio (8) R. Pradeep 60.5, 4. Carat Love (6) G. Vivek 60, 5. Sira (7) Abhishek Mhatre 58.5, 6. Joyful Spirit (5) Shreyas S 57.5, 7. Mutual Trust (1) Trevor 57.5 and 8. Bold Act (4) G. Praveen 57.
1. MUTUAL TRUST, 2. ELEANORA, 3. CARAT LOVE

Day's best: **CIRCLE OF DREAMS**
Double: **EXCELLENT LASS - MUTUAL TRUST**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

THIRD IN HISTORY

Stokes achieves the double of 7000 runs and 200 wickets

REUTERS

England captain Ben Stokes became the third player in Test history to achieve the double of 7000 runs and 200 wickets, joining the likes of Sir Garfield Sobers and Jacques Kallis. Stokes breached the 7000-mark during his ton against India at Manchester. He had brought up his 200th wicket last year at Lord's against West Indies.

MASTER OF ALL TRADES

Stokes is fourth Englishman with a ton and a five-for in the same Test

REUTERS

England skipper Ben Stokes became the fourth all-rounder from the country to score a century and pick up a five-wicket haul in the same Test. Tony Greig, Ian Botham and Gus Atkinson are the other players to achieve the feat. Only Botham (five) has achieved this feat more than once.

BIG BOOST

Pant will be available to bat in the second innings: Kotak

GETTY IMAGES

India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak confirmed that Rishabh Pant, who fractured his foot on the opening day of the fourth Test, will be available for batting in the second innings. "I think he will bat," Kotak said. Pant scored a half-century in the first essay, and with India fighting to save the Test, his presence could be a huge boost.

CUP OF JOY

Black Caps beat Proteas in a thriller, clinch tri-series title

X@ZIMBABWE CRICKET

New Zealand edged out South Africa by three runs in the Twenty20 International tri-series final at the Harare Sports Club on Saturday. **The scores:** NZ 180/5 in 20 overs (Seifert 30, Conway 47, Rachin 47, Ngidi 2/24) bt SA 177/6 in 20 overs (Pretorius 51, Hendricks 37, Brevis 31, Henry 2/19). **Toss:** SA; **PoM & PoS:** Henry.

Stokes' ton hands England huge lead; Rahul, Gill live to fight another day

The tourists concede 600-plus runs in a Test innings for the first time since 2014; Woakes sends back Jaiswal and Sai Sudharsan for ducks

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shayan Acharya
MANCHESTER

A calm Ben Stokes glanced through the stands as the trumpets belted out the tune of the Superman theme and the Barmy Army chanted his name.

The England captain was on 99 and was beaten by Washington Sundar a couple of times. As the sound of the trumpets grew louder and the fans waited with bated breath for him to score a much-deserved Test century – his first in more than two years – Stokes adjusted his helmet and eventually leg-glanced Mohammed Siraj to the fence.

Special occasion

The Old Trafford was on its feet as Stokes took off his helmet and did the two-fingered salute to the skies. It, indeed, turned out to be a special outing as he brought up his 14th century, following a five-for.

Stokes (141, 198b, 11x4, 3x6) eventually guided England to 669 as the hosts gained a massive lead.

Chris Woakes added to India's woes in just five balls before the lunch as he removed Yashasvi Jaiswal and B. Sai Sudharsan off consecutive deliveries with nothing on the scoreboard. However, showing resilience, K.L. Rahul (87 batting, 210b, 8x4) and captain Shubman Gill (78 batting, 167b, 10x4) defied the English bowlers for more than 62 overs as India ended the day at 174 for two.

Trailing by 137 runs, saving the match is still a long way, but Gill and Rahul have instilled belief in the Indian camp. Making the most of a reprieve, Gill counter-attacked with a cover drive and executed an upper cut as well for two fours off Jofra Archer, while Rahul was more on the defensive. With the surface easing out as the sun played hide and seek, Stokes did not bowl due to a hamstring pull and England's attack didn't have the same venom. Gill and Rahul overcame a barrage of short balls and showed steel to create milestones.

Rahul became the second Asian opener to aggregate 500-plus (508) runs in a Test series in England after Sunil Gavaskar (542 in 1979). With the two well set, India dominated the final session.

Elite club

On a day when records tumbled, Stokes made it to an elite club of all-rounders with 7,000 runs and 200 wickets in the format, alongside Garry Sobers and Jacques Kallis.

As the day's proceedings began, India fancied its chances of wrapping up things quickly, but with Stokes around, there was not much that the bowlers could do. Anshul Kamboj wasn't given a single over, while Jasprit Bumrah leaked 100-plus (112) runs for the first time in his 48-Test career.

This was also the first time, since 2014, that India conceded 600-plus runs in a Test innings.

As India registered a dubious record, Brydon Carse and Stokes extended the lead as the latter took on the spinners and went on to add 38 runs off just 34 balls after his ton before holing out to long-on, attempting a big shot against the left-arm spinner.

Stokes has put England in a commanding position. But with Gill and Rahul rising to the occasion, there's still hope for India.

On top of his game: Stokes followed up his five-wicket haul with a gutsy century. GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
358 in 114.1 overs

ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS
Zak Crawley c Rahul b Jadeja 84 (*113b, 13x4, 1x6*), Ben Duckett c sub (Jurel) b Kamboj 94 (*100b, 13x4*), Ollie Pope c Rahul b Washington 71 (*128b, 7x4*), Joe Root st. Jurel b Jadeja 150 (*248b, 14x4*), Harry Brook st. Jurel b Washington 3 (*12b*), Ben Stokes c Sai Sudharsan b Jadeja 141 (*198b, 11x4, 3x6)*, Jamie Smith c Jurel b Bumrah 9 *(19b, 1x4)*, Liam Dawson b Bumrah 26 (65*b, 3x4*); Chris Woakes b Siraj 4 (*17b*), Brydon Carse c Siraj b Jadeja 47 (*54b, 3x4, 2x6*), Jofra Archer (not out) 2 *(3b)*; Extras (b-8, lb-15, nb-14, w-1): 38; Total (in 157.1 overs): 669.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-166 (Crawley, 31.6 overs), 2-197 (Duckett, 38.1), 3-341 (Pope, 76.1), 4-349 (Brook, 80.1), 5-499 (Root, 119.2), 6-515 (Smith, 124.1), 7-528 (Woakes, 129.1), 8-563 (Dawson, 139.3), 9-658 (Stokes, 155.3).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 33-5-112-2, Kamboj 18-1-89-1, Siraj 30-4-140-1, Shardul 11-0-55-0, Jadeja 37.1-0-143-4, Washington 28-4-107-2.

INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Root b Woakes 0 (*4b*), K.L. Rahul (batting) 87 (*210b, 8x4*), B. Sai Sudharsan c Brook b Woakes 0 (*1b*), Shubman Gill (batting) 78 (*167b, 10x4*); Extras (b-4, nb-4, w-1): 9; Total (for two wkts. in 63 overs): 174.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Jaiswal, 0.4), 2-0 (Sai Sudharsan, 0.5).

ENGLAND BOWLING
Woakes 15-3-48-2, Archer 11-2-40-0, Carse 10-2-29-0, Dawson 22-8-36-0, Root 5-1-17-0.

No breakthrough: Divya, right, couldn't press home the advantage against Humpy. FIDE

Humpy and Divya draw opening game

CHESS WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
BATUMI

Young Indian International Master Divya Deshmukh held her nerve to hold stalwart Koneru Humpy to a draw in game one of the FIDE Women's World Cup final, with both players having their share of opportunities to take the lead here on Saturday.

The draw with black means Humpy, the two-time World Rapid champion, holds a slight edge going in to the second and final game under the classical chess rules in the two-game mini-match, and should the deadlock continue, games of shorter duration will be played to determine the winner.

Humpy employed the Queen's gambit accepted as black and it turned out to be a pretty fascinating game as Divya, 19, came up with a piece sacrifice early to deny the black king the right to castle.

Humpy was the first to err and, according to computers, Divya had things under control on the 14th move. However, in her bid to recover the extra material, the Nagpur girl, who has secured a place in the Candidates tournament with her sterling performance here, missed an opportunity.

What followed the exchange of all minor pieces and the ensuing queen and rook endgame gave enough counter-play to both players. The game was eventually drawn after Humpy sacrificed her rook to force perpetual checks.

"The game saw an extremely sharp battle with the game ending in a draw in 41 moves. On move seven, Divya made her aggressive intentions clear by offering another pawn, which looked like home preparation. Humpy made a practical decision of refraining from taking the pawn and a balanced position was reached by move 10 by white," said Grandmaster Pravin Thipsay.

In the play-off for the third place, Chinese players Zhongyi Tan, the former women's World champion and top seed Lei Tingjie also decided to split points in a Queen's Gambit declined game.

Asia Cup: India and Pakistan in same group

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The Asia Cup men's T20 tournament will be played from September 9 to 28 in the United Arab Emirates. India and Pakistan are likely to face each other thrice, with the first confirmed match to be played on September 14 in Dubai.

Mohsin Naqvi, the Asian Cricket Council president, confirmed the window and the venue for the tournament, to be hosted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India at a neutral venue, in a social media post. The ACC then announced the detailed fixtures on Saturday evening.

The eight-team tournament will witness two groups of four sides each. While India, Pakistan, the UAE and Oman are clubbed together in Group A, Group B comprises Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Hong Kong. The tournament will be played in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The top two teams from each group will proceed to the Super Fours stage, with the top two facing each other in the final. After the first match between India and Pakistan on Sept. 14, both teams will play each other the following Sunday (Sept. 21), unless either team fails to progress to the Super Fours.

The groups: Group A: India, Pakistan, UAE, Oman. **Group B:** Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Hong Kong.

The schedule: League stage: September 9: Afghanistan vs Hong Kong; **Sept. 10:** India vs UAE; **Sept. 11:** Bangladesh vs Hong Kong; **Sept. 12:** Pakistan vs Oman; **Sept. 13:** Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka; **Sept. 14:** India vs Pakistan; **Sept. 15:** UAE vs Oman; **Sept. 15:** Sri Lanka vs Hong Kong; **Sept. 16:** Bangladesh vs Afghanistan; **Sept. 17:** Pakistan vs UAE; **Sept. 18:** Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan; **Sept. 19:** India vs Oman.

Super Fours: Sept. 20: B1 vs B2; **Sept. 21:** A1 vs A2; **Sept. 23:** A2 vs B1; **Sept. 24:** A1 vs B2; **Sept. 25:** A2 vs B2; **Sept. 26:** A1 vs B1.

Final: Sept. 28.

Skipper Stokes brings the best out of the players, says Moeen

Shayan Acharya
MANCHESTER

In his nearly decade-long Test career, Moeen Ali played under three different captains – Alastair Cook, Joe Root and Ben Stokes. Having witnessed England's cricketing metamorphosis up close, the former all-rounder has no hesitation in admitting that 'full-on leader' Stokes has been able to bring the best out of his players as he leads by example.

As Stokes brought up his 14th Test century at Old Trafford on Saturday and put England in command of the fourth Test, Moeen heaped praise on his former teammate.

"He's a full-on leader who always leads from the front. Whatever he asks of the team, he does himself first – whether it's being aggressive or playing a certain way – and everyone follows," Moeen told *The Hindu*. "That's what people love about him in the dressing room, including senior players like Joe Root and Jimmy Anderson, who have been there longer than him. It is love for his captaincy and commitment that make him stand out as captain..."

Moving on from its traditional approach, England has changed the template of Test cricket with Bazball, and Stokes' fearless leadership has been at its core.

"Stokes has played a massive role in the team. His impact on the way they play has been huge – even better than when I was still playing. They've had many more wins in a shorter period. Both Stokes and (Brendon) McCullum have identified players who can score runs at this level and handle different types of bowling," Moeen said.

Inspirational: According to Moeen, Stokes' impact on the team has been huge. GETTY IMAGES

> From the start, Stokes knew exactly what he wanted as captain

Clear vision

"From the start, Stokes knew exactly what he wanted as captain. Having played in sides that struggled over the years, he had a clear vision and stuck to it, backing himself and his method. He's especially good with younger players, giving them the freedom to play their natural game..."

Stokes has led England in 37 Tests, winning 22, losing 13 and drawing one.

Dazzling duo: Sathiyan and Akash won in style. X@RFYOUTHSPORTS

Sathiyan-Akash wins; Sreeja loses in final

Sports Bureau

G. Sathiyan and Akash Pal beat Jules Rolland and Leo De Nodrest of France 11-9, 11-4, 11-9 to win their maiden Tour men's doubles title together at the WTT Contender Lagos on Saturday.

This was Sathiyan's second WTT men's doubles crown after the one with Harmeet Desai in Tunis in 2021. "Fantastic. We both were unseeded. Still, to beat the French pair by a 3-0 margin was great. Akash has a powerful game, and I could place the ball well. We complemented each other," Sathiyan told *The Hindu*.

Sreeja Akula's confidence would have been sky high going into the singles final. She had beaten the likes of top seed Hina Hayata (first round), seventh seed Jieni Shao (quarters) and fourth-seeded Prithika Pavade in the semifinals.

However, Japanese second seed Honoka Hashimoto beat Sreeja 11-7, 11-3, 11-4, 9-11, 13-11 to clinch the crown.

Other results:
Women's semifinals: Sreeja bt Prithika Pavade (Fra) 11-7, 11-4, 11-13, 6-11, 11-9.
Mixed doubles final: Jules Rolland & Pavade (Fra) bt Akash Pal & Poymantee Baisya 12-10, 11-6, 6-11, 11-7.

INBRIEF

Bhavani Devi in third round of fencing World Cup

Coming through the preliminaries, India's C.A. Bhavani Devi overcame Chu Wing Kiu of Hong Kong 15-12 in the second-round (main draw) women's individual sabre bout of the World fencing championships at Tbilisi, Georgia on Saturday. The 31-year-old Indian will next take on Anastassiya Gulik of Kazakhstan. Shreya Gupta lost to Yuina Kaneko of Japan 15-9 in the women's sabre second round (round of 64).

Groves wins penultimate stage, Pogacar still in yellow

Alpecin rider Kaden Groves won stage 20 of the Tour de France at Pontarlier on Saturday after a long-range escape that saw the Australian finish well ahead of the big guns. Runaway overall race leader Tadej Pogacar maintained his lead over Jonas Vingegaard ahead of Sunday's 21st and final stage in Paris. This was the third stage success for Alpecin after Jasper Philipsen and Mathieu van der Poel's wins.

Shillong Lajong hits six past Malaysian Armed Forces FT

Shillong Lajong FC began its Durand Cup campaign in style, breezing past Malaysian Armed Forces Football Team 6-0 in its opening Group E league match at Shillong on Saturday. Everbrightson Sana, *in pic,* and Phrangki Buam scored a brace each while substitutes Treimiki Lamurong and Deibormame Tongper added a goal apiece for the Shillong outfit.

The result: Shillong Lajong FC 6 (Everbrightson Sana 12 & 66, Phrangki Buam 47 & 49, Treimiki Lamurong 73, Deibormame Tongper 90) bt Malaysian Armed Forces FT 0.

David blasts Australia out of trouble and to series win

Tim David scored the fastest century for Australia in a T20I which lifted the tourists to a series-clinching six-wicket win over West Indies in the third game of a five-match series at Basseterre, St. Kitts, on Friday. David and Mitchell Owen's unbroken 128-run stand guided Australia to 215 for four off 16.1 overs to seal the victory and an unassailable 3-0 series lead.

The scores: West Indies 214/4 in 20 overs (Brandon King 62, Shai Hope 102) lost to Australia 215/4 in 16.1 overs (Tim David 102, Mitchell Owen 36, Romario Shepherd 2/39). **Toss:** Australia. **PoM:** David.

Barcelona to play pre-season friendly in Japan today

Barcelona will play a pre-season friendly in Japan on Sunday as scheduled, J-League side Vissel Kobe said, despite the Spanish club initially cancelling the match, citing unspecified "serious contractual breaches". The announcement comes after Barcelona said this week it had to "suspend its participation in the game" in Japan "due to serious contractual breaches on behalf of the promoter". The Spanish giant was scheduled to play Vissel Kobe on Sunday before travelling to South Korea to face FC Seoul on July 31 and Daegu FC on August 4. The Japanese team said "following careful discussions with the relevant parties, the match will be held as planned".

Verstappen grabs sprint win in maiden post-Horner race

The Red Bull driver holds off the McLaren duo of Piastri and Norris to seal the victory; Haas has an impressive outing as Ocon and Bearman finish fifth and seventh; Ferrari's Leclerc is fourth

FORMULA ONE

Associated Press
SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Max Verstappen overtook Oscar Piastri and drove "15 qualifying laps" to win the Formula 1 sprint race at the Belgian Grand Prix on Saturday as Red Bull begins a new era without fired team principal Christian Horner.

Verstappen surged past Piastri on the straight on the first lap.

The Australian was close behind Verstappen for the rest of the 15-lap sprint race but couldn't find a way past the four-time champion.

Lando Norris, in the other McLaren, was third after retaking the place from Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and catching up to Piastri.

'Over the limit'

"You're keeping faster cars behind, so you have to drive over the limit of what you think is possible," Verstappen said.

"Tire management is out of the window, so that's what's making it really difficult. I'm just doing 15 qualifying laps to try and keep them behind on a track where tire management is important."

It was Verstappen's first race win of any sort since the Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix in May, and his first in a sprint since the United States Grand Prix last October.

Piastri extended his lead over Norris in the standings to nine points from eight. Verstappen is third, 68 points off the lead. Leclerc held on to fourth, and it was an impressive result for Haas, with Esteban Ocon fifth and Oliver Bearman seventh. Carlos Sainz Jr. was sixth for Williams, and Isack Hadjar took the final point for Racing Bulls in eighth.

Sprint results (top eight): 1. Verstappen (Red Bull), 2. Piastri (McLaren), 3. Norris (McLaren), 4. Leclerc (Ferrari), 5. Ocon (Haas), 6. Sainz (Williams), 7. Bearman (Haas), 8. Hadjar (Racing Bulls).

Back in business: This was Verstappen's first race win of any sort since the Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix in May. GETTY IMAGES

Blowing kisses: Norris celebrates after claiming pole. REUTERS

Norris and Piastri lock front row at Belgian GP

Agence France-Presse
SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Lando Norris will start on pole for the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday with his McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri alongside him on the front row.

Charles Leclerc's Ferrari is on the second row next to Max Verstappen's Red Bull after qualifying at Spa-Francorchamps on Saturday.

Norris has won the last two races and goes into Sunday's Grand Prix nine points behind Piastri in the drivers' standings.

"I was confident coming in to today so it's nice to be on pole," said Norris after his 13th career pole. "Oscar has been doing a good job all weekend and we've been pushing each other a lot. It's tough because you see where your strengths and weaknesses are clearly and you learn from each other quickly, it's good but a tough battle that we have at the minute."

Piastri said: "We're a good team-mate pairing and we learn a lot from each other each weekend."

The grid: Front row: Norris (McLaren), Piastri (McLaren); **Second:** Leclerc (Ferrari), Verstappen (Red Bull). **Third:** Albon (Williams), Russell (Mercedes); **Fourth:** Tsunoda (Red Bull), Hadjar (Racing Bulls); **Fifth:** Lawson (Racing Bulls), Bortoleto (Sauber). **Sixth:** Ocon (Haas), Bearman (Haas); **Seventh:** Gasly (Alpine), Hulkenberg (Sauber). **Eighth:** Sainz (Williams), Hamilton (Ferrari); **Ninth:** Colapinto (Williams), Antonelli (Mercedes); **Tenth:** Alonso (Aston Martin), Stroll (Aston Martin).

Sahil claims gold, silver for Parneet

ARCHERY

Sports Bureau

Sahil Jadhav won the compound men's individual gold, while Parneet Kaur picked up the women's individual silver to help India finish second with five medals, including two gold, two silver and a bronze, in archery at the World University Games in Essen, Germany, on Saturday.

Sahil edged out compatriot Kushal Dalal 148-148 (30-29, 30-29, 30-30, 29-30, 29-30, shoot-off: 10*-10; shot closer to the centre) in an all-Indian semifinal before stunning World Cup Stage team gold winning British archer Ajay Scott 149-148 (30-30, 30-29, 30-30, 30-30, 29-29) in a keenly-contested final.

Sahil, who claimed a team silver with Kushal, held his nerve to shoot perfect scores for four consecutive ends and managed to thwart Scott's challenge in a high-pressure duel.

Kushal was beaten 150-148 (30-29, 30-30, 30-30, 30-30, 30-29) by a flawless Polish archer, Przemyslaw Konecki, in the bronze medal match.

Parneet, who had secured a mixed team gold and a women's team bronze, defeated Korean Kim Sooyeon 145-144 (30-29, 28-27, 30-28, 28-30, 29-30) in the semifinals, but lost 146-147 (30-29, 30-29, 28-30, 29-30, 29-29) to another Korean, Moon Yeeyun, in a closely-fought summit clash and settled for the silver.

LIVE TELECAST

England vs India: 4th Test, day 5, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.

Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.

Formula One: Belgian GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 6.30 p.m.

PGTI president Kapil upbeat about more events in season's second half

GOLF

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The President of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), Kapil Dev expressed delight about being able to elevate the overall vibrancy of the sport with more events and a total prize money of ₹33 crore while unveiling the calendar for the second half of the season at the Delhi Golf Club on Saturday.

It will be a packed line up of events, starting with the ₹1 crore Coal India Open in Ahmedabad from August 3. There will be 15 tournaments, with two of the events offering a higher prize purse of ₹.2 crore in Dwarka, Delhi, and Jamshedpur.

There will also be three events for the NextGen in Patna, Lucknow and Bhubaneswar, offering ₹.20 lakh each.

The Chief Executive Officer of PGTI, Amandeep Johl, pointed out that the DP World India Championship, a $4 million dollar event scheduled at the iconic Delhi Golf Club from October 16 to 19, would alone be offering nearly 35 crore prize money.

Kapil Dev insisted that it was important to offer a better life for the players, as their career span is limited to about 15 years, with more playing opportunities leading to better earning.

"From next year we want to have events with a minimum prize money of two crore rupees," said Kapil, quite keen to "raise the bar" for golf and bring it close to cricket, a game that had seen him entertain the world.

It was pointed out that the prize money for the current season was eight crore rupees more than last year.

The Chairman of Indian Oil, A.S. Sahney was pleased to support golf, along with many other games and the Paralympics. "We are going to have the 25th edition of the Indian Oil Servo Masters in Digboi. We are told that it is the only golf tournament in Asia to have continued for this long.

"We will have a befitting celebration in November," said Sahney.

When queried about the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL), Kapil said that creating more opportunities for the sport was welcome, but insisted that the PGTI had the responsibility of taking care of about 350 players, and "loyalty is very important".

While insisting that it was natural to "be with the system" and play four-day golf to ensure players get global ranking, Kapil visualised change at some stage, and said, "two-day golf will happen".

When probed on cricket, Kapil said that he was surprised with the way Jasprit Bumrah had delivered for the national team so well, despite having such a difficult action that took so much toll on his body.

New vistas: Sahney, Chairman of Indian Oil, and Kapil Dev address the media on Saturday. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Xavi Hernandez and Pep Guardiola's applications were not genuine: AIFF

FOOTBALL

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A day after its top official claimed that World Cup-winning Spanish great Xavi Hernandez was among the applicants for India football coach's position, the All India Football Federation said that the e-mail received in his name was found to be "not genuine" and three others have been short-listed for the job.

The AIFF did not reveal the names in the pruned list but it is widely believed that Khalid Jamil, currently the head coach of Indian Super League side Jamshedpur FC, is the front-runner for the post left vacant by Spaniard Manolo Marquez.

"The AIFF received an e-mail furnishing the applications from Spanish coaches Pep Guardiola and Xavi Hernandez. The authenticity of their applications could not be confirmed, and it has since emerged that the e-mail applications were not genuine," AIFF stated in a media release.

One of its officials, on conditions of anonymity, had stated on Friday that the application of Xavi could not be processed as the AIFF did not have resources to hire his services.

The IM Vijayan-headed Technical Committee, it is learnt, has also kept Englishman Stephen Constantine, who has previously coached India, and Slovakia's Stefan Tarkovic in the short-list.

Constantine has coached the Indian team in two phases earlier, while Tarkovic is the most decorated among the shortlisted candidates having managed Slovakia during the 2020 Euro Championship.

"Following comprehensive discussions and a rigorous selection process, 10 candidates were selected for the committee to review, following which, the TC shortlisted three," the release also stated.

"Given the immediate needs of the national team, it is advisable to recommend three coaches from the short-listed pool for final consideration," former India skipper Vijayan was quoted as saying in the release. "Other prominent applicants, many of whom are highly qualified international coaches, will be taken into account for long-term strategic roles in the future," he added.

Xavi. AP

Guardiola. REUTERS

Women's kabaddi World Cup postponed indefinitely

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

The second women's kabaddi World Cup, scheduled from August 3 to 10 at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium here, has been indefinitely postponed.

Second time

This is the second time the event has been rescheduled after it was originally slated to be held in Bihar in June.

The Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI), in a letter to the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) which *The Hindu* has seen, stated that the decision was made due to the "non-timely submissions of team contingent administrative details", which caused an issue in "obtaining clearances from the concerned Ministries".

AKFI added it will not accept any changes to the existing list of participating countries, stating it would "derail the administrative process for timely clearances".

Participating countries

Argentina, Bangladesh, Chinese Taipei, Germany, Netherlands, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Nepal, Thailand, Uganda, Zanzibar, Poland and India are the 14 countries taking part in the event.

According to various sources, the tournament will now take place here following the conclusion of the Pro Kabaddi League, which gets underway in Visakhapatnam on August 29.

One-stop shopping complex: In the Meitei language, the market is known as Nupi Keithel (Women's Market) and also as Ima Keithel, which translates to Mothers' Market.

Staying up-to-date: A vendor catches up with news in her spare time. Hosting stalls for several generations, the women's market is a home away from home for many vendors.

The right pitch: A vendor shows bangles to a customer at her stall. The stalls offer a variety of products such as vegetables, fruits, textiles, toys, fish, spices, and utensils.

Cool-off point: A vendor sells ice cream at the buzzling Ima Market in the heart of Imphal. The market hosts 5,000-6,000 stalls and serves as a generational bridge.

Women's business

Ima Market in Manipur's capital Imphal is entirely run by women and hosts 5,000-6,000 vendors, who sell a variety of products catering to needs of the local people as well as tourists; the market stands testimony to the empowerment of women in the State and the socio-economic role they play

Ritu Raj Konwar
rituraj.k@thehindu.co.in

The Ima Market located in the centre of Manipur capital's Imphal is a market entirely run by women. Known as Ima Keithel (Mothers' Market) in the Meitei language or as Nupi Keithel (Women's Market), the bustling hub consists of three large buildings with pagoda-style roofs. It is a commercial centre as well as a popular tourist attraction. It was established in the 16th century and hosts 5,000-6,000 women vendors, who sell a variety of products such as vegetables, fruits, textiles, toys, fish, spices, and utensils.

Male shopkeepers and vendors are not allowed to set up or run stalls in the market and the State government has made it a punishable offence.

Vendors at the market, dressed in traditional *phaneks* (long skirts tightly draped around the waist) and *innaphis* (shoulder drapes very similar to shawls), get ready every morning to welcome shoppers, many of them tourists. The economic backbone of many families, the market has served to empower women at the socio-economic level.

Women in Manipur enjoy a unique status in society. Their empowerment is visible through their active participation in the economic realm.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who visited the market in November 2022, in a post on X, had lauded the market for being "a great example of Nari Shakti (women's strength) powering economic growth".

Women from diverse faiths and tribes run their own stalls with pride and purpose.

"All of us come together and actively participate when it comes to issues concerning Manipur as a whole. We are not only contributing to the State's economy and supporting our families financially, but we also take part in important social and political matters. This involvement is not limited to just one district – women from all districts and communities, including Muslims and tribal groups, come together. They bring their local products to this market, sell them to us at wholesale rates, and we, in turn, sell those items. It's a wonderful and effective system," a vendor told ANI last July.

"We want to bring peace. We all want to live together in harmony. Whether it's the Tangkhul, Naga, Kuki, or any other tribe in Manipur, we all wish to come together, work together, and live with love and unity," said another vendor.

(With ANI inputs)

Money makes money: Women running a money exchange business at the market.

News in Frames

Bait for buyers: Vendors sell dry fish at the Ima Market. Dry fish is a key part of Manipuri cuisine used in many of beloved dishes.

Break time: An elderly woman takes a breather. Women from diverse faiths and tribes run their own stalls with pride and purpose at the market.

Letting her hair down: Two vendors take a break from business and relax. Women at the market unwind by sharing stories and anecdotes.

Tea time: As dusk falls, eateries and snack outlets come to life as they get busy to welcome customers with lip-smacking delicacies.

Who's next?: A woman clears the table at her eatery, which serves dishes made with rice.

Goodies to take home: Customers laden with purchases and provisions after a round of shopping.