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### GUJARAT UNDER MODI

## The laboratory of today's India



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### CROWDSTRIKE



An update that brought the world to a standstill

PROFILES » PAGE 14

### INDIA WILL LOOK TO FIRM UP SEMIFINAL CHANCES



SPORTS » PAGE 16

# Bangladesh deploys Army as unrest toll rises to 133

Soldiers patrol deserted streets as curfew imposed against student-led protests across the country; Internet shutdown continues, text message services off; media organisations remain inaccessible

Reuters  
Agence France-Presse  
DHAKA

Soldiers patrolled the streets of the Bangladesh capital Dhaka on Saturday, setting up roadblocks during a curfew imposed in response to student-led protests against government job quotas that have killed at least 133 people this week.

Internet and text message services have been suspended since Thursday, cutting the nation off as police cracked down on protesters who defied a ban on public gatherings.

Overseas telephone calls mostly failed to connect while the websites of Bangladesh-based media organisations did not update and their social media accounts remained inac-



Widespread mayhem: Army personnel patrol the streets to disperse anti-quota protesters in Dhaka on Saturday. AFP

“The army has been deployed nationwide to control the law and order situation,” armed forces spokesman Shahdat Hossain said.

The curfew was eased for two hours from noon on Saturday to allow people to shop for supplies and complete other

chores. Local media reported that it will last until 10 a.m. on Sunday, when the government will assess the situation and decide the next course of action.

CONTINUED ON  
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PROBE SOUGHT  
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## 978 Indian students evacuated

Kallol Bhattacharjee  
NEW DELHI

Since the beginning of the clashes in Bangladesh, India has evacuated 978 nationals who were studying in various institutions in Bangladesh, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has said.

The evacuation is part of security measures that the Indian officials in the High Commission in Dhaka are taking to ensure the safety of around 8,000 Indian students.

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# Top-scoring NEET centres clustered in Rajasthan's Sikar

Maitri Porecha  
Jasmin Nihalani  
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

An analysis of NEET-UG 2024 results shows that many students scoring high marks were clustered in particular centres located in certain cities or States.

The National Testing Agency published the undergraduate medical entrance examination scores of 23,33,162 candidates on Saturday after the Supreme Court directed that the data be made public.

Of the 50 NEET-UG exam centres which had the highest percentage of candidates scoring above 650, 37 centres are located in Sikar district of Rajasthan. A score of above 650 gives candidates a chance of getting admission in government medical colleges.

“Of the 30,204 students who bagged over 650

A total of 27,216 students appeared for the exam from centres in Sikar, of which 2,037 scored over 650 marks

marks, and will compete for 20,000 highly coveted MBBS seats in government medical colleges, 2,037 bagged scores above 650 in Sikar alone. The CBI should definitely look at this anomaly,” said Krishan Sharma, the parent of an aggrieved candidate in Haryana. Dr. Sharma is one of the petitioners in the Supreme Court in the NEET-UG 2024 paper leak case.

A total of 27,216 students appeared for the NEET-UG exam from centres in Sikar, of which 2,037 (7.48%) scored over 650 marks.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 8

## IN BRIEF

### Shah vows White Paper on people of Jharkhand

PATNA  
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday sounded the bugle for the Assembly poll in Jharkhand and promised that if the BJP comes to power in the State, it will issue a White Paper on its demography.

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CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 6

# Udhayanidhi plays down speculation on elevation as Deputy CM of Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin on Saturday sought to play down the speculation that he would soon be elevated as the Deputy Chief Minister. “The secretary of the [DMK] youth wing is a position close to my heart,” he said.

“When friends in the media asked me about the speculation, I told them that all the Ministers and office-bearers of the party and the youth wing are working as deputies to the Chief Minister,” he said at a



Udhayanidhi Stalin

function to mark the 45th annual foundation day of the youth wing.

He was responding to a resolution adopted at the meeting in favour of his elevation and the office-bearers who wanted him to be the Deputy Chief Minister. “After going through the gossip and speculation, you have come to the con-

clusion and seek to reserve the post of Deputy Chief Minister. Our leader and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin always considers the post of youth wing secretary close to his heart,” he said.

Mr. Udhayanidhi said it was the youth wing that had laid the foundation for Mr. Stalin's emergence in politics. “Though there are many wings representing various sections of society, the youth wing always occupies the pre-eminent position,” he said.

The Minister said he would never forget the post of secretary of the youth wing even if he was elevated to other positions.

“We have a lot of work to do. What is important is the Assembly election in 2026. We have to win in the election as we won in the 2024 Lok Sabha election and the byelection to the Vikravandi Assembly constituency. Let us seek votes by highlighting the achievements of the DMK government,” he added.

Mr. Udhayanidhi also drew the attention of the youth wing's office-bearers to the support enjoyed by the ruling DMK among women. “Women have voted overwhelmingly for the party because of the welfare schemes launched by our leader,” he said.

## Crumbled down



Structural failure: A woman was killed and four others were injured after a portion of a four-storey building's balcony collapsed in Mumbai on Saturday. Seven persons were rescued. EMMANUAL YOGINI

# Compressed three-in-one social science book for Class 6

Maitri Porecha  
NEW DELHI

The new social science textbook for Class 6 is a heavily truncated amalgamation of what was earlier three separate books for history, geography, and civics published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

Students in Classes 3 and 6 are getting new textbooks. Class 6 students will get a single social science text, titled *Exploring Society – India and Beyond*.

The *Hindu* had earlier reported that the National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee was considering merging three books into one.

The heavily truncated new social science book has one entire chapter (Chapter 5: India, that is Bharat) dedicated to a discussion of the etymology of the term Bharat, citing

references from ancient Indian texts such as the Mahabharata and the *Vishnu Purana*. Citing the Mahabharata, it says: “Interestingly, it lists many regions, such as Kashmir (more or less today's Kashmir), Kurukshetra (parts of Haryana today), Vanga (parts of Bengal), Pragjyotisha (roughly today's Assam), Kaccha (today's Kutch), Kerala (more or less today's Kerala), and so on.” The text features many Sanskrit terms along with diacritics, the marks used over letters to encourage the correct pronunciations of Sanskrit words.

### Truncated content

The new textbook is structured around five themes. The first comprises 34 pages dedicated to geography and has two chapters: *Oceans and continents*, and *Landforms and life*, which starts with a quote from the Atharva Veda.



DINESH SAKLANI  
NCERT Director

Concepts such as measuring longitude and latitude of the globe have been culled from the current version. The total pages dedicated to geography have been brought down from 48 to 34.

The second and third themes on “Tapestry of the past” and “Our cultural heritage and knowledge traditions” consist of 46 pages with five chapters of history. These have been heavily cut from the 10 chapters in the older NCERT text. Chapter 4 is titled *Timeline and sources*

We have tried to keep the text to a minimum by focusing on the big ideas. This has enabled us to combine in a single theme inputs from several disciplines

of history, while Chapter 5 is about the origins of the term Bharat.

Chapter 6 on *The beginning of Indian civilisation* starts with a quote from the late B.B. Lal, a former Archaeological Survey of India chief who had led excavations at the Babri Masjid site in the mid-1970s and said there was no trace of any Hindu temple there; 10 years ago, however, he said there were temple pillars at the site. He also studied the Indus Valley and the epics Ramayana and Mahabharata, and is

quoted in the book referring to the Harappan civilisation as the Indus-Sarasvati or Sindhu-Sarasvati civilisation. The chapter stresses upon Dholavira, a Harappan site in Gujarat, and uses a cover image of the north gate leading to Dholavira's castle area; in the old textbook, the cover featured a picture of Mohenjodaro.

Both the old and new textbooks contain references to Hindu texts as well as to Buddhism and Jainism, given that Class 6 students are studying about ancient pre-Mughal India. What has been culled drastically is the detailed exploration of the kingdoms of ancient India, as in the four chapters of the old book that have been deleted from the new. This includes accounts of the kingdoms of Ashoka and Chandragupta Maurya, including the role of Chanakya and his Ar-

thashastra, as well as the dynasties of the Guptas, Pallavas and Chalukyas, and the works of Kalidasa. In fact, the only mention of King Ashoka in the entire book is a single word in Chapter 4's timeline.

A chapter in the old book on *Villages, towns and trade*, about the tools, coins, irrigation, crafts, and trade of the period has been truncated.

References to the famed iron pillar at the Qutub Minar site at Mehrauli have been dropped, along with mentions of the Sanchi Stupa, the monolithic temples of Mahabalipuram, and the Ajanta paintings.

“We have tried to keep the text to a minimum by focusing on the ‘big ideas’.” NCERT Director Dinesh Saklani writes in the introductory chapter of the new textbook.

# Centre reviews cases of Chandipura virus, AES in three States

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has reviewed the cases of Chandipura virus and acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) that have caused 28 deaths so far across Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh.

The Centre said on Saturday that it has decided to deploy a multidisciplinary team from the National Centre for Disease Control, Indian Council of Medical Research, and Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying to assist Gujarat in studying the cases.

Director General of Health Services Atul Goel and experts from AIIMS, Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital, and National Institute of Mental Health &

Neurosciences, as well as officials from Central and State surveillance units participated in the detailed discussion and review of the status of the cases of Chandipura virus and AES.

### ‘Conduct studies’

The experts concluded that infectious agents contribute to only a small proportion of AES cases in the country. “They emphasised the need for comprehensive epidemiological, environmental, and entomological studies of the AES cases reported in Gujarat,” the Ministry said.

As of July 20, a total of 78 AES cases have been reported in the country – 75 from Gujarat, two from Rajasthan, and one from Madhya Pradesh, the Ministry said.



# Mohalla Buses earn praise of commuters during trial run

Anvee Bhutani  
NEW DELHI

Shiv, a retiree who depends on public transport to get to his various medical appointments, was impressed when a Mohalla Bus picked him up from right outside his house in Gharoli and dropped him at the Akshardham Metro Station. "I really enjoyed the speed and convenience of the service," he said, adding that it had halved his commute.



The trial run of the bus service started on July 15. FILE PHOTO

The Mohalla Bus service, announced by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government last year and rolled out for a week-long trial run on July 15, aims to ensure last-mile connectivity in the Capital.

The sleek nine-metre-long buses are powered by an electric battery and designed to penetrate previously unserved areas, such as crowded neighbourhoods with narrow lanes where standard 12-metre-long buses of Delhi Transport Corporation

(DTC) were unable to ply.

The buses are operating on two routes during their trial period - Pradhan Enclave Pushta to Majlis Park Metro Station and Akshardham Metro Station to Mayur Vihar Phase-III Paper Market - but the service will be expanded based on the feedback received during the trial run, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot had said while inaugurating the project.

Each Mohalla Bus route will be less than 10 km, which is shorter than those of DTC buses.

For now, fares will remain the same as they are for DTC buses, and pink passes, which allow women to avail of free transport, will remain valid.

### 'Will save time, money'

Commuters said the buses not only helped them save precious time and money, but also reduced the need to take autorickshaws or change several bus routes to get to their destination.

"I normally use an autorickshaw to get to Mayur Vihar-I metro station, which had become quite unaffordable, so this new route is working out well for me," said Sumit, a professional from Trilokpuri.

"I've used this bus on all days it has been operational," he said, adding that he hopes the route becomes permanent.

The service currently uses 100 buses acquired from Delhi Metro Rail Corporation for the trial run, but the Delhi government plans to introduce 2,180 such buses by 2025.

# Bharti moves HC against Bansuri Swaraj's election

AAP's Malviya Nagar MLA, who lost to Bansuri from New Delhi LS seat by over 70,000 votes, claims the BJP candidate committed poll code violations, including breach of campaign expenditure limit

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Malviya Nagar MLA Somnath Bharti on Saturday moved the Delhi High Court challenging the election of BJP's New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj, citing alleged corrupt practices.

Mr. Bharti was the INDIA bloc's candidate against Ms. Swaraj in the recently held Lok Sabha election and lost to her by over 70,000 votes.

### Voting day

The AAP leader's plea stated that on the voting day - May 25 - he observed the BJP candidate's booth agents showing voters pamphlets with her photograph, ballot number, election symbol, as well as the photographs of Prime Mi-



The court will hear Somnath Bharti's plea on Monday. FILE PHOTO

nister Narendra Modi.

He claimed that no action was taken even after he reported the alleged poll code violations to the Returning Officer.

The petition also alleged that Ms. Swaraj breached the ₹95-lakh expenditure limit in her poll campaign.

Mr. Bharti also claimed that Raaj Kumar Anand, former AAP Minister who quit the party before the

Lok Sabha election to join the Bahujan Samaj Party and fight on its symbol from the New Delhi seat, was actually propped up by the BJP to cut AAP's votes and help Ms. Swaraj.

Mr. Anand joined the BJP with another AAP MLA, Chhatrapur's Kartar Singh Tanwar, on July 10.

The plea stated that Mr. Anand was a Minister in the Delhi government and

was active in campaigning for Mr. Bharti till April 9 and that he "suddenly" resigned from the party on April 10.

### 'Pressure on Anand'

The Malviya Nagar MLA claimed that Mr. Anand resigned "because of the misuse of the agencies like ED/CBI/IT against him".

He said the former Delhi Minister was "under tremendous pressure" from the investigating agencies and had no option but to resign or "he would have been arrested".

Justice Manmeet P.S. Arora will hear the plea on Monday, July 22.

The BJP won all Lok Sabha seats in Delhi by defeating the AAP-Congress Opposition alliance, which fought the general election in a 4-3 seat-sharing arrangement.

### Timings

DELHI		
SUNDAY, JUL. 21		
RISE	05:37	SET 19:19
RISE	19:39	SET 05:03
MONDAY, JUL. 22		
RISE	05:38	SET 19:18
RISE	20:24	SET 06:13
TUESDAY, JUL. 23		
RISE	05:38	SET 19:18
RISE	21:03	SET 07:23

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	38	28
Safdarjang	38	28
Palam	37	27

**Delhi Palam Today**  
37°C Mostly dry weather to prevail. Day will be very warm and very uneasy. Night will be slight warm.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
35°C The weather will be warm and uneasy with cloudy sky. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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# MCD must get ₹10,000 cr. in Budget: Mayor

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Mayor Shelly Oberoi on Saturday wrote to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman seeking ₹10,000 crore for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in the upcoming Budget.



Mayor Shelly Oberoi addressing reporters. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Ms. Oberoi said the Delhi government had allocated ₹6,060 crore to the civic body in the current financial year. "However, the

MCD receives no funds from the Centre," she said.

Ms. Oberoi's letter comes a day after Delhi Fi-

nance Minister Atishi made a similar demand, seeking ₹10,000 crore for infrastructure development in the Capital.

The Union Finance Minister is scheduled to present the Budget on July 23.

Attacking the Delhi government, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said, "The Mayor has no moral right to demand more funds from the Centre as the Aam Aadmi Party (which is

in power in the civic body), has destroyed the MCD by preventing the election of its Standing Committee."

The constitution of the panel has been pending since the mayoral polls in February last year as AAP and the BJP have fought for control over it. The Standing Committee is the MCD's main decision-making arm, which has executive powers to grant approval to projects worth over ₹5 crore.

## JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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July, 2024 2nd & August, 2024 1st

# 449

Residential, Commercial, Mix Land Use, Shops & Godown Plots

<b>108   Commercial Plot</b>	<b>208   Mix Use</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 Loha Mandi Macheda Phase-I, Jaipur</li> <li>06 West Way Heights Scheme, Jaipur</li> <li>01 Gourdhan Vatika Scheme, Jaipur</li> <li>02 Lalkothi Scheme, Jaipur</li> <li>02 New Atish Market Vistar Village-Sukhalpura, Jaipur</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 Ring Road Project, Village-Hingoniya, Jaipur</li> <li>16 Ring Road Project, Village-Khori Ropada, Jaipur</li> <li>11 Ring Road Project Village-Khatwara, Jaipur</li> <li>10 Ring Road Project Village-Pipala, Jaipur</li> <li>10 Ring Road Project Village Goner, Jaipur</li> <li>07 Ring Road Project Village-Dadiya, Jaipur</li> <li>12 Ring Road Project, Village-Khedi Gokulpura, Jaipur</li> <li>01 Ring Road Project, Village-Manoriyawala, Jaipur</li> <li>08 Ring Road Project, Village-Shivdaspura, Jaipur</li> <li>01 Ring Road Project, Village-Mahapura, Jaipur</li> <li>01 Ring Road Project Village-Burthal, Jaipur</li> </ul>
<b>05   Constructed Shop</b>	<b>05   Under Pass to Join SMS Hospital to Troma Centre Jaipur</b>
<b>9   Agency Plot</b>	<b>01   Shop Plot</b>
<b>20   Auto Mobile Shop</b>	<b>09   Service Yard</b>
<b>30   Godown</b>	<b>59   Residential</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>04 (Type-A) Transport Nagar Sikar Road, Jaipur</li> <li>13 (Type-B) Transport Nagar Sikar Road, Jaipur</li> <li>13 (Type-O) Transport Nagar Sikar Road, Jaipur</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>02 Nilay Kunj Phase-II, Jaipur</li> <li>05 Mahal Vistar Scheme, Jaipur</li> <li>04 Anupam Vihar Scheme, Jaipur</li> <li>09 Loha Mandi Macheda Phase-I, Jaipur</li> <li>03 Harit Vihar Scheme, Jaipur</li> <li>07 Kalpna Nagar, Jaipur</li> <li>01 West Way Heights Scheme, Jaipur</li> <li>04 Shaurya Nagar Scheme, Jaipur</li> <li>03 Patrakar Colony, Jaipur</li> <li>03 Justic Dolatmal Bhandari Nagar Scheme, Jaipur</li> <li>02 Abhinav Vihar Scheme, Jaipur</li> <li>03 Sankalp Nagar, Jaipur</li> <li>01 SwpanLok Scheme, Jaipur</li> </ul>

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Co-Organiser: **The Federation of Indian Publishers**

## IN BRIEF



## Fire on cargo ship off Karwar under control: Coast Guard

The fire on a merchant vessel off the Karwar coast has been brought under control after more than 24 hours, but one of the ship's 21 crew members remains missing, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) said on Saturday. Three ICG ships were dispatched to conduct firefighting operations after it received a message about a fire onboard the Maersk Frankfurt at 2.10 p.m. on Friday after it caught fire about 102 nautical miles south-west of Goa on its way from Mundra to Colombo in Sri Lanka. The vessel was carrying 1,154 containers, including dangerous cargo like benzene and sodium cyanate, said the ICG. PTI

## Jharkhand police use tear gas on teachers demanding raise

The Jharkhand Police on Saturday used tear gas and mild lathi-charge to disperse hundreds of assistant teachers who attempted to lay siege to Chief Minister Hemant Soren's residence to press for their demands, an official said. The teachers gathered at Ranchi's Morabadi ground in the morning with the intent of surrounding the Chief Minister's house, and said their demands included "equal pay for equal work" and status as government employees. Meanwhile, a delegation of assistant teachers also met Education Minister Baidyanath Ram over their demands. The Minister assured them he would take up their issues with Mr. Soren. PTI

## CBI moves HC against order letting Indrani travel abroad

Press Trust of India  
MUMBAI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday moved the Bombay High Court against a special court's order permitting former media executive Indrani Mukerjea, who is accused of killing her daughter Sheena Bora in 2012 and is currently out on bail, to travel to Europe. A special CBI court had on Friday allowed Ms. Mukerjea to travel in intermittent stints to Spain and the United Kingdom for 10 days over the next three months.

The CBI's plea in the High Court sought the quashing of this order, claiming it was "bad in law" and "arbitrary". If she [Ms. Mukerjea] is permitted to travel abroad, there is a chance of her fleeing from justice, the CBI plea contended.

## BJD, BJP spar after Odisha govt. drops Biju Patnaik's name from sports award

The Hindu Bureau  
BHUBANESWAR

The Bharatiya Janata Party and its newly elected government in Odisha is set to undo what the ruling party is calling a "black phase" in the State's politics - the 25-year rule of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), now the principal Opposition party.

On Friday, the Mohan Majhi government decided to rename Biju Patnaik Sports Award to the Odisha State Sports Award, a change in nomenclature that hasn't gone down well with the BJD, which accused the BJP of resorting to "narrow and vengeful" politics. The Sports and Youth Services Department notification also expanded the awards to eight categories from five.

"Late Biju Patnaik was a legendary figure in Indian politics. This decision reflects BJP's narrow political perspective. It is unclear

## Boy infected with Nipah critical; health protocol put into place in Kerala

The 15-year-old is on ventilator support at Kozhikode hospital; Health Minister Veena George rushes to Malappuram to oversee measures to counter spread of the virus; 3 persons quarantined

Abdul Latheef Naha  
MALAPPURAM

The Nipah virus scare resurfaced in Kerala on Saturday after the confirmation of a case currently under treatment at a private hospital in Kozhikode.

A 15-year-old boy from Chembrassery near Pandikkad, who developed Nipah symptoms and was shifted to Kozhikode from a hospital at Perinthalmanna, is reported to be in critical condition, and is on ventilator support at the Kozhikode Government Medical College Hospital.

The pay ward at the hospital has been converted into an isolation block for treating Nipah patients. The ward has been equipped with ten beds, with several doctors and nurses posted there, who have been asked to use personal protection equipment. Fourteen committees have also been reported for surveillance, treatment, and other works.



Health Minister Veena George seen with District Collector V.R. Vinod before a meeting in Malappuram on Saturday. SAKHEER HUSSAIN

Kerala Health Minister Veena George rushed to Malappuram to oversee the measures to counter the spread of the virus. At a press briefing on Saturday, she said the National Institute of Virology in Pune and labs in the State had confirmed the Nipah virus.

Health Department authorities have also swung into action by putting in place the Nipah protocol. As many as 25 committees were formed as per the government-specified SOP to parry the spread of

the virus. Three persons who had close contact with the child, including his father, were quarantined.

The department has also opened a 24x7 control room to monitor the spread of the virus.

## Feverish symptoms

The boy had started showing feverish symptoms on July 10 and he sought treatment at a private clinic on July 12. He reached a hospital at Pandikkad on July 13 and was admitted there on July 15. Later, he was shift-

ed to a private hospital at Perinthalmanna and then to Kozhikode.

Ms. George said the Health Department was well equipped to take on the Nipah challenge. Monoclonal antibodies needed for treatment of the virus are being brought from Pune lab, and are expected to reach Kozhikode on Sunday, she said.

Masks and personal protective equipment were being rushed to medical college hospitals in Kozhikode and Malappuram, she added.

Ms. George said the situation was under control, but warned the people to exercise utmost caution. Health officials in the State advised that people wear masks in view of the scare.

The Minister also kicked off a renewed safety drive in Malappuram.

It was in May 2018 that Kerala reported the first Nipah case. Since then, Nipah cases were confirmed four times in the State, with the last case being reported in September 2023.

## ED makes third arrest in REET paper leak case

The Hindu Bureau  
JAIPUR

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested a man under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in the Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teachers (REET) question paper leak case of 2021, the agency said on Saturday.

The accused, Raju Ram Iram, allegedly gave the leaked paper to his accomplices for distribution among the candidates. He was produced in the PMLA Special Court here on Friday and was sent to the ED's custody for three days.

This is the third arrest made by the agency in its money laundering probe connected to the REET paper leak. It had earlier arrested a retired assistant professor, Pradeep Parashar, and his assistant Ram Kripal Meena in the case.

An ED spokesperson said here that Mr. Iram, who received the leaked paper from other accused involved in the crime, gave it to his associates and took their help to make arrangements in Jodhpur to "show and read" the paper to various candidates in lieu of a huge amount of money.

Raju Ram Iram allegedly gave the leaked paper for distribution among the candidates

The leak of the question paper of the State's biggest examination for the recruitment of teachers to government schools in September 2021, in which over 16 lakh candidates had appeared, had created a furore in Rajasthan, after which the then-Congress government had cancelled the exam. The State government handed over investigation to the Special Operations Group of the Rajasthan Police, which confirmed that the paper was leaked from the Education Department's building, Shiksha Sankul, in Jaipur two days before the exam.

The ED subsequently launched a probe in the matter on the basis of FIRs and chargesheets filed by the police against suspects. The agency also conducted search operations at a total of 32 premises of accused persons in 2023, resulting in the recovery of incriminating documents as well as huge seizures of cash.

## Security tightened along Kanwar Yatra route in Noida, Haridwar

Press Trust of India  
NOIDA/HARIDWAR

Security has been tightened along the Kanwar Yatra route in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar and Uttarakhand's Haridwar, with officials expecting a substantial increase in the numbers of pilgrims this year.

The Gautam Buddha Nagar Police on Saturday said it has established a dedicated 'Kanwar Cell' and will set up 10 temporary outposts on pilgrim routes to maintain law and order.

In Haridwar, the entire Kanwar fair area has been divided into 13 super zones, 31 zones and 126 sectors for better crowd management.

The Noida Police, meanwhile, has announced that it will impose Section 163 (power to issue order in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita from July 22

U.P. and Uttarakhand police said they were expecting an increase in pilgrims this year

to August 5.

The Hindu holy month of Shravan starts on July 22, and Shravan Shivratri will be celebrated on August 2. During this period, devotees perform the ritual of Jalabhishek at Shiva temples every Monday, and a significant increase in the number of participants is expected this year.

Extensive arrangements An official statement issued by the Noida Police said extensive arrangements have been made along the yatra routes for the accommodation and easy movement of the devotees. Facilities have been set up along 14 routes in the district.

"To ensure security and assistance, 10 temporary

police outposts have been set up in the three zones of Noida, Central Noida, and Greater Noida. Each temporary outpost will have a designated team, including two sub-inspectors, eight head constables/constables/women constables, along with the PCR of the respective police station, which will be used as needed," the police said.

In Haridwar, ADG (Law and order) A.P. Anshuman said four dog squads have been deployed in the fair area, which will be monitored by 22 drones and a number of CCTV cameras. "Let us work with full commitment and dedication to ensure the yatra's successful completion," he said, adding that the police force has been told to keep tabs on antipodal elements in the area.

Lakhs of devotees visit Haridwar during the Kanwar Yatra every year during the monsoon to collect the waters of the Ganga.

## NTA has derailed our plans for the future, say small-town students with big dreams

Ashna Butani  
NEW DELHI

Nineteen-year-old Priyanshu Kumar, the first-ever member of his family to go to school, had been harbouring ambitions of clinching a seat in Delhi University's BTech course till recently, but has since abandoned his dream due to the delay in the announcement of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) results.

"I wanted to leave my village and go to Delhi or south India, where the quality of education is said to be better and there are more jobs to be had, but now, I am considering shelling out ₹10,000 to ₹20,000 to secure a place in a State college," said Mr. Kumar, who hails from Sanhali in Bihar's Khagaria district. The results of the stan-

darised test, which was conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) from May 15 to 24 to determine admissions to undergraduate, postgraduate and doctorate programmes in Central universities, were expected to be announced on June 30.

However, the NTA, which has been grappling with several controversies including alleged paper leaks in other examinations, has delayed the announcement indefinitely and scrapped June's University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) altogether, leaving lakhs of students scrambling to decide their next course of action.

But for scores of students, some of whom are first-generation learners from marginalised communities, the anxiety is not



(From left to right) Animesh Kumar of Khagaria, Sonali Morla of Bijapur and Priyanshu Kumar of Sanhali said they were forced to abandon their hopes. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

strictly limited to securing a seat at a good college.

"It is all the more difficult to focus on furthering my education due to my financial constraints," said Mr. Kumar, adding that he had already spent ₹1,000 to ₹2,000 on travelling to the CUET centre. His interest in technology was sparked several years ago, but the lack of awareness in his village limited his options. "I only got to know about the



Joint Entrance Examination [for engineering] when I was in Class 12, by which time it was too late. That's why I was depending on my CUET score," he said. Although he has spoken to some people regarding admission elsewhere, he said it will cost a lot and won't guarantee him a seat.

'Wanted new life' Familial pressure, too, has forced students to pursue



alternatives they had not previously wished to consider. Anjali Morla from Bijapur in Chhattisgarh, for instance, has resorted to securing admission in Bilaspur University, but not in the course she had her heart set on.

"I wanted to study political science at one of the renowned universities in Varanasi and Delhi, but my parents have pressured me into taking up a BSc pro-

gramme here," said the 18-year-old, adding that had she got a seat at a more prestigious college, she would have been able to persuade her parents to take up the course of her choice.

Ms. Morla's hopes of "living independently" have also been dashed. "I've never left Chhattisgarh. I wanted to go to a big city and have new experiences, but I'm stuck here now," she said.

Sonali Yadav from Uttar Pradesh's Fatehabad, who appeared for the UGC-NET, said the NTA's move has graver ramifications for women students. "My family just wants me to start earning. They might be supportive of my education right now, but even then, it feels like a ticking time bomb when you are a woman from a small town," she said.

While she admitted that more students are leaving her town to study than ever before, a discrepancy between communities still exists. "When I was younger, I would see my upper-caste friends get support to go out and study. Despite struggling and working hard, it is incredibly frustrating for me to be at a crossroads now with no concrete plans for the future," she said.

In search of stability Chavitesh Dongare, a government official working with the Samagra Shiksha education programme in Bijapur, said that while many students opt to become engineers and doctors, most actually dream of leaving the State to become financially stable.

"They end up becoming doctors because they have

not seen enough of them in their district and want to fill that vacuum," he said, adding that the idea of a retest is daunting to students from low-income backgrounds due to the cost of travel to test centres.

Animesh Kumar, who sat for the UGC-NET, said appearing for the retest, which is scheduled between August and September, will be a "task". "First, we spend money on buying forms and printing admit cards, then on taking autorickshaws or buses to the centre. We are students with limited means," said the Khagaria native.

The first in his family to get a college degree, Mr. Animesh wanted to fulfil the dreams his father, a driver, never could. "I wanted to do a doctorate from a Central university, but now, I don't know," he said.



Happy Birthday  
to our beloved president

Shri. **Mallikarjun Kharge**  
**Mallikarjun Kharge** ji

Proud to be in Congress!  
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Member of Parliament,  
Kanniyakumari constituency.

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# Classifieds

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

# Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

THE HINDU

## BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

### INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

### BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

### BRIDES WANTED

### BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

### Classification Common for Brides, Brideregrooms, Brides & Grooms

### ASSAMESE

### AWADHI

### BENGALI

### BHOJPURI

### BIHARI

### CHHATTISGARHI

### ENGLISH

### GUJARATI

### HARYANI

### HINDI

### KANNADA

### KASHMIRI

### KONKANI

### MALAYALAM

### MANIPURI

### MARATHI

### MARWARI

### NEPALI

### ORIYA

### PARSII

### PUNJABI

### SAURASHTRA

### SINDHI

### TAMIL

### TELGU

### TULU

### URDU

### ADVOCATE

### BUSINESS

### DEFENCE

### DOCTOR

### ENGINEER

### FINANCE/BANKING

### GOVERNMENT/QUASI-GOVERNMENT

### IAS/ALLIED SERVICES

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### MBA/CA/ICWA

### NRI

### COSMOPOLITAN

### DIVORCEE

### PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

### MARRIAGE BUREAUS

### WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

### DIVORCEE

### 58 YEARS old divorcee, Christian, RN settled in U.S.A, seeks groom (US citizen or immigrant) age below 62, healthy, educated, understandable, who is more spiritual than religious. Religion and caste no bar. Contact: Ph: 1(404)213-9869, E-mail id: karivella@bellsouth.net

### DIVORCEE 35 YRS, SC , mother of girl child aged 9 years, post graduate Govt medical college- teacher needs suitable groom. Phone: 94441 6248 email: dirisomm@gmail.com

### DOCTOR

### HINDU REDDY 33Y, 165cms Doctor MBBS, MS. Suitable Never Married Groom From Chennai CNB Call: 89256 40111

### MD ANESTHESIOLOGY Doctor, Age 34, 165cm fair, beautiful, cultured & homely. Settled in Chennai. Father Doctor Kerala Nair, Mother Tamil CSI. Doctor or Engineer groom preferred. Ct: 9840050381/ 9840985383

### Doctor Groom Wanted, for Doctor Girl MBBS, Age 29 Yrs, DKK caste cell Contact: 9791505005, Udumalpet.

### HINDI

### POM4 BRAHMIN girl 83/ 165cm Unmarried B.Tech M.Tech (CS) wkg MNC GGN. Seeks well-settled match. 9216864869

### IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

### IFS OFFICER, 26 yrs. Seeking proposals from grooms in IAS/IAS or allied services. Mob: 9447082753

### MALAYALAM

### MUSLIM GIRL, 24/164, MA English, seeks alliance from educated and well settled grooms. 9562006500

### THRISHUR EZHAVA girl 29/157, M.Tech doing PHD. Caste no bar. 9497703049

## BRIDES WANTED

### TAMIL

### GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 27/ 165cm, MBBS, MD, Elite for business family KA.Raman Nadar 9380791999/ 9841329471

### NADAR (CNB): 27/FAIR, MBBS, studying MPH in Epidemiology, Louisiana, USA, Affluent family, seeks Doctors, PhD and MBA grooms USA - 9884955453, 8939012419

### HINDU NADAR, 23/152, Software Engineer, Ultram seeks suitable Groom, Ph: 7736733936.

### DKV/SC 30/167 fair BE, TCS Chennai, Parents Hindu / CSI. Seeks Groom Dr/Er, Govt Employee. Ct: 8056143636

### 41 YEARS working based in Delhi and Chennai seeks groom in TN or Delhi. Caste no bar Phone: 99404 70460

### MUDALIYAR DOCTOR 27/163 Avitram good looking MD (Anaesthesia) 2nd year, no dosham fair seeking PG Doctor or well settled Engineers from Premier Inst. with clean habits. Ph: 8008275353 / 9000941541

### HINDU, NADAR, B.Arch, Age 25, Star Kumbam, Sathayam, Need Brideregroom, Bangalore/Foreign. Ct: 9842026940

### HINDU, PILLAI, 28 yrs M.Sc. Doing business, Income 30 lakhs. Upper middle-class family. Contact: 907277804

### ALLIANCE INVITED From Well qualified and well settled pleasant personality Brahmin Groom based in India / Abroad for Good looking Tamil Iyer Girl , Mumbai educated PG Doctor (O&M Surgeon), Vadama , Shrivatsa , Ashwini 30/165cm. Contact: Viswanathan 9841067515 & Anuradha 7738271943 / 9321214357

### IYER KOUNDIYAM Poomam B.E. Aged 25, 45k need Chennai Tamil Iyer Prof. Whatsapp 90034 12857 / 94448 96238

### United Kingdom Doctor 29/180 Hindu Pillai Slim Fair Revathi working with the NHS seeks Hindu Professional below 34 years working in the UK 94864-89438 (10am-10pm) rcmp2021@gmail.com

### GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar / Joint Family / 26 years / 165 cm / B.E., Slim / Beautiful / Well to do. Seeks - Well qualified, Cosmopolitan, Elite and Decent Family, Preferably Settled in Chennai. 7339138297

### HINDU Nadar 32/160cm Star Revathi works in IT seeks alliance from IT Field Ct: 95149 52555 / 99444 10712

### SC AD 36 BE, Sr. Software Engineer in TCS Chennai. 18LPA. Never Married Seeks suitable Groom. C:99521 47216

### Iyer, Swathi 28yrs B.Com, M.S., Auckland Newzealand looks for Software Eng, well Qualified, Settled Groom b/w 31yrs from Respectable Family, Abroad Prefly Australia/ USA/ Europe immediate Marriage Send Horoscope Photo/ Profile to 9500072449 Mail id: sabithasriam28@gmail.com

### HINDU YADAVA (CNB) 29yrs/165cm MBBS, DNB, 18LPA ESCI Hosp. Chennai seeks Groom Ct:7811007100

### Vaniya Chettiar, 27years, Beautiful, C.A. working in MNC in Chennai. Iyer. Prefer Hindu groom with C.A./Financial Executive, Tamil-Speaking Non-Veg. etarian from Chettiar,Mudaliyar & Pillai. Please send Horoscope & other details to WhatsApp No: 94445 87465

### HINDU SC/AD, 36yrs BE, Sr. Software Engr. in TCS - Chennai, 18LPA, never married seeks Groom. Ct:9952147216

### HINDU GAVARA Naidu, 31/170, MS, SWE, USA, seeks suitable Groom from same caste/ sub caste. Ct: 8072397518 / 948752230.

### NAIDU, VERY rich 2000 born slim tall and beautiful doctor girl seeks affluent handsome, well qualified doctor or business Telugu groom. Ct: 7305010105

### TELGU SPEAKING good looking girl Aug 92, 160cm, B.Tech IT Senior Developer, Short lived innocent uncommitted Divorcee. 16 LPA Seeks smart well settled boy India/ Abroad issuesless upto 35 yrs from reputed family. Caste no bar. WhatsApp no 7845206530

### NAIDU 25/160 Fair Beautiful BE, SWE, Cappemini,Ch,70000,PA,Well settled Family,CNB,9043991629, 9043987029

### RICH KAMMA Naidu, 29yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom. Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

### TELUGU YADAVA ANY NAIDU SADHAYAM GIRL Age 28, Height 166cm in Family Business Seeks Educated Groom from an Affluent Family 9444373070, 9840993031

## BRIDES WANTED

### COSMOPOLITAN

### RC CHRISTIAN boy, Tamil Udayar unmarried 1983 April, 180 cms, Australian citizen, employed in Australian govt service seeking professionally qualified girl willing to work and settle in Australia, caste no bar. Ct: father-9916294395

### Inter-Faith Parents (Kerala Christian, Tamil Iyengar) seek compatible match for Son, 31, 5'11", B.Tech(IT), Bangalore based, Well-to-do, Educated, Moderately liberal family. Contact 9845158066.

### DIVORCEE

### 60-YEAR- GRADUATE engineer, second divorcee, seeking a warm-hearted, intelligent partner for a meaningful relationship. Enjoys outdoor activities, travel, and engaging conversations. Values honesty, kindness, and a good sense of humor. Looking for someone to share life's adventures and build a future together. If you are a like-minded individual seeking a bride without kid. Ct - 88387 44120.

### DOCTOR

### DOCTOR 35 MBBS,DPH (Govt) V.Fair & Well Settled, ReMarriage Accepted. Need: Dr, BE Any PG 9087764577

### HINDI

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

### IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

### SM KAPU boy from Tamil/Telugu, 185cm, 30 yrs, 93 born, B.Tech from IIT Kanpur, Group A Gazetted Officer in Govt of India. Contact: +91 9453045661

### TAMIL

### CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar, 40, ME, working in USA SWE. For a handsome, divorced Groom Native - Nagercoil, seeks beautiful Bride educated, willing to go USA, 1st or 2nd Marriage. Ct: 09486472450, 09345648649

### CHRISTIAN, CSI, 37 yrs, Divorced MDS, working as a Doctor Professional in Coimbatore. Income 1 crore. Looking for suitable partner. Contact 8138900557

### CHRISTIAN, CATHOLIC, 34yrs, CA , Working as Financial Controller in Zambia, Income 40 lakhs in US dollars. Upper middle class. Contact 8138900524.

### CHRISTIAN, 28yrs, B.S.C, working as a Nursing Professional in Kuwait. Income 30 Lakhs. Contact 8138900575

### CHRISTIAN, 28 yrs, B.E.M.S, working as a Data Engineer at Netherlands, Income 40 lakhs, Family upper middle class, Rich/Affluent. Contact 8138900553

### HINDU SC, AD, 35 yrs, 175cm, BCA, Entrepreneur ( LPG Distributor - Indian Oil Corporation), 17LPA, Bangalore, Father is a Doctor, Well-settled family. Caste No Bar. Ct: 7892143841 / 9008202775

### HINDU PILLAI Mudhalair 34yrs 180cm MCA IDFC First Bank Branch Manager Cbe. Ct: 9790596388 / 9994159877

### Pillai/Mudaliar, Pooratadhi 28/167cm B.Tech, MBA, HR, IT, 10L PA Chennai seeks employed Girl. Ct: 94443 67697

### BE IT 6'2 Height Mudaliar 32yrs Tech Lead Top MNC in Hyderabad Sal 75 lacs seeks Bride 5'4 Same or Allied Castes Tamil, Telugu. Ct: 94442 03665

### PILLAI / SOZHIYA VELLALAR Non-Veg 34/174 BE,MB(France) Fair Boy Punarposam Business Analyst MNC Chennai.Seeks apt Bride.95978 66978

### BRIDE WANTED Mudaliyar, 27yrs, B.Tech, Elite Industrial Background Business Family 9710093999/ 9710091999

### HINDU NADAR, 25yrs, 180cms, LLM, VIP Family, Seeks Suitable Bride. Contact: 9380791999

### INTER CASTE 31yrs 186cm (H) B.Tech MBA, well of family, only son, looking for caste nobar bride from decent & educated family Ct: 9440198599

### HINDU SC/AD/ 1995 Born/BE/ UPPERCLASS 14LPA seeking Educated Bride Contact: 8892506892

### SAIVA PILLAI Age: 45, Police Service, Native Chidambaram. Seeks Bride, No Expectation, Caste no bar Contact: 8939570461

### Hindu/SC/AD/ 1995 Born/BE/ UPPERCLASS 14LPA seeking Educated Bride Contact: 8892506892

### CHETTIAAR, 28, 178 cms, BE, Software Professional. Lives in the US, Father is a Businessman, Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from same community. Contact: 6366448344

### KONGU VELLALA GOUNDER, 30, 179 cms, B.Com, Businessman. Lives in Coimbatore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from same community. Contact: 6366448344

### VANNIYA KULA KSHATRIYA, 37, 175 cms, Divorced, B.Tech (NIT), Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from same community. Contact: 6366448344

### MUTHURAJA, 39, 180 cms, MSc, Software Professional. Lives in Trichy. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

### YADAV, 28, 172 cms, MBBS, MS(OBG), Sr Resident. Father is a Retired Professional, Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from Hindu in Chennai. Contact: 6366448344

### KONGU VELLALA GOUNDER, 29, 163 cms, MBBS, MRCP. Lives in London, Father is a Doctor. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from same community. Preferably in UK. Contact: 6366448344

### NADAR, 25, 160 cms, B.Arch, Working Professional, Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from same community. Preferably Chennai. Contact: 6366448344

### CHRISTIAN, 26, 168 cms, Biotech, Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from any Christian community. Contact: 6366448344

### ST, 34/172 BE Anusham Govt. Job 20 L PA. Seeks Suitable Girl. Caste No Bar. Ct: 94425 83102

### VIJAY TAMIL Arunthathiyar Native Chennai - Central govt. Hyderabad 1,50,000/- monthly - First marriage - seeking Bride - Caste No Bar - Contact 8977033982 WhatsApp only with Bride's Photo / Horoscope

### BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 41yrs, BE, MS(US), Divorcee, Elite Business Family. Ct: 9962791888/ 7094991999

### UNMARRIED PILLAI bride wanted from well educated cultured upper middle class background, for a groom from affluent & business background 34 years MBA, 90L P.A. Own house with properties in Chennai. Ct:7200546209, 9789020569 mail:msil501@gmail.com

### MILLI IT 39, Krithigai 1 Son Income 1L PM seeks Fair & Educated Girl, Hindu- No Caste. 6282240871, 9444629712

### THEVAR, SMART and Handsome boy, very rich more than 2000Crs. Seeks fair and very beautiful, smart educated girl from an affluent family. CNB. Ct: 7305010105

### HINDU, SC, 29 yrs MBA, Working as a General Manager in Chennai. Income 4 lakhs. Seeking for suitable life partner. Contact 8138900412

### HINDU, PILLAI, 29yrs, M.TECH, working as an Engineer in Australia. Income 1 crore. Rich and affluent. Contact 8138900575

### BRIDE WANTED Elite Iyer, 39yrs, BE, well educated family, Need only vegetarian. Ct:9710093999/ 9710091999

### BRAHMIN BOY, 36/170, BE, Manager, Pvt Co., Chennai, 14 LPA, Own House, Seeks any Brahmin Girl. 7598084209.

### SMARThA BRAHMIN Telugu Bachelor 46/ 175 Koundinya Chithirai, B.Tech M.E, Sr DGM, Seeks Brahmin Bride, Ct: Isbalaj94@gmail.com, 9445006191

### 55 DIVORCED Diploma Agamudaiyar Seeks Bride up to 45 Widow, w/ kid Caste no bar +6393524797.

### HINDU NADAR, 31yrs, B.Tech M.S. M.B.A., Software Engineer Bangalore, Seeks Good looking same caste, well qualified, Bride. Contact Email: gopsthegreat@yahoo.in

### RC NADAR 24yrs 175cm Btech PSU officer Father central i Govt officer. Prefer PSU/central govt employed bride from educated family. 7598344670

### CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Tamil, BE, MS (USA), 29/173cm, working in USA, Seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 9841234598

### RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, working for mnc, Chennai. Ct- 9500188067

### CSI NADAR 30yrs M.Arch (US) 185cm, business family, Seeks Suitable Groom. Ct: 9380791999/ 981329471

### TAMIL

### MUDALIAR, DIVORCEE, PhD, Professor, Pvt Eng.College, age 50,Magam, Seeks educated unmarried/widow/ Divorcee without child from FC/OBC (40-45yrs) No expectation Ct:9150799959

### HINDU - BE 33/173cm/SWE/SCI/Ayilam-Katagam . Belongs to affluent and educated family , Settled in Bangalore. Seeks Bride from the same / other castes , from well settled and educated family. Mob No 9845401461.

### ParkavakulaNatham Odayar Hindu, Divorcee 38/185 BE & MBA Senior Program Manager FinTech US based MNC Bangalore/Remote 52.5 Lakhs Per Annum Father MD Doctor Mother home maker elder sister married and settled in USA Seeking suitable bride from decent family with any degree sritharantrv@yahoo.com / 7598156138

### MUDALIYAR AGE 50 Divorcee / No Issue, Own Business. Seeks Suitable Bride.Contact: 9841125556 / 8228255355

### VANNIYA KULA Kshatriya, Aswini / 30 / 169, BE/SWE/ B'Iore, Fair, Settled in Chennai seeks well educated bride from same sect. 94442 06639.

### HINDU NAICKER 49yrs /179cms BE, US return, High Net Worth, Clean Habits, First marriage, Vegetarian, seeks Bride, Preferably below 45 years. No issues. Caste No Bar. Whatsapp: 8056254926, wedad09@gmail.com

### ALLIANCE INVITED from a decent family for groom aged 38 yrs, height-165cm, B.Tech.M.S, MNC-40LPA, Hindu-Vettuva Gounder, residing in Chennai. The bride should be good-looking, same caste/ caste no bar and should preferably be a Graduate. No demands. Contact: +91-7550206479

### CHENNAI, KIND fair,P.hd,170cm, Innot divorcee, 41yrs.Govt GM Sports, 2Lac/mth. Need Edu Girl: 988471419

### HINDU GRAMINI 43/160 Widower 2 Child Business 1Lpm Seeks 35-40yrs without issue/widower bride. 9940137087

### SAIVA PILLAI Age: 45, Police Service, Native Chidambaram. Seeks Bride, No Expectation, Caste no bar Contact: 8939570461

### Hindu/SC/AD/ 1995 Born/BE/ UPPERCLASS 14LPA seeking Educated Bride Contact: 8892506892

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# Destination Uttarakhand

ADVERTISEMENT

STRENGTHENING RURAL ECONOMY, PROMOTING LOCAL PRODUCE

Driven by the vision of PM Narendra Modi, the Uttarakhand government led by CM Pushkar Singh Dhama has undertaken various initiatives that promote and market the hill state's well-crafted products. A significant step in this direction is the formation of 'House of Himalayas', a flagship brand created to bring Uttarakhand's high-quality, genuine products to both domestic and global markets

## House of Himalayas Boosting rural economy of Uttarakhand



CM Pushkar Singh Dhama presenting 'House of Himalayas' brand products to PM Narendra Modi at GIS 2023, Dehradun

Nestled in the lap of the Himalayas, Uttarakhand is well-known for its beautiful landscapes, along with its rich treasure trove of organic and traditionally prepared products. Identifying the untouched potential of these products and the demand to strengthen rural livelihoods, the Uttarakhand government has been working actively by undertaking several schemes.

### ABOUT 'HOUSE OF HIMALAYAS'

On December 8, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi founded 'House of Himalayas' during the Global Investor Summit of Uttarakhand, marking it as an unparalleled initiative. This initiative sought to encapsulate various small-scale brands and products under one strong, cohesive identity. The purpose of House

of Himalayas is to improve the business opportunities of these unique products, which include goods made by Self-Help Groups (SHGs), crafters, individual entrepreneurs, and community-based societies.

The state boasts of a wide range of organic products that are nutritionally rich and have very little chemical impact. While a few private players exist, the majority of these products have not tapped into a broader consumer base. Therefore, House of Himalayas seeks to close this gap by offering a robust platform that ensures quality assurance, provides expert business guidance, and implements effective marketing strategies.

### KEY DIFFERENTIATORS OF HOUSE OF HIMALAYAS

**Superior Quality:** House of Himalayas

distinguishes itself with products that are known for their uncompromising quality and premium craftsmanship, which sets them apart from mass-generated alternatives.

**Authenticity Assured:** Focused on traditional methods and authentic experiences, the products under this initiative go through rigorous quality controls and hold certifications verifying their exceptional quality.

**Community Commitment:** Choosing House of Himalayas means supporting the local communities through meaningful social initiatives, and promoting positive change with every purchase.

**Open Sourcing:** The initiative prioritises complete transparency when it comes to sourcing materials and production processes, thus ensuring consumer trust.

**Sustainability Focus:** With sustainable sourcing and production practices, the brand caters to buyers who appreciate ethical consumption.

**Holistic Brand Experience:** A holistic experience is offered by enclosing compelling storytelling, educational insights, and immersive programmes that enhance every consumer journey.

### LAUNCH BY PM NARENDRA MODI

The launch of 'House of Himalayas' by Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated a noteworthy milestone in Uttarakhand's journey towards economic autonomy and rural advancement. At the Global Investor Summit, the Prime Minister

emphasised the brand's potential to promote Uttarakhand's products to meet international standards of quality. This initiative resonates with his vision of 'Vocal for Local, Local to Global', advocating for the global promotion of local products. By acknowledging the exceptional value of Uttarakhand's organic and traditional products, the Prime Minister highlighted the significance of empowering rural communities and building sustainable livelihoods.

### CM PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMA'S E-COMMERCE PUSH

Yet another noteworthy action was taken to increase the visibility and accessibility of the state's products on July 5, 2024. The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhama, in association with Amazon India, initiated House of Himalayas into the e-commerce giant's platform. This initiative is aimed at



CM Pushkar Singh Dhama with Radhika Jha, secretary, rural development, and other officials, signing an MoU with an e-commerce platform for House of Himalayas

making the state's products available to a more expansive consumer base, both within India and the global markets. At the launch event, held at the secretariat, CM Dhama bought local



I congratulate the Uttarakhand government on the remarkable progress achieved in the last few years. This has been made possible by sustained policy push and focus on key sectors such as tourism and renewable energy. Alongside, the state has made significant strides in infrastructure development, setting new benchmarks for sustainable growth. Uttarakhand's commitment to harnessing its natural resources and promoting tourism has not only bolstered its economy but also showcased its potential on the global stage. I applaud the state's dedication to inclusive development and look forward to its continued success in the years ahead.

Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister

products, representing the state's loyalty to sustaining its own. He stressed that the primary objective of House of Himalayas is to take Uttarakhand's local products to an international level. The CM emphasised that most of the processing and production of these products is carried out by self-help groups, thereby strengthening the livelihood of women and rural communities.

Radhika Jha, secretary, rural development, highlighted the strategic categorisation of products under House of Himalayas. These comprise GI-tagged products, organic and food products, and scented products, each undergoing category-wise branding to improve their market presence.



Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are committed to the holistic development of our state, leveraging its natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and immense potential. Through sustainable policies and strategic initiatives, we aim to foster economic growth, improve infrastructure, and enhance the quality of life for all our citizens. Our goal is to make Uttarakhand a model of progress, where tradition meets innovation, and every individual can thrive in a conducive environment for prosperity and well-being."

Pushkar Singh Dhama  
Chief Minister

## Uttarakhand's 'organic' tale of success

UOCB has played a vital part in the organic cultivation movement in India, setting up vast supply chains and developing the 'Organic Uttarakhand' brand

Formed on May 19, 2003, under the Societies Registration Act of 1860, the Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board (UOCB) functions as the nodal agency for boosting organic farming in Uttarakhand. UOCB's mission is to help Uttarakhand develop as the organic capital of India, acquiring sustainable rural growth via organic agriculture methods.

The board's measures span farming and allied sectors, including horticulture, medicinal aromatic plants and herbs, and animal husbandry. UOCB is divided into four key wings: the Technical Cell, the Training Cell, the Certification Cell, and the Marketing Cell. The Technical Cell recognises groups inclined to embrace organic agriculture, forms farmer groups and creates cultivation techniques. The Training Cell furnishes farmers with the required aptitudes via demonstrations, training sessions, and different academic materials. The Certification Cell encourages organic certification for farms and stores, while the Marketing Cell promotes organic produce to B2B customers via exhibits and panels.

In recent years, UOCB's endeavours have demonstrated noteworthy outcomes. In 2019, farmers under UOCB's direction partook in 35 fairs and exhibits, yielding ₹28 lakh in sales and building a market worth ₹210 lakh. By 2020-21, despite the problems posed by the pandemic, farmers still partook in 11 fairs, achieving ₹8 lakh in sales and yielding a market worth ₹85 lakh.

UOCB has played a vital part in the organic cultivation movement in India, setting up vast supply chains and developing the 'Organic Uttarakhand' brand. Their offerings contain different grains and cereals like Dehradooni Basmati Rice, Pusa-1 Basmati, Red Rice, and wheat. The spice range includes bay leaf, black jeera, coriander, ginger, and turmeric. The pulses range includes black chickpeas, black gram, kidney beans, and lentils, along with millets such as barnyard millet and finger millet. Further, they offer apple juice, detergent powder, groundnut, herb oils, honey, mustard oil, soapnut, sugar, temperate fruits, and fresh vegetables.

## A step to promote local handloom & handicraft

The craftsmanship of Uttarakhand, embedded in age-old practices, has been a significant basis of livelihood for regional people for years

In the domain of conventional craftsmanship, Uttarakhand's handloom sarees maintain a unique position alongside well-known products from other states. The craftsmanship of Uttarakhand, embedded in age-old practices, has been a significant basis of livelihood for regional residents for years. Realising the prospect of this domain for further job prospects and financial evolution, the Uttarakhand government founded the Uttarakhand Handloom & Handicraft Development Council (UHHDC).

A registered society set up by the government, the UHHDC functions as the apex body for the overall growth of handlooms and handicrafts in the state. Its task is to encourage, direct, and manage the state's craftspeople, enabling sustainable work via the promotion of handicrafts. Under the reputed label 'Himadri', UHHDC has emerged as a hallmark of quality and genuineness for craft products stemming from Uttarakhand. The 'Himadri' label promises that buyers acquire authentic, handcrafted products,

while also assuring appropriate revenue for the crafters' hard work and talent. UHHDC's measures to facilitate Uttarakhand's handloom and handicraft products



spread far beyond the state. Beneath the Himadri brand, these magnificent products are showcased at prestigious occasions such as Craft Bazaars, Dilli Haat, International Trade Fairs, and the Surajkund Mela. Crafters from Uttarakhand have the chance to show their creations to a wider audience, earning praise and fondness for

their craftsmanship. Himadri showrooms are strategically situated in major places such as Dehradun, Uttarakashi, Haldwani, Haridwar, and Uttarakhand Sadan in New Delhi, assuring overall accessibility to these special products.

In addition to physical showrooms, UHHDC has developed a beneficial collaboration with the well-known e-commerce platform Amazon, extending the reach of Uttarakhand's handicrafts internationally. This alliance has resulted in the flourishing sale of handicraft products worth lakhs of rupees, garnering global praise and honour. Via this endeavour, craftspeople are furnished with a forum to showcase their skill to a global audience, assuring their art is valued and cherished on a multinational level.

As the nodal agency of the government, UHHDC diligently puts up multiple art fairs, exhibits, and promotional occasions throughout the year. These endeavours furnish crafters with a venue to exhibit their dexterities as well as play a vital part in maintaining and elevating Uttarakhand's rich cultural legacy.



## Doon Silk: Empowering artisans, reviving tradition

Doon Silk is a label under the Uttarakhand Cooperative Silk Federation (UCRF) and is committed to maintaining and restoring the ancient silk-weaving customs of Uttarakhand

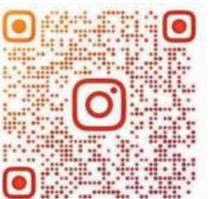
Highlighting the usage of natural fibers, Doon Silk is dedicated to protecting our surroundings and ecosystem while providing magnificent handloom products. The brand's offerings contain silk, wool, cotton, bichhua (nettle), and hemp, all selected for their minimal environmental effect.

Each Doon Silk product is a testament to the talent and artistry of Uttarakhand's farmers, reelers, weavers, craftspeople, and dyers. The label's detailed craftsmanship assures that each article maintains the highest measures of quality, gaining the confidence and respect of buyers globally. By concentrating on handloom methods, Doon Silk maintains conventional techniques as well as furnishes sustainable job prospects to more than 6,000 people in Uttarakhand. Doon Silk's dedication to purity is depicted in its 100% natural fiber guarantee. This commitment to quality has helped the brand achieve a firm foothold in both national and global markets. With products such as silk sarees, coats, stoles, and shawls, Doon Silk caters to a myriad clientele, assuring that these timeless articles stay available at unbeatable costs. The global market has especially

adopted Doon Silk, with considerable exports to Europe and the US. The label's products have acquired overwhelming reactions, additionally fueling the need for Uttarakhand's conventional silk weaving. By selecting Doon Silk, buyers get excellent products and contribute to the financial empowerment of proficient craftspeople in Uttarakhand.

In nature, Doon Silk is a crusade committed to maintaining legacy, encouraging sustainability, and empowering residents. By means of its uncompromising dedication to quality and custom, Doon Silk persists in making a deep mark, one beautifully prepared product at a time!

#ExploreUttarakhand



@DIPR\_UK

## Uttarakhand Bamboo and Fiber Development Board: Saga of Himalayan sustainability

The Uttarakhand Bamboo and Fiber Development Board stands as a testament to nature's grace and sustainability, presenting a range of bamboo and nettle products that emphasise the best offerings of the Himalayan province. Among their beautiful innovations are bamboo and nettle lamps, carefully prepared by traditional crafters from Uttarakhand. These lamps, featuring tender cuts, splits, and complex weaves, are made using nettle fiber fabric obtained from the Himalayan foothills. The oval lamps emit a gentle, warm glow, effortlessly mixing natural radiance with grace, enriching any indoor area with their light.

Underscoring an eco-friendly and sustainable lifestyle, the board also offers a series of bamboo bottles. Each bottle is enveloped in a high-quality bamboo shell with a long-lasting stainless-steel interior, assuring



### Objectives and Vision

The primary objective of the ODP scheme is to boost the traditional and craft industries of Uttarakhand. By identifying and developing local products, the scheme seeks to place these products on the national and international stage, thereby enhancing their marketability and economic value. This initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of sustainable rural development, which emphasises the importance of promoting local products to spur economic growth

durable performance while reducing plastic waste. This sleek product flawlessly illustrates the synergy of fashion and sustainability.

The board's foray into eco-textiles is characterised by the introduction of Himalayan nettle, a unique natural fiber. Flourishing between heights of 1200 to 2900 meters in the temperate and sub-tropical Himalayas, this perennial plant presents manifold opportunities. Conventional apparel made from nettle fiber, which dates back thousands of years, is undergoing a revival. Nettle fiber fabrics, known for their intrinsic thermal characteristics, antimicrobial features, and resistance to wrinkling, redefine convenience and fashion.

The Uttarakhand Bamboo and Fiber Development Board helps the environment and sustainable living as well as empowers crafters and encourages marginal tribal communities through promoting nettle fiber products.

## From Page One

## Bangladesh deploys Army as unrest toll rises to 133

In addition to the deaths, the clashes have injured thousands, according to hospitals across Bangladesh. The Dhaka Medical College Hospital received 27 bodies between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday.

For five days police have fired tear gas, rubber bullets and hurled sound grenades to scatter protesters throwing bricks and setting fire to vehicles. "Hundreds of thousands of people" had battled police across the capital on Friday, police spokesman Faruk Hossain said. "At least 150 police officers were admitted to hospital. Another 150 were given first aid treatment," he said, adding that two officers had been beaten to death.

"The protesters torched many police booths... Many government offices were torched and vandalised."

## 978 Indian students in Bangladesh evacuated

An MEA press note has informed that Indian officials are also assisting students from Nepal and Bhutan to leave Bangladesh as educational institutions have shut indefinitely in view of the ongoing clashes. Indian officials are coordinating with airline companies and law enforcement officials in the violence-hit country to evacuate Indian nationals from Dhaka and Chittagong airports. "Security escorts have also been arranged, where necessary, for their travel by road during repatriation through select land ports," the MEA said in the press note.

The U.S. State Department has announced that the "situation is extremely volatile and unpredictable" adding that the "U.S. Embassy Dhaka continues to offer only limited services at this time". "All but emergency consular services are cancelled until further notice. Mission personnel have been advised to shelter in place until further notice," declared the U.S. State Department in a Facebook post.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh William B. Milam has called upon the U.S. government and the international community "to make clear to the Bangladesh Government that it will be held accountable for its actions".

## High score NEET centres clustered in Sikar: data

"This is a very high percentage of students scoring top marks from Sikar. The national average is 1.29% (30,204 of 23,33,162) scoring above 650 marks. The clustering should be probed," Dr. Sharma added.

The highest number of candidates scoring above 650 marks, a total of 6,697 students, took the test at centres in Rajasthan. Others with many who scored above 650 marks include 3,387 candidates in Uttar Pradesh, 2,835 in Kerala, 2,585 in Maharashtra, 1,582 in Tamil Nadu, 1,519 in Haryana, 1,422 in West Bengal, 1,406 in Karnataka, 1,369 in Bihar, and 1,326 in Delhi.

The CBI is already investigating paper leak cases in Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, and Maharashtra and high-scoring clusters have been observed in several of these areas.

It is pertinent to note that 12 students of the 1,968 who appeared at the centre in Rajkot's R.K. University's Unit-1 School of Engineering, and another 12 of the 676 students who appeared from the centre at Ahmedabad's Delhi Public School scored above a whopping 700 marks, making these two centres stand out. Gujarat is also under the scanner for paper leak cases.

Vivek Pandey, an RTI activist who analysed the data, said that other outliers include the Delhi Public School centre in Haryana's Rewari, from where 22.73% of the 264 candidates scored above 600 marks; as well as the centre at the Rao Pahlad Singh Senior Secondary School in Mahendragarh, also in Haryana, from where almost 20% of the 448 candidates scored above 600. "Rewari is a small village in Haryana and it is surprising that such a high number of students bagged top marks," Dr. Pandey said.

## 'Release NEET 2023 data'

"In the Oasis school of Jharkhand, 23 students have 600-plus marks. This is also the centre where the paper was leaked," Dr. Sharma noted. The school's principal and vice-principal have been arrested by the CBI. Dr. Sharma added that while this clustering of high-scoring candidates was being observed in States such as Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat, it would be prudent if the Supreme Court also orders that NEET-UG data from 2023 also be made public so that comparisons could be drawn with the patterns seen in this year's examination.

In Patna, where paper leak cases have been registered, the DAV BSEB centre saw more than 21 out of 703 students cross 600 marks, with 10 getting more than 650. At the centre in Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bailey Road, also in Patna, 31 of the 698 candidates scored more than 600, and 11 scored more than 650. In Patna's JD Women's College centre, 55 of the 1,160 candidates scored more than 600, of which 17 scored more than 650.

Arrests were made in Godhra in another case of NEET malpractice. The police FIR stated that the attempted malpractice at Jay Jalaram village at Paravadi village was "thwarted" on May 5 during a raid at the NEET centre by education officials. However, no student scored above 600 at this centre.

## Airline systems working normally after global IT outage: Aviation Minister

Constantly monitoring the operations at airports and airlines to ensure travel readjustments, says Rammohan Naidu; reservation and check-in systems of most of the airlines are now operational

Press Trust of India  
MUMBAI

Airline systems across airports, which were impacted by a global IT outage on Friday, have started working normally, Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu said on Saturday.

The Ministry is constantly monitoring the operations at airports and airlines to ensure travel readjustments and refunds are taken care of, he added.

"Since 3 a.m. (Saturday), airline systems across airports have started working normally. Flight operations are going smoothly now," Mr. Naidu said in a statement.

On Friday, in one of the biggest-ever IT outages, an update of a product offered by global cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike triggered problems with Microsoft's Windows operating system across the planet, hitting operations at fi-



Wings clipped: Airports across the country witnessed chaotic scenes due to the outage. VELANKANNI RAJ. B

ancial sector companies and airlines while hospital operations got postponed and some television channels went off air.

Airports across the country witnessed chaotic scenes after the online passenger booking, reservation and boarding systems turned to manual mode due to the outage, resulting in higher passenger handling processing time and consequently hundreds of flights were delayed and many cancelled.

The reservation and check-in systems of most of the airlines, including IndiGo, SpiceJet, Akasa and Air India Express, are now operational, according to a source.

"Online printing (Digi Yatra) is convenient, which wasn't happening yesterday. Everything's fine today. Flights are on time. What happened yesterday was a network issue. No one can do anything about that," said a passenger at the Delhi airport.

"The global outage that led to operational difficulties is nearly resolved, and our teams have made significant progress in restoring normal operations. However, customers may still experience some delays and schedule disruptions," budget carrier IndiGo said. IndiGo had to cancel around 200 flights due to the Microsoft outage issue.

SpiceJet said that "all its systems at airports, ticket bookings and call centres are up and running smoothly after a successful resolution of a Microsoft outage that impacted the aviation industry all through the day".

"While the global system's downtime of reservations, check-in and boarding systems posed an unprecedented operational challenge to our ground services team, Akasa Air confirms that all its scheduled flights on Friday operated with minimum disruptions and nil cancellations," the airline said.

## CBI arrests three more in NEET paper leak case

Amit Bhelari  
PATNA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday arrested a B.Tech. graduate and two MBBS students who allegedly helped candidates in solving the leaked question paper of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for undergraduate medical courses.

Shashi Kumar Paswan, alias Paasu, believed to be a key player in the paper leak case, is a graduate from the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Jamshedpur, while Kumar Mangla Bishnoi is a second-year MBBS student in Bharatpur of Rajasthan, and Dendendra Kumar a first-year student.

Sources said that Mr. Paswan was arrested in Patna, while the two students were detained from the outskirts of Patna.

CBI sources said that Mr. Paswan was a close associate of Rakesh Ranjan, alias Rocky, who is already in custody for allegedly arranging MBBS students from Patna and Ranchi to solve the leaked question paper. Mr. Bishnoi and Mr. Kumar have been arrested on the allegation that they

An investigation is under way to determine the time of the leak that led to this crime

were present in Patna, along with other "solvers", on the morning of May 5 to give answers to the leaked questions.

Some 20 aspirants, along with many "solvers", were present at a play school in the Khemnichak locality of Patna where they were asked to memorise the answers.

All of them reportedly left the school in the early hours of May 5 and went straight to different examination centres.

Mr. Paswan is the second NIT, Jamshedpur graduate to be arrested in the case. Earlier, the CBI arrested Pankaj Kumar, alias Aditya, a civil engineer from the same institute, for allegedly stealing the NEET-UG paper from the National Testing Agency's trunk in Hazaribagh.

In the past two days, the CBI arrested five MBBS students from Patna and Ranchi. An investigation is on to determine the time of the question paper leak.

## DoPT denies service allocation to scientist with muscular dystrophy who cleared UPSC exam

Vijaita Singh  
NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old scientist with muscular dystrophy who cracked the Civil Services Examination on four occasions has moved the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) after the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) declined to allocate any service to him. The DoPT informed the tribunal that the candidate does not fulfil the physical standards required for the service.

Kartik Kansal, who works for the Indian Space Research Organisation, has been using a wheelchair since the age of 12 and taught himself to write af-

ter his muscles weakened. Mr. Kansal is a resident of Uttarakhand and a graduate of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee.

Mr. Kansal's case is in stark contrast to that of trainee Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Puja Khedkar who faces a criminal case for allegedly forging documents and misusing the quota available to people with benchmark disabilities (PwBD) to get into the service. Ms. Khedkar could continue in her job despite a Central Administrative Tribunal ruling in 2023 that her candidature was liable to be cancelled as she failed to appear before a Medical



Kartik Kansal

Board at the AIIMS, Delhi, on six occasions to confirm her disability under "visually impaired and mental illness" criteria. She appeared for the examination again in 2022, secured a rank of 821 and got entry into the IAS by changing the disability criteria to "visually impaired and hearing loss". A Medi-

cal Board at the AIIMS declared her disability to be 47% - above the 40% criteria - after which the DoPT allotted her the IAS. The DoPT was a respondent in the CAT petition filed by Ms. Khedkar.

According to the CSE-2021 notification for which Mr. Kansal appeared, 22 out of total 712 vacancies were reserved for PwBD candidates.

In 2021, Mr. Kansal secured a rank of 271, yet he was denied service, though according to the petition he was eligible to be allotted the Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax).

Sanjeev Gupta, a retired IAS officer who is pursuing Mr. Kansal's case with the

authorities, said "grave injustice" had been done. "The Medical Board at AIIMS dystrophy 90% muscular dystrophy in the certificate that was sent to the DoPT. However, after Mr. Kansal moved CAT when he was denied any service allocation, the DoPT responded that he had cerebral palsy and does not fulfil the physical eligibility criteria. He met the 'sitting, seeing, reading, writing and communication criteria' for the IRS. The DoPT should correct its mistake and not drag the case to the tribunal as it has erred in reading the documents," he said.

The CAT is expected to hear the petition in August.

## Opposition attacks govt. over UPSC chairperson's resignation

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

A day after *The Hindu* reported that Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) chairperson Manoj Soni has resigned from the post, five years before his tenure comes to an end in 2029, the Opposition parties questioned the government's silence over the issue. The Congress alleged that Mr. Soni has apparently been "nudged out" given the current controversy in which the Commission has been affected.

*The Hindu* reported on Saturday that the UPSC chairperson had resigned for "personal reasons" a month ago. The resignation came amid the controversy surrounding trainee IAS officer Puja Khedkar.

'Institutional takeover' Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the BJP and RSS are systematically indulging in an institutional takeover of India's constitutional bodies, thereby damaging their reputation, integrity and autonomy.

"Numerous cases of unqualified individuals faking caste and medical certificates seemed to have duped a 'foolproof' system," Mr. Kharge said in a post on X.

This is a direct affront to the genuine aspirations of lakhs of aspirants, including SC, ST, OBC, EWS candidates who work hard for the civil services examinations, he said.

"It is disconcerting how the UPSC Chairperson has resigned prematurely, five years before his term ends. Why was his resignation kept secret for a month? Is there any connection between the numerous scandals and the resignation?" Mr. Kharge asked adding that the 'blue-eyed-gem' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was brought in from Gujarat and promoted to being the Chairperson of UPSC.

## Chargesheet against 10 accused in extortion case

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday chargesheeted 10 accused, including foreign-based 'designated terrorist' Goldy Brar, in the case alleging an attempt to extort protection money from a businessman in Chandigarh.

The agency has invoked various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, and the Arms Act. Goldy Brar's close associate Gurpreet Singh alias Goldy Dhillon is also absconding.

As alleged, Goldy Brar and Goldy Dhillon had recruited the arrested accused persons.

According to the NIA, their associates were also involved in the procurement and smuggling of arms & ammunition, sale-purchase of narcotics, channelisation of proceeds of narcotics.

## Two different income tests to decide creamy layer among OBC candidates

Abhinav Lakshman  
NEW DELHI

A series of contradictory positions taken over the past few years has obscured how the Union government determines which candidates from Other Backward Class (OBC) communities can be allowed to claim reservations for jobs in civil services.

When the OBC quota was introduced in 1993, a guiding charter was created to exclude candidates whose families had accumulated certain social and economic privileges over the years, known as the creamy layer. This will then allow reservation benefits only for those declared as "non-creamy layer", or NCL, candidates, based on several criteria, including a crucial income or wealth test.

Now, it has emerged that the Department of Personnel and Training has been applying two different income tests to different categories of OBC candidates.

The tangle of regulations governing the OBC quota has come into the spotlight with the current row over Puja Khedkar whose OBC-NCL certificate has come under scrutiny. Given that she is a medical doctor and her father is a retired civil servant who contested the recent Lok Sabha election, filing a candidate affidavit which valued his assets at over ₹40 crore, questions have arisen about how she could be given "non-creamy layer" status.

In the wake of this case, several OBC candidates have taken to social media to highlight how they were denied reservation benefits because of irregularities in the application of the income test.

The DoPT's 1993 charter had declared some OBC families ineligible based on their occupations. Thus, children of people in constitutional posts, senior Central and State government employees, members of the armed forces, and property owners supposedly could not get the



Several OBC candidates have highlighted how they were denied reservation benefits.

OBC quota for civil services. Exceptions were carved out of these exclusions: for instance, children of MPs and MLAs; government officials who have been promoted, not hired, into senior positions; owners of unirrigated agricultural land, and others are all now eligible for OBC quotas, subject to a parental annual income limit of ₹8 lakh or the prescribed wealth test.

However, the DoPT has discriminated in terms of how this income test is applied. Only the exempted cases mentioned above are allowed to exclude their parents' salaries and agricultural income from the

prescribed limit. For other OBC candidates whose parents are salaried professionals, business owners, farmers, or simply not part of the initial exclusions, the ₹8 lakh limit includes parental salaries. The DoPT explained these dual standards in an October 2020 affidavit filed in the Supreme Court.

This seems to contradict what the Social Justice Ministry told Parliament in December 2019 that there is only one income test for OBC candidates, which excludes income from salaries and agriculture. In December 2021, the government told the Supreme Court that the OBC income test excluded such income for all candidates while arguing that the income test for the economically weaker section quota was more stringent.

The court is yet to decide whether the DoPT's explanation on excluding parents' salaries and agricultural income applies to the income test for categories of OBCs. The next hearing is on August 22.

## AAP announces five guarantees ahead of Haryana elections

The Hindu Bureau  
CHANDIGARH

Ahead of the Assembly election in Haryana, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday sounded the poll bugle by announcing “five guarantees”, including giving ₹1,000 a month to every woman.

The party is yet to fulfil a similar promise in the neighbouring Punjab, where it has been in power for over two-and-a-half years.

At a town hall event in Panchkula, Sunita Kejriwal, wife of AAP supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, extended the five guarantees of Mr. Kejriwal to the people of Haryana. The guarantees comprise free electricity for domestic use, free medical treatment, free education to people, ₹1,000 per month to every woman in the State, and employment for youth.

The Assembly election is due this year.

Addressing the gathering, Ms. Kejriwal said: “We will work on building mohalla clinics in every village and every city. Government hospitals will be made better and everyone will get free treatment. Also, government schools will be made better and



Sunita Kejriwal issues ‘Kejriwal Ki Guarantee’ in Haryana on Saturday. ANI

free education will be provided. We will also give ₹1,000 every month to women. Besides, we will provide employment to every unemployed youth.”

Hitting out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), she said Mr. Kejriwal had done phenomenal development work and that was why Prime Minister Narendra Modi was “jealous” of him.

Reacting sharply to the AAP’s poll guarantees, Leader of the Opposition in Punjab Assembly and Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa said these promises and guarantees are nothing more than hogwash. “They have failed to fulfil their guarantees in Punjab – be it providing ₹1,000 to women or employment to youth,” he told *The Hindu*.

## ‘BJP will issue White Paper on Jharkhand population’

In election-bound State, Shah says infiltrators are taking away jobs of tribal people; he promises to arrest decline in their population and terms Hemant Soren government the ‘most corrupt’

The Hindu Bureau  
PATNA

Senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday blew the bugle for the Assembly election in Jharkhand by addressing more than 25,000 party workers during a day-long State working committee meeting in Ranchi.

In his address at the Jagannath Ground in Dhurva, Mr. Shah slammed the Hemant Soren government, calling it the “most corrupt” in the country. He said the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and the Congress could “write it down” that in the Assembly election due later this year, the BJP was going to form a government in the State with a full majority.

### BJP’s promises

He promised that if the BJP comes to power in Jharkhand, it will issue a White Paper on demography. “Instead of worrying about tribal people, a tribal Chief Minister has turned a blind eye to incidents such as ‘land jihad’ and ‘love jihad’.” The population of tribal people is constantly de-



Poll bugle: Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP leader Arjun Munda during a meeting in Ranchi on Saturday. ANI

creasing. Infiltrators are taking away their jobs of but Hemant Soren is busy building a vote bank. If the BJP government comes to power in the State, a White Paper will be issued. We will return the land and reservation to the tribals. We will arrest the fall in population of the tribal people,” Mr. Shah said.

He said the BJP had given the State its first tribal Chief Minister, Babul Marandi.

“I have come to tell Jharkhand today that the JMM runs the most corrupt government, ₹300 crore was found in the house of a Congress MP and ₹30 crore

was found at the house of a Minister’s PA. The Congress should answer whose money is this? The Congress has such corrupt people and the JMM is also with them,” Mr. Shah said.

Talking about the performance of the BJP in Jharkhand in the Lok Sabha election, Mr. Shah said the BJP not only got nine seats of the total 14, the lotus also bloomed in 52 Assembly segments in the State. The lead of the BJP in 52 out of the 81 segments showed that a BJP government would be formed in the coming days.

Union Minister and Jharkhand Assembly elec-

tion in-charge Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Assam Chief Minister and election co-in-charge Himanta Biswa Sarma and Jharkhand BJP head Babul Marandi were present.

“Today, Jharkhand is heading towards destruction and ruin. The meaning of JMM is - ‘Jharkhand Mitaao Morcha’. JMM means land mafia, murder mafia and mining mafia. Our dream was of a golden Jharkhand but the alliance of the JMM and the Congress has made Jharkhand number one in cases of murder, kidnapping and rape. The Hemant Soren government betrayed the youth and women and deceived their dreams,” Mr. Chouhan said.

Mr. Marandi said the demography of Santhal Pargana had changed rapidly under the Hemant Soren government and the population of tribal people is continuously decreasing.

Mr. Sarma also raised the issue of population, alleging that Muslims in Jharkhand were marrying innocent tribal people, and that the second generation was losing the tribal status.

## IN BRIEF



### INDIA bloc organises march against rising crime in Bihar

The Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc staged a protest march across Bihar against the rising crime rate in the State. Six parties led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal submitted a memorandum to Bihar Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and district magistrates of all 38 districts regarding the “failed” law and order in the State. Holding their respective party flags and posters, the INDIA bloc leaders raised slogans against the government at the Income Tax crossing. State Congress chief Akhilesh Singh said the matter will also be raised in the upcoming Bihar Assembly session.

### BJP MLA calls for U.P.-like name display order in M.P.

BJP MLA Ramesh Mendola on Saturday wrote to Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav urging him to issue an order to make it mandatory for business establishments and shops in the State to display the owners’ name, joining the ongoing controversy over a similar order by the Uttar Pradesh government for eateries on the Kanwar Yatra route. Mr. Mendola said displaying their names will make them “feel proud” and encourage a “healthy competition” in business. The order by the Uttar Pradesh government, which mandates all eateries on the yatra route to display the names of the owners, has faced criticism from Opposition parties and some BJP’s allies, terming it “divisive”.

## ED arrests Haryana Cong. MLA in illegal mining case

Press Trust of India  
GURUGRAM/AMBALA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Haryana Congress MLA Surender Panwar on Saturday in an illegal mining-linked money-laundering case, official sources said.

The MLA was taken into custody in Gurugram and was produced before a special PMLA court in Ambala which sent him to the ED custody till July 29.

The money-laundering case stems from several FIRs registered by the Haryana Police for probing alleged illegal mining of boulders, gravel and sand that took place in the past in Yamunanagar and nearby districts despite a ban imposed by the NGT.

According to ED estimates, the alleged illegal mining generated slush funds of ₹400-500 crore in the past few years.

## Mamata invites Akhilesh to take part in Trinamool’s Martyrs’ Day event

Shiv Sahay Singh  
KOLKATA

Nearly six weeks after the Lok Sabha election, Trinamool Congress chairperson and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will address party workers on Sunday at its annual Martyrs’ Day event where she is expected to speak about key issues, including the party’s role in the INDIA bloc.

Ms. Banerjee has invited Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav to participate in her party’s rally and he is likely to be present at the political gathering. Earlier this month, the Trinamool Congress chairperson met Nationalist Congress Party (SP) president Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray during her visit to Mumbai.

With 29 Lok Sabha seats, the Trinamool Congress is the third largest



Talking stock: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and others during the inspection of the venue ahead of the rally. PTI

party in the INDIA bloc after the Congress and Samajwadi Party. Sunday’s rally also provides a platform to the Trinamool leadership to outline the party’s strategy in future.

### Abhishek to attend

The other crucial issues that are expected to be addressed by the Chief Minister involve the party’s second line of leadership, factionalism and rise of an-

key Central schemes such as the MGNREGS by the Union government, and poor Centre-State relations. The Assembly polls in West Bengal are due in 2026 and Trinamool supporters are keen to hear a political message from the party chairperson.

On Saturday evening, Ms. Banerjee visited the venue of the rally to take stock of the arrangements. She said Mr. Yadav has been invited and if the weather permits, then he will attend the gathering. Trinamool supporters from several districts of the State have started to arrive in Kolkata.

“We pay homage to all those who laid down their lives on July 21 [1993], along with other martyrs of movements in the State... many believe that it is our rally but the rally is to commemorate the tradition of Bengal,” the Chief Minister said.

## UPSC aspirants gain expert insights at summit held by Unacademy and The Hindu

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI

Civil Services aspirants learnt about various current issues and gained insights from leaders in various fields at the two-day virtual summit organised by Unacademy, an educational technology company, in association with *The Hindu*, on Saturday.

In a discussion on “Indian democracy in the 21st century: challenges and opportunities”, Congress general secretary and former Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan Sachin Pilot spoke on the political scenario, coalition governments, and the role of a constructive Opposition, and the entry of youngsters into politics.

Noting that the Congress would play the role of a strong watchdog and engage in constructive Oppo-



sition, Mr. Pilot said it would be a balanced Parliament with more debates. The success of a coalition government depended on the leadership and the intent of the parties, he said.

There were plenty of challenges in the country, including divisions being created. Mr. Pilot said the urban population and young people must be motivated to cast their votes.

On a question on the doubts cast on the integrity of the electronic voting machines in the recent Lok Sabha election, Mr. Pilot said it was the constitutional duty of the Election Commission to ensure such doubts raised were cleared.

Pointing out that bureaucracy and politics complimented each other, he said the bureaucracy was the bedrock of democracy, and Civil Services aspirants must realise that they had an important role to play in the country’s progress, he said.

J. Radhakrishnan, Secretary, Food, Cooperation and Consumer Protection Department, Tamil Nadu government, spoke on the role of an Indian Administrative Service officer, and challenges in disaster management and public policy.

He elaborated on his experiences in managing the situation in the districts and State during various natural disasters, including the 2004 tsunami.

## Army chief attends high-level security meet in Jammu amid increase in militant attacks

The Hindu Bureau  
JAMMU

Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi joined top security officials here on Saturday to chalk out a counter-strategy to the increased attacks by militants who are holed up in the Pir Panjal and the Chenab valleys of Jammu division.

General Dwivedi met top Army officials of the Northern and Western Commands, the J&K Police chief, BSF officials and the CRPF top brass at the Raj Bhavan in Jammu. Officials said the formation commanders briefed General Dwivedi about the recent spurt in attacks and preparations being made on the ground.

Militants have increased their footprint and stepped up attacks on security forces, especially the Army, in the Jammu division.

Eleven Army personnel, in-



Planning ahead: An Army convoy arrives at the police headquarters for the meeting in Jammu on Saturday. PTI

cluding a Captain, and a CRPF man were killed in multiple gunfights in Kathua, Reasi and Doda. All these districts had been militancy-free till 2020. Besides, 10 civilians were killed and 55 people injured in these attacks. The frequency of attacks increased since June 9 when a bus carry-

ing pilgrims was attacked in Reasi.

Multiple anti-militancy operations are going on in the vast forest areas of Doda district. Nearly 3,000 Army troops, including 400-500 special forces, have been inducted into the Jammu area around a week ago, *The Hin-*

*du* reported on July 19.

Sources said all the security agencies had focused on “a coordinated strategy to fight militants, adopt a proactive policy and ensure the infiltration is minimised on the International Border and the Line of Control”.

J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha hinted at adopting a Kashmir model to defeat militancy in Jammu, suggesting tough action against supporters of militants.

He said efforts were being made to revive terrorism in the Jammu region.

“We will not allow revival of terrorism in Jammu at any cost and adopt the Kashmir model to wipe out terrorism in Jammu. The way security forces crushed terrorism in Kashmir, a similar strategy will be adopted in Jammu as well,” the Lieutenant-Governor said.

## Nine arrested in Bihar for impersonating in TRE-3 exam

The Hindu Bureau  
PATNA

The Bihar Police has arrested nine persons over the past 24 hours for allegedly appearing in the Teachers Recruitment Exam (TRE-3) on behalf of actual candidates.

The third phase of the exam is being conducted by the Bihar Public Service Commission from July 19 to July 22.

For the second consecutive day, ‘impersonators’ were caught from different centres. A ‘candidate’ was caught in Muzaffarpur on Saturday, while two others were apprehended from Gautambudh Nagar. One Rajeev Kumar was arrested from Nishwar College Center in Muzaffarpur on Friday. In Begusarai, two fake candidates were caught at a centre.

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER  
NIT e- No. WB/1W/S/E/EC/NT-03(e)/2024-25 Dated- 12.07.2024  
invited by S.E. Eastern Circle, I&W. Dte. for the 02 Nos work in connection with  
1. Dredging before Ganga Sagar Mela, 2025 in Muriganga River in connection with Dredging in river Muriganga in P.S. Kakkwip & Sagar, Dist- South 24 Parganas (For Channel I and III).  
2. Dredging before Ganga Sagar Mela, 2025 in Muriganga River in connection with Dredging in river Muriganga in P.S. Kakkwip & Sagar, Dist- South 24 Parganas (For Channel 2A and 3A) amounting to Rs. 22,17,34,687.00 and Rs. 6,60,76,337.00 on behalf of Government of West Bengal through e-Tendering from eligible and resourceful contractors having sufficient credentials and financial capability. All details can be obtained from the Website [www.wb.bids.gov.in](http://www.wb.bids.gov.in) and [tenders.gov.in](http://tenders.gov.in) from 22.07.2024 at 17:00 Hours and last date of online bid submission is 13.08.2024 upto 17:00 Hours. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle, I&W Dte.  
ICA- T11912(3)/2024

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**  
A reputed higher education institution invites Expressions of Interest from Registered Travel Agencies to conduct international / domestic study tours for college students. Interested parties can submit their application in A4 sheet, enclosing proof of annual turnover, Number of study tour conducted in the last 5 years to [mv@svpitm.ac.in](mailto:mv@svpitm.ac.in) on or before 30th July 2024. Director.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H.DIVISION, BALANGIR.  
E-Mail ID- [eepbgr@yahoo.co.in](mailto:eepbgr@yahoo.co.in), Ph.No. (06652-234647)  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e - Procurement**  
Invitation for Bids (IFB) 03-Dtd.19.07.2024

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding
1.	Construction of ESRS in connection with the work "Augmentation of water supply system along with ancillary work for Binika town".	SEPHBGR 03/2024-25 Dt. 19.07.2024	462.79	'A' Class	11 Month	29.07.2024 14.08.2024

Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid: The Superintending Engineer, Office of the Superintending Engineer, Public Health Division, Balangir, At-Talasinagar, Po/Dist-Balangir, Pin-767001, Odisha, Phone-06652-234647. E-mail: [eepbgr@yahoo.co.in](mailto:eepbgr@yahoo.co.in)

\* Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal: "<https://www.tenderodisha.gov.in>".  
\* All amendments, time extension, clarification etc. will be uploaded in the website only.  
Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.  
Superintending Engineer, P.H.Division, Balangir.  
C-236: OIPR-13005/11/0009/2425

IN BRIEF



Mizo woman who killed a tiger with an axe dies at 72

A woman who became a household name in Mizoram after killing a tiger in self-defence in 1978, died on Friday after battling cancer for several months. Zadingi, believed to be the only woman in India to have struck a tiger down with an axe, was 72. Reports in July 1978 said the tiger attacked her when she had gone to a jungle near Buarpu, her home in central Mizoram's Lunglei district, with her companions to collect firewood. Zadingi, 24 years old and three months pregnant then, became a local icon of bravery and her feat was recognised by the President of India in 1980. Tigers have rarely been sighted in Mizoram since the 1980s.

Police arrest three more in Jitan Sahani's murder case

In a major breakthrough, the Darbhanga Police arrested three more accused for the murder of former Minister Mukesh Sahani's father Jitan Sahani. On July 18, the police arrested the main accused Kazim Ansari, who had stabbed Sahani several times in the latter's residence in Jirat village in Darbhanga. The persons arrested on Saturday were Sitare alias Chhedi, Chhote Laheri and Mohammad Azad, said Darbhanga's Senior Superintendent of Police Jagunath Reddy. Mr. Sitare had taken a loan of ₹20,000 on interest from the deceased in lieu of mortgaging his bike and its papers, while Mr. Laheri had taken a loan of ₹6,000 on interest, pledging his land papers.

India to consider providing ₹1,500 crore to Bhutan

India has agreed to consider providing ₹1,500 crore to Bhutan as part of an economic stimulus programme in the next 18 months, the two governments said on Saturday at the end of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's visit and his wide-ranging talks with the Himalayan nation's leadership. Mr. Misri reviewed the implementation modalities and cooperation in diverse areas of the India-Bhutan development partnership with his Bhutanese counterpart Am Pema Choden. He also called on Bhutanese Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay and Foreign Affairs Minister D.N. Dhungyel.

BSF officer, jawan die from extreme heat during patrol

A Border Security Force officer and a jawan died during patrol due to extreme heat exposure at the 'Harami Nallah' creek area along the India-Pakistan international front in Gujarat, official sources said on Saturday. The incident, in which Assistant Commandant Vishwadeo and Head Constable Dayal Ram are stated to have suffered a heat stroke and dehydration, took place on Friday along the border, the sources said. The officer belonged to the 59th battalion of the BSF. The two were undertaking a 'zero line' patrol when they collapsed. The two BSF men were rushed to a health facility in Bhuj, but could not be saved, the sources added.

Centre rejects study that claims 11.9 lakh excess deaths during pandemic

The report, published in the academic journal *Science Advances*, is 'gross and misleading'; the study fails to acknowledge India's robust Civil Registration System, says Union Health Ministry

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Saturday dismissed a study reporting a higher number of deaths in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic in India.

In a statement, the Ministry said the study, published in *Science Advances*, a peer-reviewed scientific journal published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was based on untenable and unacceptable estimates.

"It is strongly asserted that an excess mortality of about 11.9 lakh deaths reported in the *Science Advances* paper in 2020 over the previous year is a gross and misleading overestimate. It is noteworthy that excess mortality during the pandemic means an increase in deaths due to all causes, and cannot be equated with deaths that were directly caused by COVID-19," the Ministry said.

The paper said excess mortality was greater in women and in the younger age groups (particularly 0-



The Centre cites a rising trend of death registration and a larger population base in the following year. PTI

19). The Ministry, however, said data on about 5.3 lakh recorded deaths due to the novel coronavirus, as well as research data from cohorts and registries, consistently showed higher mortality due to the virus in men than women (2:1) and in older age groups (several fold higher in persons above 60 than in the 0-15 age group). The inconsistent and unexplainable results in the published paper further reduced any confidence in its claims.

"The study is erroneous and the methodology followed by the authors has critical flaws; the claims are inconsistent and unexplainable. The all-cause excess mortality in 2020 compared with the pre-

vious year in India is markedly fewer than the 11.9 lakh deaths reported in the *Science Advances* paper," it said.

While the authors claim to follow standard methodology of analysing the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), there are critical flaws in methodology, it said. The most important flaw is that the authors have taken a subset of households included in the NFHS-5 survey between January and April 2021, compared mortality in these households in 2020 with 2019, and extrapolated the results to the entire country, it said.

"The NFHS sample is representative of the country only when it is considered as a whole. The 23% of households included in this analysis from parts of 14 States cannot be considered representative of the country," the Ministry said.

The paper erroneously argues for the need for such analyses claiming that the vital registration system in low and middle income countries including India is weak, it said. But the Civil Registration System in India is highly robust and captures over 99% of deaths. This reporting has constantly increased from 75% in 2015 to over 99% in 2020, it said.

Data from this system shows death registration has increased by 4.74 lakh in 2020 from 2019. There was a similar increase of 4.86 lakh and 6.9 lakh in death registration in 2018 and 2019 over the respective previous years. Notably, all excess deaths in a year in the CRS are not attributable to the pandemic. Excess number is also due to an increasing trend of death registration in CRS (it was 92% in 2019) and a larger population base in the succeeding year.

CPCB plans to check violations in plastic waste trading regime

Jacob Koshy  
NEW DELHI

The Central Pollution Control Board has begun a national audit of nearly 800 plastic-waste recyclers across the country, *The Hindu* has learnt, after it emerged that four firms in Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Gujarat had issued nearly 6,00,000 fake certificates under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programme.

The EPR scheme mandates businesses that use plastic packaging material to recycle a certain percentage of the plastic used in the previous two years. On July 14, *The Hindu* had carried a report on the issue and on the chances of many more fake certificates having been generated.

Separately, the Board has also filed a complaint with the Delhi Police against unknown "hackers", for having allegedly stolen several thousand EPR credits from its online portal. The Delhi Police is learnt to have lodged a first information report (FIR) and is investigating the matter.

A senior official of the CPCB, who declined to be identified, explained that fake certificates were a result of "teething issues" because this was the first full year since the scheme was implemented and that there could have been a "lack of clarity" among re-

The Board has filed a complaint with the Delhi Police against unknown hackers for theft of EPR credits

cyclers on the mechanics of the scheme.

"This is a paradigm shift. All these years, companies had no mandatory targets and were alien to the concept of an online tracking system that showed how many certificates were generated and traded. While we are aware of the problem, it is akin to - say the early years of implementing GST (Goods and Services Tax) or filing Income Tax returns online. We will be keeping a track of EPR-filings by companies and in case of suspicious filings, we will be keeping a hawk's eye. Errant companies will face heavy fines," the official told *The Hindu*.

The official said an investigation has been on since last October. In the meantime, security features of the EPR-trading platform have been enhanced which required a major overhaul of the portal. Only after the investigation will it be clear how many companies traded in stolen certificates. The fines for the guilty would be worth "hundreds of crores," the official said, though recovering these sums is usually a long-drawn process.

Fastening of rail track was improper in Gonda: report

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

A five-member team of senior railway officials investigating the derailment of Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express has blamed improper fastening of the rail track for the accident near Gonda in Uttar Pradesh, sources said. One member of the panel disagreed with the opinion, while a Railway spokesperson said the findings were premature.

The chief public relations officer of the North Eastern Railway Zone said that arriving at a conclusion based on the joint probe report was incorrect. Four people were killed and several injured in the derailment.

Muslims back in Purola, with wounds of a hounding over a kidnap that never happened

Ishita Mishra  
NEW DELHI

Dozens of Muslim residents who left their homes in Purola in Uttarakashi district of Uttarakhand after communal tensions broke out in the town in June last year have returned. But they say the shock and pain, inflicted by tensions after two men were arrested for allegedly abducting a minor Hindu girl, remains.

Life will never be the same for them, they add. Many of their friends and relatives did not follow their path and have moved out of the town for good.

Almost a year ago, after rumours of the abduction spread, the police arrested Ubaid Khan and Jitendra



Security forces deployed in Purola on June 15, 2023 following tensions over a fake report of an abduction of a minor girl. PTI

Saini, a Hindu. They remained in jail for weeks, but were acquitted by a court in Uttarakashi in May this year. The girl had informed the court that she was not abducted, and the police had instructed her to make the allegation in her earlier statements.

"The girl told the court

that she went to the Purola market and was looking for a tailor's shop. She had asked for help from Ubaid and Saini and the two showed her the shop. The girl stated the two made no attempt to abduct her," Halim Beg, the lawyer who represented the men, said.

Calling the alleged ab-

duction a case of "Love Jihad", fringe right-wing outfits stuck posters on shops owned by Muslims, asking them to leave the town or face the consequences.

They demanded a complete ban on the entry of Muslims into Purola, a town also close to Yamunotri Temple, one of the four important Hindu temples in Uttarakhand.

Sonu Khan, who runs a garments shop in Purola, says, "I had to sell my house fearing that we may have to leave town. I stayed with a relative for some days but later, one of my Hindu friends supported me and offered to keep me in his house. Even now, Hindu customers rarely come to my shop."

His brother Sahil Khan

has since moved to Vikas Nagar, 110 km away. "The rally taken out by my own Hindu friends against my community will haunt me forever," Mr. Sahil says.

While the Muslim community in Purola tries to pick up the pieces, Mr. Ubaid is still in a state of shock, says one of his relatives. "His family had a furniture shop in Purola which they had to sell hurriedly. They couldn't even get 20% of the value of the shop and its stock. His brother had to run from pillar to post to fight his case and now, the family is trying to set up another business for him in Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh," he said.

Mr. Saini too has moved to Bijnor, says his advocate S.P. Nautiyal.

SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in. The grid is as follows:
Row 1: 6, 2, 3, 5
Row 2: 2, 5, 9, 7
Row 3: 7, 1, 5
Row 4: 1, 6, 3, 2
Row 5: 8
Row 6: 7, 6, 1, 5
Row 7: 6, 9, 4
Row 8: 5, 1, 9, 2
Row 9: 6, 5, 7, 4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9x9 Sudoku solution grid:
Row 1: 4, 7, 1, 8, 9, 5, 2, 6, 3
Row 2: 6, 9, 8, 2, 3, 4, 1, 7, 5
Row 3: 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 1, 9, 8, 4
Row 4: 3, 1, 4, 7, 6, 9, 8, 5, 2
Row 5: 9, 8, 7, 1, 5, 2, 3, 4, 6
Row 6: 5, 2, 6, 4, 8, 3, 7, 9, 1
Row 7: 1, 4, 9, 5, 2, 8, 6, 3, 7
Row 8: 8, 6, 2, 3, 4, 7, 5, 1, 9
Row 9: 7, 5, 3, 9, 1, 6, 4, 2, 8

Left has a critical role in creating a Second Republic of India, says Yadav

The Hindu Bureau  
KOZHIKODE

Political activist and psephologist Yogendra Yadav has said that the Left can play a critical role in creating what he called a 'Second Republic of India'.

He was delivering a lecture on "What it means to be the Left in India" in Kozhikode on Saturday.

Mr. Yadav claimed that the Republic of India, which was inaugurated on January 26, 1950, was over in 2019.

"The 2024 election has not taken us to a wonderful Second Republic. But, fortunately, it has saved us from the worst nightmare of what that Second Republic could have been. This is a critical moment to shape India, not just for the next five years, but for



Cartoonist E.P. Unny presenting a citation to activist Yogendra Yadav in Kozhikode on Saturday. Writer N.S. Madhavan is seen. K RAGESH

the next few decades. The Left can play a critical role in this moment, provided we redraw the boundaries of the community," he said.

Mr. Yadav said that if being on the Left was about offering resistance to dominance, it should oppose the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's political ideol-

ogy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personality, and the BJP's politics.

"The politics of radical democratic republicanism has to be the politics of the Left today. Republicanism is about creating a community of equal citizens. Those who do not believe in democratic means cannot be part of today's un-

derstanding of what is Left and radical," he said.

The Left should create a political bloc to reconstitute a new republic.

"This camp will not just have communists and socialists. It must include all those working for the annihilation of caste, against the destruction of ecology, and all the defenders of the republic and the Constitution," said Mr. Yadav.

Traces of the Left were available in people's movements, in the upsurge of the farmers, and in the extraordinary resistance put up by Muslim women against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. It was also available in the form of the constructive work being done for alternatives in environmental and ecological struggles happening all over the country.

HC grants bail to 2 men booked under UAPA for 'links' with Dawood

The Hindu Bureau  
MUMBAI

While granting bail to two persons booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Bombay High Court ruled that a person's association with fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim or his gang will not attract provisions of the stringent law as he has been declared a "terrorist" in his individual capacity under the Act.

A Division Bench of Justices Bharati Dangre and Manjusha Deshpande, in an order dated July 11, the details of which were made available on July 19, granted bail to Parvez Zubair Vaid and Faiz Shakeel Bhandiwala, who were arrested in a drug seizure case by the Maharashtra

Anti-Terrorism Squad in August 2022.

They were booked for their alleged links with Dawood's crime syndicate under provisions of the UAPA, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, and Indian Penal Code.

The Bench noted that the Centre had issued a notification on September 4, 2019 declaring "Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar as a 'terrorist' under the UAPA".

It added that the Act has separate provisions for activities of individuals and organisations, and the evidence presented in the case would not be sufficient to charge the accused under provisions of Section 20 of the law, which prescribes punishment for being a member of a terrorist gang or organisation.

**IN BRIEF**



**JK Cement Q1 net profit surges 67% to ₹184.82 crore**

JK Cement Ltd. reported a 67% increase in its consolidated net profit to ₹184.82 crore for the first quarter ended June. The company posted a profit of ₹110.73 crore in the year-earlier period, according to a regulatory filing from JK Cement. Revenue from operations edged up 1.62% to ₹2,807.57 crore during the quarter under review. Total expenses stood flat at ₹2,579.14 crore while total income of JK Cement was ₹2,852.31 crore, up 2.07% in Q1 FY25. PTI

**Yes Bank Q1 PAT surges 47% to ₹502 cr., NII rises 12%, NPAs dip**

Yes Bank Ltd. reported first-quarter net profit grew 46.7% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹502 crore. Net Interest Income (NII) for the quarter ended June grew 12.2% to ₹2,244 crore. Advances rose 14.7% to ₹2,99,565 crore while deposits climbed 20% to ₹2,65,072 crore. The bank saw strong resolution momentum with recoveries/resolutions to the tune of ₹1,581 crore. Gross NPA ratio at 1.7% improved from 2% while Net NPA ratio improved to 0.5% compared with 1%.

**RBL Bank Q1 net rises 29% to ₹372 crore, NPAs slide**

RBL Bank reported first-quarter net profit grew 29% YoY to ₹372 crore. Net advances climbed 19% to ₹86,704 crore while total deposits rose 18% to ₹101,352 crore. Overall capital adequacy, including Q1 FY25 profit, was 15.56%; CET 1 was 13.85%, the bank said. Gross NPAs slid 53bps to 2.69% and Net NPAs 26 bps to 0.74%. "Our performance continues to track our stated goals, with execution starting to deliver promising outcomes," MD R. Subramaniakumar said.

**HDFC Bank Q1 profit climbs 35%**

The lender's net surges to ₹16,174.75 crore, while net non performing assets almost double on year; deposits rise 24.4% to ₹23,79,100 crore; while gross advances increase 52.6% to ₹24,86,900 crore; retail loans doubled, wholesale loans rose 18.7%

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

HDFC Bank Ltd. reported Q1 FY25 net profit grew 35.3% to ₹16,174.75 crore from ₹11,951.77 crore in the year earlier period, while net non performing assets (NPAs) almost doubled. The bank had merged with its parent HDFC Ltd. on July 1, 2023.

Total income grew 44.8% to ₹83,701.25 crore from ₹57,816.67 crore in the year-earlier period. In Q1, the bank's earned interest rose 50.3% to



**Robust growth:** Total income grew 44.8% to ₹83,701.25 crore, the lender reported on Saturday. REUTERS

₹73,033.14 crore, from ₹48,586.81 crore in the year-earlier period. Provisions and contingencies were ₹2,602.06 crore against ₹2,860.03 crore a year earlier. Total credit cost ratio

was at 0.42%, compared with 0.70% for Q1 FY24.

Total deposits rose 24.4% to ₹23,79,100 crore. Gross advances rose 52.6% to ₹24,86,900 crore.

The bank said its retail loans doubled, commercial and rural banking loans grew by 23% and corporate and other wholesale loans grew by 18.7%.

**Capital Adequacy**

The bank's total Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) as per Basel III guidelines was 19.3% on June 30 (18.9%) against a regulatory requirement of 11.7%.

"Gross non-performing assets were 1.33% of gross advances (1.16% excluding NPAs in agriculture) against 1.24% sequentially (1.12% excluding NPAs in agriculture) and 1.41% on a proforma merged basis on June 30, 2023 (1.25% excluding NPAs in agricultural loans)," the lender said.

Net NPAs were 0.39% of advances on June 30. In absolute numbers gross NPAs rose 73.2% to ₹33,025.69 crore from ₹19,064.12 crore in the year-earlier period. Net NPAs almost doubled to ₹9,508.44 crore, from ₹4,776.87 crore.

**Union Bank Q1 net rises to ₹3,679 cr.; flags margin issue**

**Press Trust of India**  
MUMBAI

Union Bank of India on Saturday reported a 13.7% growth in first-quarter net profit to ₹3,679 crore and flagged challenges on the net interest margin front.

The state-owned bank's core net interest income rose 6.5% to ₹9,412 crore as advances grew by 11.5%.

Net interest margin narrowed to 3.05%. On the NIM, CEO A. Manimekhalai said while the number was higher than the guidance of 2.8-3%, it was a challenge to maintain the number above 3%.

**'We aim to be among the top 50 logistics firms worldwide'**

**N. Anand**  
CHENNAI

TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd. (TVS SCS), India's largest supply chain solutions provider, aims to be among the top 50 logistics firms globally, MD Ravi Viswanathan said in the company's annual report.

Asserting that growth prospects are bright across markets, he said, "Given our proven repertoire, technological prowess, operational strengths and clearly defined strategic growth direction, we will continue to redefine supply chains for our customers and unlock growth."

Mr. Viswanathan also



R. Dinesh

said he was confident of overcoming market challenges and capitalising on opportunities globally.

He said TVS SCS was working with 78 Fortune 500 customers. "We have embarked on a global account management programme with the objective of cross selling and deploy-

ing capabilities across geographies for our global customers," he added.

Executive Chairman R. Dinesh likened TVS SCS to a solutions firm rather than a logistics service provider.

"This approach has helped create long-term supply chain partnerships with our customers and provided new growth opportunities that position us favourably," he said.

Global CFO Ravi Prakash Bhagavathula said in the last fiscal the firm repaid all its long-term debt and a substantial portion of its working capital loans as well. "We now have a fit balance sheet which positions us well," he said.

**Kotak bank Q1 net up 79% on stake sale in insurance arm**

**Press Trust of India**  
MUMBAI

Kotak Mahindra Bank on Saturday reported a 79% jump in consolidated net profit in the June quarter to ₹7,448 crore compared with the year-earlier period, majorly helped by a stake sale in its general insurance arm and the performance of subsidiaries.

On standalone level, net profit grew by 2% to ₹3,520 crore, and the management conceded the business restrictions imposed by the RBI due to shortcomings on the technology front had an impact.

**TII arms set to unveil e-rickshaws, e-bikes**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

Following the successful introduction of Montra electric three-wheeler passenger auto, Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII) plans to unveil a slew of electric cargo, e-rickshaw variants and e-bikes in FY25 through its units.

"At TII, we foresee immense growth opportunities in the EV segment," MD Mukesh Ahuja said.

TII arm TI Clean Mobility has four business units within electric mobility viz. three-wheelers, tractors, medium, heavy and small commercial vehicles.

"While the e3w is per-



forming well in southern markets and is entering the northern market, e-HCV trucks are in the early stages of sales cycle," said Executive Chairman M.A.M Arunachalam. Currently, e-tractors are undergoing rigorous testing. Initially, it will be introduced in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

**'Direct tax tweaks to be constrained by the need to protect tax revenue'**

**BUDGET IN FOCUS**

**Alok Agrawal**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to present the Union Budget on July 23. This will be the first full-year Budget for the new government, now in its third term.

The fiscal deficit for Financial Year 2023-24 was 5.63% of GDP with a target of 5.1% for FY2024-25. Given the significant share of personal tax in overall direct-tax collections, the government is unlikely to introduce measures that would greatly reduce tax revenue. Here are key expectations from individual taxpayers and potential government changes to minimise fiscal deficit impact:

**Simplified tax regime Standard Deduction:** The government aims to shift more taxpayers to the simplified tax regime. However, the old regime's benefits have hindered progress. With high inflation rates, it is expected the standard deduction will rise from ₹50,000 to at least ₹1,00,000 or be adjusted annually with the cost inflation index.

This will not only provide relief to the taxpayers but align the tax system with the economic realities of rising living costs.

**NPS deduction:** The old tax regime allows an additional ₹50,000 deduction for employees' NPS contributions, which isn't available under the simplified regime. Allowing this deduction under the simplified regime could make it more attractive and encourage retirement savings. This would not only support individual finan-



**Breathing space:** Increasing standard deduction will provide relief to taxpayers. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

**The government may reintroduce a deduction for investments in infrastructure bonds**

cial security but also reduce dependence on Provident Fund, aligning with the government's broader financial inclusion goals.

**Infrastructure bonds:** To support its capital expenditure on infrastructure, the government may reintroduce a deduction for investments in infrastructure bonds. Previously, a deduction of ₹20,000 was allowed in FY2010-11 and 2011-12. A new deduction of ₹50,000 for such investments under the simplified regime could be considered. This would encourage investments in critical infrastructure projects, fostering economic growth and employment.

**Old tax regime Affordable housing:** The deduction of up to ₹1.5 lakh per annum for interest on home loans for first-time buyers where the stamp duty value of such

property does not exceed ₹45 lakh, which expired in March 2022, should be reinstated. This would provide relief to low-income taxpayers seeking affordable housing. Reviving this deduction aligns with the government's vision of 'housing for all' and addresses the pressing need for affordable housing solutions amid rising property prices.

**Metro cities for HRA:** Currently, a higher HRA exemption of 50% is limited to Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata. Given Bengaluru's growth and rising rental costs, employees in Bengaluru should also receive a 50% HRA deduction. This will acknowledge the city's economic significance and the financial burden on its residents on account of escalating living expenses.

**Raising tax collections Capital gains:** Different types of capital assets have different holding periods under the current regulations used to categorise them into short-term and long-term. The govern-

ment may consider extending the holding period for shares and equity-oriented mutual funds from 12 to 24 months for long-term capital asset classification. This would result in a higher tax rate of 15% for transactions within 24 months. Aligning the holding period and tax rates addresses the volatility and risks associated with equity investments, promoting a more stable investment environment.

**TCS on jewellery:** To widen the tax base, the government could introduce TCS on high-value jewellery purchases, similar to TCS on high-value car purchases. This would bring such transactions under the tax authorities' radar. Implementing TCS on jewellery purchases would enhance transparency and ensure compliance, aiding in the detection of unreported income and curbing tax evasion. Overall, the upcoming Budget is expected to balance taxpayer relief with measures to maintain fiscal discipline.

(Alok Agrawal is a Partner with Deloitte India)

**Chemplast sees surge in revenue via CMCD**

**N. Anand**  
CHENNAI

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd. is expecting a fourfold jump in revenue to ₹1,000 crore from the Custom Manufactured Chemicals Division (CMCD) in the next three years, Managing Director Ramkumar Shankar said.

In September last year, Chemplast commissioned Phase 1 of the new multi-purpose block for CMCD at an investment of about ₹270 crore at Berigai in Krishnagiri District of Tamil Nadu. Phase 2 is on track to be completed in FY25, he said in his message to shareholders.

"Having secured two Letters of Intent (LoI) this year along with a robust pipeline of additional pro-



Ramkumar Shankar

ducts, we anticipate reaching peak utilisation of this capacity within the next two-three years," he said.

Chief Financial Officer N. Muralidharan said it was part of a broader strategy to raise production capacity and cater to the expanding product pipeline. Besides, investment in CMCD is vital for capturing a larger market share and boosting competitive edge.

**Tea industry seeks higher RoDTEP rates**

**Press Trust of India**  
KOLKATA

The tea industry has sought higher rates under the RoDTEP scheme to make exports competitive in overseas markets.

Leading industry body Indian Tea Association (ITA), in its pre-budget memorandum, said the present Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) rate for bulk tea is 1.7% subject to a cap of ₹6.70 per kilogram. ITA urged the government to increase the reward base rate under RoDTEP for black tea in bulk to remain competitive.

The RoDTEP scheme ensures exporters receive refunds on embedded du-



ties that were previously non-recoverable.

Another industry body Tea Association of India (TAI), in its pre-budget proposal sought an anti-dumping duty on imports of Nepal tea. TAI said this measure would prevent the dumping of cheap and duty-free tea from Nepal and boost exports of genuine Darjeeling tea.

**KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice**  
Tender No: 30.31.32.33.34.35.36.37.38.39.40.41.42/SE/PH/TSR/2024-25. IJLM-1. Providing Distribution Network and FHTC to Vadanappally PL 2. WSS to Aditt. Supplying and Laying CWP/ML from Oltari sump to Puzhakkal 3.WSS to Abor Supply and Laying of CWP/ML from Chakkudy WTP to water tanks 4. Supply Erection of Centrifugal Pumps and Construction of Pump stations for CWP/ML 5. WSS to Puthur 6. Renovation of 36 Feeder WTP & WSS to Aditt and other pps. Laying of Pipes for Clear Water Gravity Main from 100 MLD Scheme 7. Construction of 18 MLD WTP & Construction of 15 MLD WTP 9.WSS to Kijinjakkuda-72m dia intake well cum pump house. Raw water pump set. 500 KVA and 100 KVA transformer at Well site 10. WSS to Kijinjakkuda -600 mm DI 9 Raw water pumping main-5000 m 11.WSS to Mattathur. CWP/ML and CWM 12. WSS to Mattathur. construction of 25 MLD WTP @State Plan-WSS to Kijinjakkuda. Construction of 22LL DHR and 350mm DI K9 CWP/ML Construction of 22 LL DHR and 350mm DI K9CWP/ML. EMP: Rs. 2,00,000/-, 5,00,000/-, Tender fee: Rs. 11,800/-, 17,700/-, Last Date for submitting Tender: 13-08-2024 03.42 pm. Phone: 0487 - 2423230  
Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in  
Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Thrissur  
KWA-JB-GL-6-234-2024-25

**TELANGANA MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
2nd Floor, DM & HS Campus, Sultan Bazar, Kofli, Hyderabad - 500 095  
Ph.No.040-40032655/888, email: tsmsidcm@gmail.com  
**Tender Notice No.02/TGMSIDC/EQU/2024-25. Dated: 20-07-2024**  
Tender is invited through e-procurement platform for the "Procurement & Supply of CT Scans to New (8) Medical Colleges under Rate Contract for a period of two years". Managing Director, TGMSIDC reserves the right to cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reason. For complete details, please visit website <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> and <http://www.tsmsidc.telangana.gov.in>  
Sd/- Managing Director  
RO No: 202-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25, Date:20-07-2024

**CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES**  
(Planning Dept., Govt. of Telangana & ICSSR-Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)  
Nizamiah Observatory Campus, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016, Telangana, India  
Phone: 040-23416610-13, 23402789, 23416780, fax: 040 23406808  
Email: post@cess.ac.in, Website: www.cess.ac.in  
**Ph.D ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25**  
The Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad in collaboration with Telangana University, Nizamabad invites applications for Admission into Ph.D Programme with focus on Development Studies for the Academic Year 2024-25. The Ph.D Programme at CESS is in accordance with the UGC Regulations-2022; and the Revised Guidelines issued on 28th March 2024. Candidates qualified in the National Eligibility Tests, such as, UGC-JRF and UGC-NET are eligible to apply for admission. The Programme is offered in the following subjects:  
1. ECONOMICS | 2. SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY/SOCIAL WORK  
3. POLITICAL SCIENCE/PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
4. COMMERCE/BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (Related to Research Areas of CESS)  
**Last date for receiving Applications: 20th August 2024**  
Please see website: [www.cess.ac.in](http://www.cess.ac.in) for details  
21 July 2024 DIRECTOR

**BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED**  
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML, 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560 052  
**No. DGM-3(BSWML)/Corr- 01 /24-25 Date:20.07.2024**  
**CORRIGENDUM- 1**  
Sub: Update of Calendar of Events for Tender Notification.  
Ref: This office Tender Notification No DGM-3(BSWML)/TEND/01/24-25, Dated: 08.07.2024.  
As per the above subject and references, the calendar of events for the above tender notification is updated. The Change in the Calendar of Events is as shown in below table.  

Sl No	Particulars	As per tender notification	Updated dates please read as
1	Pre bid meeting date and time	On 22.07.2024 upto 15:00 hrs.	On 26.07.2024 upto 15:00 hrs.
2	Last Date & time for tender submission	On 12.08.2024 upto 16:00 hrs.	On 22.08.2024 upto 16:00 hrs.
3	Opening of tender date and time	On 13.08.2024 upto 16:30 hrs.	On 23.08.2024 after 16:30 hrs.

For Further details visit GOK kpp portal Website [www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)  
Sd/- Deputy General Manager-3 BSWML  
DIPR/CP/JA/1008/2024-25

# Animals acquire genes from bacteria that can produce antibiotics

The Hindu Bureau

A group of small, freshwater animals protect themselves from infections using antibiotic recipes “stolen” from bacteria, according to a new study. The tiny creatures are called bdelloid rotifers, which means ‘crawling wheel-animals’. They have a head, mouth, gut, muscles and nerves like other animals, though they are smaller than a hair’s breadth.

When these rotifers are exposed to fungal infection, the study found, they switch on hundreds of genes that they acquired from bacteria and other microbes. Some of these genes produce resistance weapons, such as antibiotics and other antimicrobial agents, in the rotifers. The findings were published in the journal *Nature Communications*.

Prior research found that rotifers have been picking up DNA from their

surroundings for millions of years, but the new study is the first to discover them using these genes against diseases. No other animals are known to “steal” genes from microbes on such a large scale.

“These complex genes – some of which aren’t found in any other animals – were acquired from bacteria but have undergone an evolution in rotifers,” coauthor David Mark Welch, senior scientist and director of the Jose-

phine Bay Paul Center at the Marine Biological Laboratory says in a release. “This raises the potential that rotifers are producing novel antimicrobials that may be less toxic to animals, including humans, than those we develop from bacteria and fungi.”

“When rotifers were challenged with a fungal pathogen, horizontally acquired genes were over twice as likely to be upregulated as other genes – a stronger enrichment than

observed for abiotic stressors,” the authors write. “Among hundreds of upregulated genes, the most markedly overrepresented were clusters resembling bacterial polyketide and nonribosomal peptide synthetases that produce antibiotics. Upregulation of these clusters in a pathogen-resistant rotifer species was nearly ten times stronger than in a susceptible species.”

Most of antibiotics are produced naturally by fun-

gi and bacteria in the wild, and humans can make artificial versions to use as medicine. The study suggests that rotifers might be doing something similar. The scientists think that rotifers could give important clues in the hunt for drugs to treat human infections caused by bacteria or fungi. One problem with developing new drugs is that many antibiotic chemicals made by bacteria and fungi are poisonous or have side effects in animals.

## SNAPSHOTS



### Rising antimalarial resistance in Africa needs urgent action

Artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) have become the cornerstone of malaria treatment and control. However, the emergence and spread of artemisinin-resistance (ART-R) in malaria-causing *Plasmodium falciparum* parasites in eastern Africa has compromised the efficacy of these crucial treatments. To counter ART-R in Africa, researchers recommend using triple ACTs (TACTs), combining an artemisinin derivative with two partner drugs, which have proven effective in Asia.



### Spitting cobra venom reveals a promising antivenom

By studying the molecular characteristics of venom from spitting cobras, scientists have discovered that approved drugs called heparinoids can shield against the venom’s destructive effects on local tissue. The study in cells and mice suggests that heparinoids could potentially be developed into antidotes for cobra bites. These compounds also don’t require refrigeration like most antibody-based antivenoms, making heparinoids useful in remote regions that lack medical infrastructure.



### Pig lung transplants can survive sans immune suppression

Researchers have employed gene engineering tactics to boost the survivability of transplanted lungs in pigs while reducing the need for immune-suppressing drugs. The pigs survived for up to two years without immune suppression. Similar tactics could help to promote transplant survival or to wean patients off immune suppressing compounds. Organ rejection occurs when a transplanted organ triggers an intense reaction from the immune system.

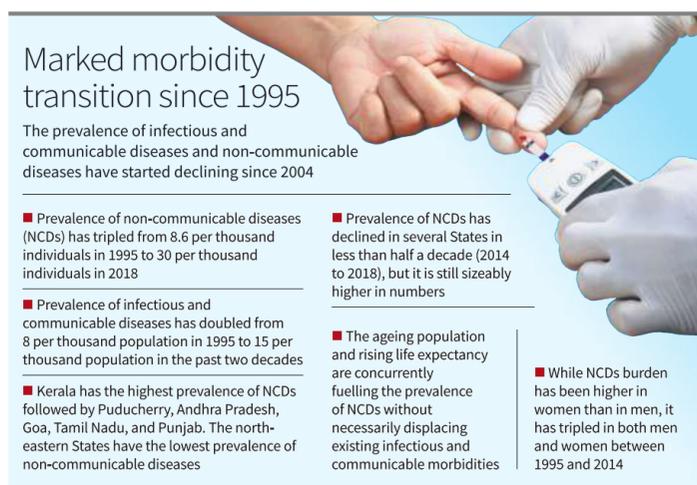
# Prevalence of NCDs tripled, infectious diseases doubled

While the prevalence of all types of morbidities doubled from 56 per thousand population in 1995 to 106 per thousand population in 2014, it has dipped to 79 per thousand population in 2018

R. Prasad

A study published recently has looked at morbidity transition across States from 1995 to 2018. The study examines self-reported morbidities in India by relying on the 1995, 2004, 2014, and 2018 data of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Large number of households were included in each survey – 120,942 households in 1995, 73,868 households in 2004, 65,932 households in 2014, and 113,823 households in 2018. Multiple kinds of diseases and disabilities were collected in each NSSO survey, and the self-reported morbidities were classified into four broad categories – infectious and communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, disability, and injury and other diseases. The study has been published in the journal *PLOS ONE*.

There has been a steady upsurge in morbidity prevalence – doubling from 56 per thousand population in 1995 to 106 per thousand population in 2014. However, there has been a considerable decline in 2018 – 79 per thousand population. Compared with 1995, the reported morbidities risk transition significantly increased over successive decades – 1.81 times in 2004, 2.16 times in 2014, and 1.44 times in 2018. Across India, non-communicable diseases gained a prominent share in morbidity trends from 1995 to 2018, with Kerala reporting the highest rates followed by And-



hra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Punjab.

The study found that while the prevalence of all types of morbidities not only increased but actually doubled from 56 per thousand population in 1995 to 106 per thousand population in 2014 (and 95 per thousand population in 2004), there has been a sharp dip in 2018 when the morbidity dropped to 79 per thousand from 106 per thousand population in 2014. In the case of infectious and communicable diseases, disability except injury and other diseases the decline started in 2004.

With a prevalence of 30 per thousand population in 2018, non-communicable diseases account for a major share of prevalence; it has increased more than three times from 8.6 per thousand population in 1995. In the case of infectious and communicable

diseases, the prevalence has almost doubled from 8 to 15 per thousand population in the past two decades.

“Kerala consistently stands out with the highest reported morbidity rates, recording figures of 112 per 1,000 population in 1995, 266 per 1,000 population in 2004, 370 per 1,000 population in 2014, and 294 per 1,000 population in 2018. Other States like Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab, and others also exhibit noteworthy prevalence rates,” the authors write. “Conversely, the northern and eastern states, particularly Manipur, exhibit the lowest prevalence of morbidity conditions. In 1995, Manipur reported a mere seven cases per 1,000 individuals, which increased to 28 per 1,000 individuals in 2004, 29 per 1,000 individuals in 2014, and declined to 19 per 1,000 individuals in 2018.”

Kerala has reported the highest prevalence of non-communicable diseases – 118 per thousand individuals in 2004, 185 per thousand individuals in 2014, and 177 per thousand individuals in 2018, followed by Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, and Punjab. The north-eastern States have reported the lowest prevalence of non-communicable diseases. For instance, Meghalaya reported just 1.7 per thousand individuals in 1995, two per thousand individuals in 2004, 1.4 per thousand individuals in 2014 and 0.2 per thousand individuals in 2018, followed by Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Bihar. “Prevalence of non-communicable diseases has declined in several States in less than half a decade (2014 to 2018), but it is still sizably higher in numbers,” they note.

“As India undergoes concurrent demographic and epidemiological transitions, our study aligns with this dynamic shift. Notably, it highlights significant disparities in reporting morbidity burdens across different States from 1995 to 2018,” says Mahadev Bramhankar, a PhD scholar from the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai and the corresponding author of the paper.

“These variations are attributed to distinct demographic, social, and economic determinants characterising each State, contributing to the nuanced landscape of health challenges across the nation.”

#### Morbidity context

Many studies have discussed the epidemiological transition based on various aspects using demographic and morbidity data in India in the recent past. “But our study contributes additional insights by extending beyond a national perspective and conducting a meticulous analysis at the State level and determinants, especially in morbidity context,” Bramhankar says.

“The ageing population and rising life expectancy are concurrently fuelling the prevalence of non-communicable diseases without necessarily displacing existing infectious and communicable morbidities. Among all the morbidities over the period of disease transition from 1995 to 2018, non-communicable diseases are most predominantly gaining share,” he says.

# Rise and shine: morning sunlight and your wellbeing



SPEAKING OF SCIENCE  
D. Balasubramanian

We humans are affected by the cycle of light and darkness that occurs every day. Our bodies have a 24-hour (circadian) rhythm that is translated into physiological processes such as hormone secretion, which in turn drive our actions. To stay in synchrony with the environment, and therefore to perform the right activities at the right time, light serves as an alarm clock. This light synchronisation, photoentrainment, happens in the brain by light signals coming from the eye.

Many other species also depend on light to provide them with cues for their

daily routine. When these light patterns are disrupted, their natural rhythms and behaviours can be affected. An example: tourism operators in the Maldives take boatloads of visitors out at night, and shine bright lights of about 4000 watts on the ocean surface. Biological activity in the water picks up as if it is morning, and tourists get to see whale sharks.

Our vision is enabled by the rods and cones, which are photoreceptor cells in the outer retina. The rods are very sensitive to light but are not colour sensitive and so are most useful in dim light; the cones work best in bright light, giving us colour vision. Rods and cones convert photons of light into electrical signals, which are passed on to retinal ganglion cells. These cells process information from the retina and pass it



A pattern of earlier sleep timing is associated with a lowered risk of major depressive disorder. FILE PHOTO

on to the brain.

#### Photosensitive cells

About 20 years ago, a new class of cells that could perceive light was found in the inner retina. Called the intrinsically photosensitive retinal ganglion cells (ipRGC), these cells contain a photopigment, melanopsin, that allows them to directly respond to light.

These cells have very important roles in our body’s interaction with light that are not related to seeing.

Electrical impulses from the ipRGC travel to areas of the brain that are involved in sleep, alertness and mood regulation. Signals also project to the area of the brain that controls the pupils of the eyes, causing them to constrict in res-

ponse to bright light.

Importantly, electrical signals travel to a part of the hypothalamus that regulates circadian rhythms. This part of the brain has long been known to be the master clock, where your body’s internal clock is synchronised with the light-dark cycle in the outside world that is driven by the sun.

#### Morning birds

Morning diurnal preference is the classification for people who prefer early sleep and who rise early. Peak performance is earlier in the day, and the condition is associated with a reduced risk of obesity as well as better academic performance. Several studies have also shown that a pattern of earlier sleep timing is associated with a lowered risk of major depressive

(Scientific Reports, 12003, 2021).

Stanford neurobiology professor Andrew Huberman, in his popular podcast has pointed to the beneficial effects of low-angle light from the morning sun in resetting the circadian clock. ipRGC cells are most responsive to blue light (480 nm). The morning light has a low ratio of blue to yellow light, just enough to send a message to the hypothalamus marking the start of another circadian cycle. Sixteen hours later, your body is going to be sleepy. So go out and be in the morning light – sunny or cloudy, but don’t stare at the sun! Synchronising your clock will improve your health – physical and mental.

(The article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani, who works in molecular modelling)



## Question Corner

### Zika infection

Does prenatal Zika infection have long-term immune consequences in children?

A new study has found that maternal Zika virus infections can reprogramme foetal immune development, leading to long-term consequences in children’s immunity. These changes even occur in children born without the physical characteristics associated with congenital Zika syndrome – suggesting that the 95% of babies born of Zika-infected pregnancies who did not exhibit symptoms may have been affected by the virus with long-term immunological

repercussions. The study used blood samples from newborn and two-year-old children whose mothers were infected by Zika virus during pregnancy. Immune analysis revealed highly elevated levels of inflammation, even two years after the Zika virus infection was cleared. The children’s immune systems favored producing one type of T-cell over another, altering their responses to childhood vaccines. These changes left them likely vulnerable to future infections including diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis.

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

## What are the rules for IAS probationers?

Who conducts the examination? Who is responsible for checking details supplied by candidates?

Vijaita Singh

**The story so far:**

On July 19, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) said it has registered a criminal case against Puja Khedkar, a 2022 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer on probation, and issued a show cause notice cancelling her candidature from the Civil Services Examination-2022. It said she had fraudulently availed attempts beyond the permissible limit under the examination rules by faking her identity by changing her name, her father's and mother's name, photograph and signature, email ID, mobile number and address.

**How did things come to a head?**

Earlier in July, Ms. Khedkar was transferred from Pune to Washim in Maharashtra following complaints of misuse of power by a senior officer. Ms. Khedkar, posted as Assistant Collector in Pune, allegedly demanded special privileges such as a separate office, house, car, and staff which she was not entitled to. Soon it transpired that the trainee officer, daughter of a retired bureaucrat who also contested the 2024 parliamentary elections from Ahmednagar, allegedly submitted fake disability and Other Backward Class (OBC) certificates to clear the civil services exam. Following the controversy, on July 11, the Department of Personnel and

'A person is appointed on probation in order to assess his suitability for absorption in the Service to which he has been appointed. Probation should not, therefore, be treated as a mere formality'

Training (DOPT) constituted a single-member committee, chaired by a senior officer of the rank of Additional Secretary, to verify the candidature claims and other details of Ms. Khedkar.

The committee will submit its report within two weeks. In an order in 2023, the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) said though Ms. Khedkar had successfully cleared the examinations, she skipped six medical examinations to prove her disability before a medical board at AIIMS, Delhi, adding that "her candidature is liable to be cancelled."

The CAT order was in response to a petition filed by Ms. Khedkar in 2021 seeking relaxation of the number of attempts by Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD). Despite the ruling, she was inducted in the services after she reappeared for the exams in 2022 and with a rank of 821 got PwBD reservation benefits under a different category – "visually impaired and hearing loss." In the previous instance, she had applied under the "visual impairment and mental illness" category. Significantly, the DOPT was a respondent in the 2021 petition. By forging her identity, name etc., Ms. Khedkar appeared for the civil services examination 12 times. General category candidates are allowed six attempts till they attain 32 years of age. Those availing OBC and PwBD reservation are allowed nine attempts till the age of 35 and 42 years respectively. Candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) are allowed unlimited attempts till 37 years of age.

**How are documents scrutinised?**

The UPSC conducts examinations and interviews on behalf of the Union Government after which candidates are recommended for appointment by the commission to various Services. At the examination stage, candidates have to submit documents supporting their claims for reservation under various categories – SC, ST, OBCs, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and PwBD. The first phase of scrutiny is done by the UPSC, which only goes by the documents submitted by the candidates. After the personal interview, all candidates are sent for a medical check-up at government hospitals endorsed by the commission. PwBD candidates have to appear before a medical board at AIIMS, Delhi to determine the level of disability. The files are then sent to the DOPT, which accords the Service after accommodating various quotas.

**What is the probation period?**

The probation period typically lasts two years, but it may be extended for a maximum of four years if the candidate needs improvement or has been unable to clear the examinations at the training academy. According to DOPT, "A person is appointed on probation in order to assess his suitability for absorption in the Service to which he has been appointed. Probation should not, therefore, be treated as a mere formality."

**What disciplinary action can be taken?**

A probationer is discharged from service. The discharge can be on account of failure to clear the examinations at the training academy or "if the Central Government is satisfied that the probationer was ineligible for recruitment to the Service or is unsuitable for being a member of the Service." The discharge can also be ordered if in the opinion of the Central Government he/she has wilfully neglected his probationary duties or is found lacking in qualities of mind and character needed for the Service.

## What is the gender gap in education?

What do figures from the Unified District Information System for Education and the All India Survey on Higher Education indicate? Are girls more likely to complete secondary education when they have access to it? What needs to be done to ensure girls, and boys, don't drop out?

Priscilla Jebaraj

**The story so far:**

The World Economic Forum (WEF) report of 2024 on global gender gaps recently ranked India at 129 out of 146 economies, with a decline in the education sector being one of the reasons for India's rank slipping a couple of places this year.

**Where does the gap lie?**

According to the WEF's June report, updated figures in educational attainment indicators have caused India's gender parity levels to dip from the previous year. "While the shares of women are high in primary, secondary and tertiary education enrolments, they have only been modestly increasing, and the gap between men and women's literacy rate is 17.2 percentage points wide, leaving India ranked 124th on this indicator," the 18th edition of the report said, recording a score of 0.964 in the education category. In the 17th edition, published in 2023, however, India had attained a perfect 1.000 score in terms of educational parity, ranking 26th in that category. The main indicators being tracked are enrolment levels in primary, secondary and tertiary education, as well as the adult literacy rate.

Asked about India's regression from the perfect score, WEF's Insight and Data Lead Ricky Li said that source data for Educational Attainment indicators is collected by UNESCO, whose figures are subject to data updates on a periodic basis. "In the 18th edition of the Index, the values used in the computation of India's Educational Attainment gender parity score correspond to [the] 2022 and 2023 periods. The 17th edition included data from 2018, 2021, and

Several States have closed the gender gap in higher classes; there are worries about boys dropping out before completing school

2022," he told *The Hindu*. "An important aspect of the data to consider when interpreting the gender parity is the corresponding period, as a seemingly significant change in score could be reflecting an update in the values corresponding to the indicator," he added.

**What do Indian statistics show?**

The Union Education Ministry tracks school and college enrolment data using two major collection systems: the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+) and the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE). The UDISE+ report for 2021-22 shows that 13.79 crore boys were enrolled in school, in comparison to 12.73 crore girls, meaning that girls make up 48% of the school population. However, this varies at the different stages of school education. In preschool or kindergarten, girls make up 46.8% of enrolled children. By primary school (Classes 1 to 5), this rises to 47.8%, improving still further in upper primary or elementary school (Classes 6 to 8), when girls make up 48.3% of enrolled children. Clearly, some girls drop out of school at that stage, when the right to free education ends after Class 8. The gender gap widens in secondary school (Class 9 and 10), with girls dropping to 47.9% of enrolled children.

However, girls who do have access to secondary education are more likely to stick to the finish: the higher secondary level (Class 11 and 12) has the lowest gender gap of 48.3%.

That trend continues into higher education, according to the AISHE report for 2021-22. In that year, the gross enrolment ratio (GER) for women in higher education – meaning the percentage of the population between 18 and 23 years enrolled in colleges and universities – across the country was 28.5, slightly higher than the male GER of 28.3. Female enrolment in higher education has seen a 32% increase since 2014-15. Neither the UDISE+ nor AISHE have yet published data for 2022-23.

**What is the impact of a slew of packages to incentivise girls to get an education?**

The biggest impact has come from simply building more schools. If a primary school exists within one or two kilometres of a child's home, parents are more likely to enrol their children, especially girls. "There has been enormous growth in the number of schools, especially since the mid-90s, which is when you also saw a spike in the enrolment of girls nationwide," says Vimala Ramachandran, a former Professor at the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration and the first national director for Mahila Samakhya, a flagship Central



Moving up: Girl students with their bicycles in Mandya in 2018. FILE PHOTO

## Will local job quotas pass the legal test?

What does the Constitution say? Why is the constitutionality of the Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishments Bill, 2024, being doubted? What is the status of similar laws in other States such as Haryana?

K. Venkataramanan

**The story so far:**

The Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishments Bill, 2024, which aims to provide reservation for Kannadigas in the private sector in the State, has been put on hold after severe backlash from business leaders and industry representatives. The Bill was cleared by the Cabinet, but is yet to be introduced in the Assembly. The government has promised wider consultations with stakeholders before it takes the next step. The legality and constitutionality of such quotas for local candidates, however, are in doubt, as similar steps elsewhere have run into legal impediments.

**What does the Bill propose?**

The Bill made it a rule that any factory, industry or establishment must appoint local candidates to 50% of its managerial category and 70% of its non-managerial category.

'Local candidate' is defined as anyone born in Karnataka, domiciled for at least 15 years in the State, and who can read, write and speak Kannada. Candidates not possessing a secondary school certificate with Kannada as a

Business and industry feel such reservations will drive out companies from Karnataka

language must pass a Kannada proficiency test prescribed by a nodal agency.

Where qualified or suitable candidates are not available, the Bill gives three years to the establishments to train and engage local candidates. They may also apply to the government for relaxation of norms, but the relaxation cannot be less than 25% for management category and 50% for non-management category.

**Why is industry opposed to it?**

Business and industry responded with alarm on hearing of the features of the proposed Bill. They felt that such measures would drive out companies from the State and impact foreign investment. NASSCOM, the national lobbying body of the software industry, said it was deeply disturbing. The Bill, it felt, would "hamper the growth of the industry, impact jobs and the global brand for the State". Many expressed concern over the impact of such measures on Karnataka's leading position in technology and described it as regressive and short-sighted.

**What about similar laws in other States?**

Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Jharkhand are among the States that have tried to bring in legislation to mandate reservation for domiciles or local residents in the government or private sector. The Andhra Pradesh Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries/Factories Act, 2019, sought to introduce 75% reservation for local people in any industry, factory, joint venture or project taken up in the public-private partnership mode. It also gave a three-year period for training and engaging local candidates, if suitable candidates were not available. The Act has been challenged in the Andhra Pradesh High Court, but the government itself has not been zealously implementing its provisions so far.

The Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020, was struck down by the Punjab and Haryana High Court, and the matter is now before the Supreme Court. It provided for 75% reservation in the private sector for jobs that entailed a salary of up to ₹30,000 a month. It also came with a sunset clause that said it

government programme on education for rural girls and women. She notes regional differences, pointing out that in Gujarat, where the government built few secondary and higher secondary schools, leaving these largely to the private sector, girls make up only 45.2% of students in secondary classes, far behind much poorer States like Jharkhand (50.7%), Chhattisgarh (51.2%), Bihar (50.1%) and even Uttar Pradesh (45.4%).

Another important factor is the presence of women teachers. An adviser on child rights to a State government which has made progress in enrolment says the areas with low enrolment are mostly those with primary schools employing only one or two teachers. "If a school has only a male teacher, parents are not comfortable sending their daughters there," he said.

Transport to and from school can also be a barrier, and free bus passes for schoolgirls in States like Haryana, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, as well as schemes to give free cycles to girls in Bihar and other States have improved enrolment, though it did not work as well in Rajasthan. Sanitation issues remain a major obstacle for girls education in higher classes, especially after puberty, and may cause a large number of dropouts after Class 8. Though the Union and State governments have funded the construction of washrooms in schools, there is no funding for cleaning and maintenance, which is often left to lax local bodies.

**What is the next challenge?**

A number of States have successfully closed the gender gap in higher classes, to the extent that there are worries about boys dropping out before completing school. In West Bengal for instance, girls make up 55.7% of higher secondary students, and there are similar situations in Chhattisgarh (53.1%) and Tamil Nadu (51.2%). The State government adviser notes that this could partly be attributed to the Right to Education Act stipulating that students cannot be failed till Class 8. "Girls who make it to Class 9 are usually interested in studying, but some boys who make it to the secondary level and then fail simply drop out. There may also be higher pressure on poorer boys to earn a living," he says, warning that boys must not be allowed to slip through the cracks.

At the college level, although the female GER is higher than the male GER, the picture changes when looking at regional and discipline-wise data. For instance, women students make up only 42.5% of those enrolled in STEM subjects from undergraduate to Ph.D levels, and the challenge lies in encouraging more girls to opt for these disciplines. Adult literacy is also still a matter of concern, with only 64.63% of women who are literate, in comparison to 80.88% of men, according to the last Census data from 2011. This calls for steps to improve foundational literacy in schools as well as to take education to rural women to close the gender gap.

would lapse after 10 years. The court held that the law violates fundamental rights and that it is beyond the State Assembly's purview to legislate on the issue. It said such enactments would result in States putting up "artificial walls" throughout the country.

The Jharkhand Definition of Local Persons and for Extending the Consequential Social, Cultural and Other Benefits to such Local Persons Bill was passed in 2022. Jharkhand Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan returned the Bill with comments to the effect that providing for 100% reservation for locals in Class III and Class IV employment opportunities may be unconstitutional. The Hemant Soren government, however, got it re-enacted in the Assembly in December 2023.

**What are the constitutional issues that arise?**

In broad terms, these issues arise from the absence of any provision in the Constitution for private sector job reservation, the absence of legislative power in State Assemblies to prescribe residential criteria for employment, the constitutional guarantee of freedom from discrimination on grounds of place of birth or residence and the fundamental right to practise any profession, or carry on any occupation, trade or business.

Article 16 lays down that there shall be equality of opportunity in public employment. It prohibits discrimination on grounds of race, religion, caste, sex, descent, place of birth or residence with respect to any employment or office under the state.

Article 16(3) allows Parliament to make any law prescribing a requirement as to residence within a State or Union Territory prior to employment or appointment to a public office in that State or Union Territory. Article 35(a) says Parliament alone, and not any State legislature, will have the power to enact such a law as to a residential requirement.

Another constitutional issue is the effect local quotas have on the freedom of movement of citizens throughout the territory of India, guaranteed by Article 19(1)(d). Any curbs on people belonging to one State to seek employment in another will inevitably impinge on their right to reside and settle in another State, enshrined in Article 19(1)(e).

As far as individuals are concerned, the restriction on hiring people of their choice may violate their right under Article 19(1)(g) to carry on any occupation, trade or business.



At an impasse: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddharamaiah speaks at a press conference in Belagavi. P. K. BADIGER

# PROFILES

## Trump's heir apparent

J.D. Vance

The 39-year-old Republican candidate for U.S. Vice President, hailing from a working class family in America's Rust Belt, has emerged as an ideologue and champion of Donald Trump's right-wing nationalist movement

Varghese K. George

Millions have lived the life of precarity that J.D. Vance was born into in 1984 but rarely has the story of hillbillies – a pejorative reference to unsophisticated rural white population – been told like he did in his memoir published when he was all of 31, in 2016.

Mr. Vance, now the Republican candidate for U.S. Vice President, “grew up poor, in the ‘Rust Belt’, in an Ohio steel town that has been hemorrhaging jobs and hope,” he recounts in *Hillbilly Elegy*, a book that Barack Obama would recommend to understand the social upheaval in the U.S. by 2016, which was partly the result of his own ascent to the highest office in the country. Hillbillies were earlier labourers, sharecroppers, coalminers, and factory workers in later decades. “Americans call them hillbillies, rednecks, or white trash. I call them neighbors, friends, and family,” Mr. Vance writes.

They were once the backbone of U.S. manufacturing and largely supported the Democratic Party. As finance and technology sectors in New York and California, respectively, became the two poles of the U.S. strategy and economy, the factories in the Midwest, comprising States such as Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, shuttered and rusted; and the people there fell into despair and addiction.

Their link to the national life of America was increasingly limited to enlisting as soldiers for global wars that they grew to detest. In the run-up to the 2016 presidential election, their plight found a voice in national politics as Donald J. Trump and Bernie Sanders questioned the shared orthodoxy in the Republican and Democratic parties, respectively, on trade and war. Mr. Trump could turn the white working class grievance into anger and win the Presidency, but he barely knew the life of the dispossessed Americans that he was claiming to represent.

Mr. Vance lived all parts of that life, and managed to climb the pinnacle of elite education in the U.S., graduating

from the Yale Law School in 2013. From 2003 to 2007, he served in the U.S. Marines, of which six months were in Iraq, in a war which he considers needless. Earlier in his life, Mr. Vance barely managed to avoid the fall into the abyss of addiction that surrounded him. Even today, on and off, he gets a call announcing the death due to overdosing of someone he knew.

Mr. Vance credits his survival to his tough grandmother – ‘mamaw’ as he called her – and his growth to a strong Christian inspiration. He could not “squander God-given talent,” and hence “had to work hard”. “I had to take care of my family because Christian duty demanded it. I needed to forgive, not just for my mother’s sake but for my own. I should never despair, for God had a plan,” he writes. His life is about what he escaped, as much as what he made of it – a remarkable one that fits into the stereotype of American Dream. He is white America’s answer to Barack Obama. He resented Mr. Obama and was inspired by him. He “gave me hope that a boy who grew up like me could still achieve the most important of my dreams,” Mr. Vance wrote in 2016. Mr. Vance’s portrayal of his life as a member of the rural hill people and the working class has been questioned by various scholars and from different perspectives – which in progressive lexicon could be termed gaslighting. His book sold three million copies and was turned into a film. In the book and interviews, Mr. Vance comes across as a deeply reflective person, who honestly confronts the decadence, anger, frustration, and alienation, in his community and even himself, without judgement or bitterness.

### Grandmother’s influence

Mr. Vance’s single mother had many love interests, and her addiction led him going into the care of his grandmother – a tough woman who read her Bible and feared her God, generally despised the church, liberally used the F word, and loved her guns. The grandmother was born in Jackson, Kentucky, and the family moved to Ohio for work. Young Vance



ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

would accompany mamaw during her visits to Kentucky. He still owns a cemetery plot in Kentucky where five generations of his ancestors were laid to rest, and that hillside is what Mr. Vance calls home. “I and Usha (his wife who is of Indian-origin) will be laid to rest by our children in that same place,” he said, accepting the Republican nomination.

“America is not merely an idea, though it is founded on strong ideas. It is home for us. Nobody fights for an abstract idea. But everyone fights for their home,” Mr. Vance, now a strong champion of American nationalism,

told the Republican convention in Milwaukee in Wisconsin. Wisconsin, Ohio, Detroit and Pennsylvania, where Mr. Trump was nearly killed by an assassin on July 13, are key swing States that determined the outcomes of the 2016 and 2020 presidential contests by narrow margins. With Mr. Vance on his side, Mr. Trump hopes to turn it all his side this time around. “You are going to enjoy this ride,” Mr. Trump addressed Mr. Vance in his closing speech at the Convention.

Mr. Vance’s current political positions might be rooted in the life that he remembers. His grandmother

had 19 loaded guns in her home when she died in 2005, one within reach wherever she stood. “That’s the American spirit,” Mr. Vance said in his acceptance speech. In her youth, the grandmother shot and nearly killed a thief who tried to steal a cow – a prized possession of the family. “There is nothing lower than the poor stealing from the poor,” she would tell Mr. Vance later.

### Against illegal immigration

Mr. Vance argues that illegal immigrants are threatening the lives and livelihoods of the poorest Americans. He argues that new entrants into the community should be admitted on the terms of the current members – like the parents of Usha who immigrated from India. Mr. Vance is an opponent of abortion, and he will be questioned on this issue by the Democrats who hope to make it a key campaign issue. The VP candidate is a critic of U.S. aid to Ukraine, and aid in general though he strongly supports aid to Israel. He thinks the U.S. strategy should focus on Asia and China, and bother less about Europe and Russia.

The white world of Vance was very distant from the world of ‘white privilege’ that is often skewered in diversity discourses. Mr. Vance’s initiation into high society routed through Yale and was aided by Usha.

As the story goes, elite law firms would test the social skills of candidates before making an offer, often at a dinner setting. Mr. Vance, for the first time in life, had to make choices about wines, and figure out what to do with multiple spoons, knives and forks on the table. In panic, he ran to the restroom and called Usha – his “spirit guide.”

Mr. Vance landed the job, and now, he connects the world of wealth and privilege with that of the countryside. He counts Peter Thiel and Eric Schmidt among his backers. Mr. Vance believes communities cannot be rejuvenated by financial support alone, but they need leadership and organisation. Regardless of the election outcome, J.D. Vance is set to be a central figure in U.S. politics in the coming decade.

### THE GIST

Vance’s single mother’s addiction problem led him into the care of his grandmother – a tough woman who read her Bible and feared her God

Vance lived all parts of a tough life, and managed to climb the pinnacle of elite education in the U.S., graduating from the Yale Law School in 2013

He is a critic of U.S. aid to Ukraine, and aid in general though he strongly supports aid to Israel; he thinks the U.S. strategy should focus on Asia and China, and bother less about Europe and Russia

## A digital storm

### CrowdStrike

The U.S.-based company says a defect found in a content update of Falcon, its security platform, was what caused the global digital outage

Sahana Venugopal

“Yesterday, CrowdStrike released an update that began impacting IT systems globally. We are aware of this issue and are working closely with CrowdStrike and across the industry to provide customers technical guidance and support to safely bring their systems back online,” posted Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella on X on July 19.

The statement did not capture the hours of global chaos, fear, and frustration that preceded his words. That day, airports in India switched to giving stranded flyers hand-written boarding passes while airlines in the U.S. grounded flights. Shoppers in Australia could not carry out digital payments and U.K. hospitals had to cancel patient appointments. The outage also affected thousands of everyday users who rely on Windows or other Microsoft offerings.

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team, CERT-In, issued a severity rating of ‘Critical’ for the incident. In the U.S., the White House said President Joe Biden was briefed about the situation.

At the centre of this digital mayhem was CrowdStrike, a U.S.-based cybersecurity company. Its CEO George Kurtz announced



later a defect was found in a Falcon content update for Windows hosts, meaning Mac and Linux hosts were not affected during the outage. Falcon is CrowdStrike’s security platform. The company “quickly identified the issue and deployed a fix”.

### Outage to outrage

The CrowdStrike CEO stressed that the incident was not a cyberattack as many had feared, though he warned that “adversaries and bad actors” could still try to exploit the incident.

While most might think of scammers impersonating CrowdStrike company officials, the incident was instead exploited for political gain. Users on X quickly found CrowdStrike’s pro-diversity messaging and its recent posts celebrating the LGBTQ+ community. Many replied with homophobic and racist comments, blaming the IT outage on the company’s DEI (Diversity, equity, and in-

clusion) policies. Some users also posted anti-Semitic abuse targeting Mr. Kurtz.

Founded in 2011 by Mr. Kurtz, Dmitri Alperovitch, and Gregg Marston, the company is based in Austin, Texas, and provides cybersecurity solutions across areas such as generative AI workflows, data protection, endpoint security, threat intelligence, real-life simulation exercises, and cloud security. Mr. Kurtz has held significant positions at McAfee.

On June 24, CrowdStrike said it will be added to the S&P 500 Index. The company has around 8,000 employees and operations in over 170 countries. CrowdStrike has worked with Intel, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Target, Amazon, Google, and the U.S. government.

In May, CrowdStrike announced the launch of its Falcon for Defender offering, supporting Microsoft’s Defender deployments, so that it could hunt the threats missed by Micro-

soft’s own security solution.

“CrowdStrike’s proven AI-powered detections, enriched with industry-leading threat intelligence, identifies the threats that Microsoft Defender misses,” said CrowdStrike at the time, noting that Falcon for Defender would deploy without reboots and would run “silently” along with Microsoft.

Despite the partnership, CrowdStrike markets itself aggressively and does not shy away from pitting itself against rivals – including Microsoft. On the company’s website, CrowdStrike says, “Microsoft’s security products can’t even protect Microsoft. How can they protect you?”

On July 19, CrowdStrike shares fell by more than 10%, but the company is still up by 100% compared to this time last year. For the quarter ending April 30, 2024, it announced a total revenue of around \$921 million.

On the CrowdStrike website, Mr. Kurtz apologised to customers and partners, but only after users criticised the absence of a public apology during the early hours of the outage.

Others question whether too many critical companies, sensitive organisations, and governments are delegating their security and operational needs to too few providers.

## Spring of the patriarch

### Paul Kagame

The Rwandan leader, known for both his economic modernisation drive and repressive policies at home, won a fourth term in power with ‘99%’ votes

Priyali Prakash

Paul Kagame, the President of Rwanda, won his fourth term as the leader of the country with more than 99% votes last week. The outcome of the election was never in doubt. Mr. Kagame, 66, beat his own previous record of 98.79% votes, which he polled seven years ago, to continue his three-decades long rule of Rwanda.

“The results that have been presented indicate a very high score, these are not just figures, even if it was 100%, these are not just numbers. These figures show trust, and that is what is most important,” he said after the election.

Even though Mr. Kagame became the President of Rwanda in 2000, he was the country’s de facto leader since 1994, as its Vice President and Defence Minister. Mr. Kagame is widely recognised for ending a genocide in Rwanda in 1994, in which around 8,00,000 people were killed by government-backed extremists.

Rwanda was already in the clutches of a civil war when a plane carrying the then-President, Juvénal Habyarimana, was shot down over capital Kigali in 1994.

Habyarimana belonged to the majority Hutu community, and Tutsi rebels were blamed for killing



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

him. Hutu extremists killed Tutsis across the country for months.

After months of violence, Mr. Kagame’s Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), which was founded in 1988 in Uganda, played a key role in ending the genocide.

### Economic development

As the de facto leader since 1994, Mr. Kagame has championed economic development in Rwanda. One of the areas where the East African country has made remarkable progress under Mr. Kagame is the healthcare sector. Mr. Kagame is often credited for improving the standards of the country’s medical sector. His administration has emphasised building community-based healthcare services to reduce the “walking time” to the nearest health centres. The walk that previously took an average of 95 minutes was reduced to 47 minutes in 2020, the World Health Organisation noted.

Mr. Kagame also oversaw faster economic growth. Rwanda’s economy grew by 7.6% in the first three quarters of 2023, according to the World Bank, even though efforts towards poverty reduction had mixed results.

Through the Rwanda Education Quality Improvement Programme, the Kagame regime aims to improve learning among students. “The future of billions of children and young people across the world depends on overcoming the challenges of inclusion and quality of instruction, particularly as we recover from the pandemic,” Mr. Kagame said at the 77th UN General Assembly in 2022. Focal points of his government’s educational initiatives include digital literacy for all by 2035, and for Rwanda to become a high-income country by 2050.

The focus on economic development is only one side of the story. Critics accuse Mr. Kagame of being a

ruthless dictator. In 2015, Rwanda amended its Constitution to allow Mr. Kagame to extend his rule by a seven-year term that started in 2017, followed by two more five-year terms.

A major blot on Mr. Kagame’s term was the blame for the death of Patrick Karegeya, who was Rwanda’s former chief of external intelligence. He was found dead in a hotel room in Johannesburg on January 1, 2014. He had fled to South Africa in 2008 after falling out of favour with Mr. Kagame’s regime and had helped found the Rwanda National Congress, an opposition group in exile.

Reporters Without Borders calls Mr. Kagame a “predator” and says that even three decades after the genocide ended, “censorship continues, and self-censorship has become the rule, for those who want to avoid becoming government targets”.

Mr. Kagame’s alleged autocratic policies, however, do not take away from his seemingly positive imagery at international platforms. He is the current chairperson of the Commonwealth. He headed the African Union from 2018 to 2019, and the East African Community from 2018 to 2021. Rwanda also has significant female representation in Parliament, with 61.3% women in the Chamber of Deputies and 37.4% in the Senate.

**DEIR AL-BALAH**

**13 Palestinians, including three children, killed in central Gaza**



REUTERS

At least 13 people were killed in three Israeli air strikes that hit refugee camps in central Gaza overnight into Saturday, according to Palestinian health officials. Among the dead in Nuseirat Refugee Camp and Bureij Refugee Camp were three children and one woman, according to Palestinian ambulance teams. AP

**CAIRO**

**Israeli jets strike Houthi targets in Yemen 'in response to attacks'**



AFF

The Israeli military said on Saturday that its fighter jets struck Houthi military targets in the area of Hodeidah port in Yemen in response to hundreds of attacks carried out against Israel in recent months. Al-Masirah TV reported that the strikes were directed against oil facilities in the port and caused fatalities. REUTERS

**NICOSIA**

**Turkiye's Erdogan says 'no benefit' in resuming UN-led Cyprus talks**



AFF

Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in northern Cyprus on Saturday, 50 years after Turkish forces invaded, said he sees no point in continuing UN-led negotiations on the Mediterranean island's future. He added that Turkish Cypriots should sit "as equals" with their Greek Cypriot counterparts. AFP

**TAIPEI**

**12 dead and dozens missing after a highway bridge in China crumbles**



AP

Chinese authorities say at least 12 people have died and 30 are missing in the partial collapse of a highway bridge in the northwest of the country following heavy storms and flooding. A similar number are missing in the southwest after dozens of houses were destroyed by storms. AP

**Trump speaks with Zelenskyy, says he will bring 'peace to the world'**

Both Russia and Ukraine 'will be able to come together and negotiate a deal that ends the violence and paves a path to prosperity,' says the Republican presidential candidate; U.S. has provided aid worth billions to Ukraine since the war began

Agence France-Presse  
WASHINGTON

U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said on Friday he had spoken by telephone with Ukraine leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and pledged to end the European country's war with Russia.

"I appreciate President Zelenskyy for reaching out because I, as your next President of the United States, will bring peace to the world and end the war that has cost so many lives and devastated countless innocent families," Mr. Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform.



Unknown plan: Donald Trump has repeatedly claimed he would end the war very quickly, without offering details. AP

"Both sides will be able to come together and negotiate a deal that ends the violence and paves a path forward to prosperity." The United States has

provided tens of billions of dollars in military assistance for Kyiv since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 — though a

Trump victory in the November election would put Washington's continued support into question.

Mr. Zelenskyy confirmed the call, during which he congratulated Mr. Trump on formally becoming the Republican Party's presidential nominee, as well as wishing the 78-year-old well after an attempt on his life.

"We agreed with President Trump to discuss at a personal meeting what steps can make peace fair and truly lasting," Mr. Zelenskyy said in a post on X. "I noted the vital bipartisan and bicameral American support for protecting our nation's freedom and

independence," he said.

Mr. Trump has repeatedly claimed he would end the war very quickly, without offering details as to how. Mr. Trump's frequent praise for Mr. Putin and reluctance to outright criticise the Russian invasion have stirred concerns among Ukraine's allies that he would force the country into accepting partial defeat.

He has also repeatedly suggested backing away from NATO, even undermining the alliance's collective defence guarantee by saying he would encourage Russia to attack any members who had not met their financial obligations.

**6 dead, 3 injured as Russia continues Ukraine strikes**

Associated Press  
KYIV

At least two people were killed and three more injured after a Russian missile strike on infrastructure in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region, said Governor Oleh Syniehubov said on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian officials confirmed that the death toll following a Russian strike on Friday on the city of Mykolaiv, had risen to four. A child was among the victims, said the city's mayor, Oleksandr Sienkevych.

Writing about the Mykolaiv strike on social media, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that a projectile had hit a playground next to an apartment block. "Russia proves every day with its terror



Pillars of smoke rise over a tree line in a field in the Kharkiv region, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine. REUTERS

that 'pressure' is not enough," he said. "This destruction of life must be stopped. We need new solutions to support our defences. Russia must feel the power of the world."

Ukraine's Air Force said on Saturday that Russia had launched four missiles and 17 drones overnight, of which 13 drones had been shot down.

The attacks have left

thousands of people without power or running water in the Poltava region of central Ukraine, Governor Filip Pronin said. Russia has continuously targeted Ukraine's energy infrastructure, leading to blackouts across the country.

The latest targets are the mining town of Toretsk and the city of Pokrovsk, where Russia is stepping up its assaults.

**EU West Asia envoy to push for two-state solution**

Agence France-Presse  
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's stubborn opposition to a Palestinian state does not deter the European Union's West Asia peace envoy from believing a two-state solution remains achievable.

Sven Koopmans, in an interview, said with the Gaza war ongoing and Israel needing international support, Mr. Netanyahu's government cannot indefinitely disregard European views on resolving the conflict.

"I think that recently he was very explicit about rejecting the two-state solution," Mr. Koopmans said.

The Dutch diplomat said one side's rejection of "the outcome that we believe is necessary" does not mean efforts to seek a solution should cease.

**Probe sought into reporter's death in Bangladesh unrest**

The Hindu Bureau  
GUWAHATI

A global media safety and rights body has sought a fair probe into the circumstances that led to the death of Hasan Mehedi, a digital media reporter, during the violent students' protest in Bangladesh on July 18.

In a statement issued on Friday night, the Press Emblem Campaign (PEC) said the 35-year-old Mehedi, who worked for Bangla portal Dhaka Times, was killed while covering the clashes between the agitating students and security forces in the Jatrabari area of Dhaka.

The Dhaka Times management confirmed that he died from a bullet injury in the head.

Mehedi was the 72nd journalist killed across the world since January 1.

"We demand a fair probe into the incident



Hasan Mehedi

that led to Mehedi's killing. As the populous country burns with anti-reservation protests by the youth, the authorities must take precautions to safeguard the media persons on the ground," PEC president Blaise Lempem said.

**Adverse situation** "The journalists in Bangladesh continue to work in an adverse situation because of many laws formulated by Dhaka in recent years. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina must look into the matter seriously

and adequately compensate the bereaved family as early as possible," he said.

Nava Thakuria, the Guwahati-based South Asia representative of PEC, said many Bangla media outlets remained unresponsive since Thursday when the country witnessed massive protests by the student community.

Mehedi was the first journalist to be killed this year in Bangladesh. Its neighbour Myanmar lost a scribe — Ko Myat Thu Tun — to military atrocities during this period.

India witnessed the killing of two journalists, Shivshankar Jha and Ashutosh Shrivastava. Pakistan lost eight journalists — Hassan Zaib, Khalil Afridi Jibran, Nasrullah Gadani, Kamran Dawar, Mehar Ashfaq Siyal, Maulana Mohammad Siddique Mengal, Jam Saghir Ahmad Lar, and Tahira Nosheen Rana — to assailants this year.

**Myanmar's civil war sees a devastating increase in attacks on schools, report finds**

Associated Press  
BANGKOK

An intensification of fighting in Myanmar's civil war has brought a sharp increase in destructive attacks on schools, a group that monitors armed conflict in the Southeast Asian nation said in a report on Saturday.

Myanmar Witness said the attacks have further strained Myanmar's already fractured school system, taking away education for millions of children who have also been forced

to flee their homes, miss vaccinations and suffer from inadequate nutrition.

The group, a project of the United Kingdom-based Centre for Information Resilience, identified a total of 174 attacks on Myanmar schools and universities since the military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi three years ago. It said the count came from evidence in social media and news reports.

Other groups have suggested higher numbers of attacks. The Global Coali-

**The group puts most of the responsibility for the destruction of schools on air strikes by Myanmar military**

tion to Protect Education from Attack, an advocacy group based in New York, counted over 245 reports of attacks on schools and 190 reports of military use of educational facilities in 2022-23.

The 2021 military takeover was met with widespread non-violent demon-

strations for democracy, but those were crushed with lethal force.

Myanmar Witness put most of the responsibility for the destruction of schools on air strikes conducted by the Myanmar military.

The military government has consistently denied targeting civilians or using disproportionate force.

The report said resistance forces also have attacked schools, but much less frequently and less destructively.

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कार्यालय अभियंता का कार्यालय  
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, जामताड़ा  
शुद्धि-पत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के अति-अल्पकालीन ई0-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0 -RDD/SD/JAMTARA/2/2024-25, PR-328819, Rural Department (23-24)D में दैनिक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशन के अनुसार ही निविदा डाला जाए। निविदा की अन्य शेष शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगे।

ह0/-  
कार्यालय अभियंता  
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल,  
जामताड़ा।  
PR.NO.330130 Rural Development(24-25):D

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Email: dycmmgkpd@gmail.com  
Website: www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in & www.tenders.gov.in

**Tender Notice No.-06, Dt. 17-07-2024**

**Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement System**

Dy. Chief Material Manager, North Eastern Railway/Gorakhpur and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on website www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in & www.tenders.gov.in

Sr. No.-1, Tender No. & Due date: 10247387 Open on 01-08-2024, Brief Description of stores: Friction Snubber Assembly with Top and Bottom etc. Qty. Required: 1600 Nos., Earnest Money (Rs.): ₹ 2,11,080/-, Sr. No.-2, Tender No. & Due date: 10247386 Open on 05-08-2024, Brief Description of stores: Bogie Frame Arrangement for EMU/Traitor Coaches etc. Qty. Required: 12 Nos., Earnest Money (Rs.): ₹ 87,950/-, (1) Above tenders are available on IREPS site i.e. http://www.ireps.gov.in, the firm desirous in participating against e-tender are advised to electronically register. Themselves on the above website for which they would require to obtain class-III digital certificate (if already not obtain) from certifying agencies authorized under govt. of India IT Act, 2000. Manual offers will not be accepted. (2) Advertised tender and bulletin tenders of Dy.CMM/Depot Office/NER are being opened through EPS (E-Procurement System) only. Firms desiring to participate in Dy. CMM/Depot. Tenders should obtain necessary digital certificate and get themselves registered with CRIS/New Delhi. Necessary details in this regard can be obtained from the website http://www.ireps.gov.in (3) In case of difference between English and Hindi version of the tender notice the English version shall prevail. (4) Head of allocation towards, SD Money in 00844517 & Earnest Money is 00084506. (5) The Tender Cost & EMD will be accepted through on-Line payment on IREPS portal only for the tender Published on or after 01-09-2016 against all the Dy CMM/depot/NER/GKP tenders except Global tender.

Dy. Chief Material Manager/  
CPRO/S-42  
Depot, Gorakhpur

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

**OFFICE OF THE RANCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, RANCHI (ENGINEERING SECTION)**  
KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, PIN - 834001 e-mail :- support@ranchimunicipal.com

**LETTER No:-197/Eng DATED:-19-07-2024**

**e-Procurement Notice**

- Name of Tender Inviting Officer :- Chief Engineer, RMC, Ranchi
- Date of Publication of Tender on Website :- 24-07-2024
- Bid Submission Start Date :- 24-07-2024
- Bid Submission End Date :- 13-08-2024 Up to 5:00 PM
- Date/Time of Opening bid :- 14-08-2024 Up to 12:30 PM
- Helpline number :- 9279239910/9430763688

Sl. No.	Ward No.	Name of the Work	Approximate value of work (Rs)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document (Rs.)	Period of completion
01	RMC	Development of Rotary Park Near Bara Talab at Ranchi.	2,47,13,981.81	4,95,000	11,800	270 Days

❖ Tender Fee and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is to be paid through online mode as per instruction of IT Dept., Govt of Jharkhand Letter No- 120 Dated-03-10-2023 and UDHD Gov. Of Jharkhand Letter No- 4847 Dated- 11-10-2023.

Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Ranchi Municipal Corporation, Ranchi  
PR.NO.330127 Ranchi Municipal Corporation(24-25):D

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
ASSAM, GUWAHATI

No. CE/CC/WR/NIT/2019-20/1003/235

**E-Procurement Notice**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI) (CONSULTING SERVICES-CONSULTING FIRM SELECTION)**

Name of Project : Assam Integrated River Basin Management Program (AIRBMP)  
E-Tender reference no : WRD HIU CS8 WRAMS  
Assignment Title : Design, Development, Operation, and Maintenance of a Water Resources Asset Management System (WRAMS) for river basins of Assam with specific data population for Beki, Buridihing, and Jiadhul sub-basins under Assam Integrated River Basin Management Program (AIRBMP) of the World Bank.

Estimated amount : INR 9.01 Cr (Approx.)

The State of Assam through Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Assam Integrated River Basin Management Program (AIRBMP) Project. Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam (FREMAA) is the Project Management Unit (PMU) with Water Resources Department (WRD) and Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) as the Project Implementing Units (PIU).

Under the project, Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Assam invites Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) through National Open Competitive process from eligible Firms/Agencies for the aforesaid assignment. Complete documents of the REOI shall be available on the websites https://assamtenders.gov.in and project website www.fremaa.assam.gov.in. Intending bidders are required to register at e-tender portal of the Assam Govt. https://assamtenders.gov.in and participate through e-tender portal only.

The last date and time for online submission of Expression of Interest (Eoi) is on or before 20 August 2024 at 14:00 HRS (IST).

Any Addendum/Corrigendum to the REOI will be uploaded in the https://assamtenders.gov.in only.

Chief Engineer,  
Water Resources Department  
Guwahati-29, Assam

Janasanyog/C/1513/24/21-Jul-24

## ON SONG

## Thailand gets the better of Malaysia in a low-scoring match



X@ACCMEDIA1

Thailand beat Malaysia by 22 runs in the Women's T20 Asia Cup 2024 Group B match in Dambulla on Saturday.

**The scores:** Thailand 133/6 in 20 overs (Koncharoenkai 40, Maya 29, Mahirah Ismail 3/16) bt Malaysia 111/8 in 20 overs (Julia 52, Kamchompu 2/20); **Toss:** Thailand; **PoM:** Koncharoenkai.

## NO SWEAT

## Sri Lanka defeats Bangladesh by seven wickets



X@ACCMEDIA1

Sri Lanka scored a seven-wicket win over Bangladesh in the women's Asia Cup on Saturday.

**The scores:** Bangladesh 111/8 in 20 overs (Sultana 48 n.o., Prabodhani 2/20, Priyadharshani 2/17) lost to Sri Lanka 114/3 in 17.1 overs (Vishmi Gunaratne 51). **Toss:** Bangladesh; **PoM:** Vishmi.

## ASSISTANT COACHES

## Nayar and ten Doeschate set to join Indian team in Sri Lanka



VIVEK BENDRE, PTI

Abhishek Nayar and Ryan ten Doeschate are set to join the support staff of newly appointed head coach Gautam Gambhir during India's white ball tour to Sri Lanka, starting from July 27. Nayar and Doeschate have worked closely with Gambhir at the Kolkata Knight Riders and are likely to come in as assistant coaches.

## ON A ROLL

## Pogacar clinches penultimate stage, Vingegaard second



AP

Overall leader Tadej Pogacar won the penultimate stage of the Tour de France on Saturday as defending champion Jonas Vingegaard came second. With just Sunday's concluding time trial to come, two-time champion Pogacar has a five minute 14-second lead over Vingegaard.

## India has semifinal spot in its sights as it takes on UAE

Harmanpreet's side would hope for a perfect game against lesser-fancied opponents; improved show from middle-order and Radha's form key ahead of the business end of the tournament

## ASIA CUP

Press Trust of India  
DAMBULLA

Dominant India will be eager to perfect its tactics further while warding off United Arab Emirates which also can push it firmly towards the semifinals of the women's Asia Cup here on Sunday.

Defending champion India's supremacy was evident in its facile seven-wicket victory over Pakistan on Saturday, and the UAE will require a giant-sized miracle to stop Harmanpreet Kaur's side.

India currently has two points and a Net Run Rate of +2.29, and a win over the Emirates will take it to four points, which will also have a positive reflection on its NRR.

There were excellent spells from Deepti Sharma and Renuka Singh against Pakistan, and their effort would have pleased the management to no limit.

They will hope that left-arm spinner Radha Yadav, who returned to the India fold during the home series against South Africa recently, too can join the wicket-takers' list on Sunday.

"It was a good spell and



Trump cards: Radha and Renuka will be important to India's chances in the competition. BCCI@INDIANCRICKETTEAM

there was some assistance from the weather as well. Of course, I could execute all the plans that I have been working on at nets," said Renuka in the post-match press meet.

The batters were ruthless in hunting down a non-challenging target with 35 balls to spare.

Openers Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana gave the team a flying start adding 85 runs in just 9.3 overs and the loss of three wickets from that position was a minor aberration.

The Asia Cup also presents India with an opportunity to prepare for the T20 World Cup to be held

in Bangladesh later this year.

Renuka said India is treating this event as a preparatory ground for the ICC showpiece.

In the day's second match, Pakistan will look to bounce back when it faces a tricky Nepal.

Match starts at 2 p.m. IST.

## Duckett, Brook help England take a sizeable lead against the West Indies

## WI IN ENGLAND

Reuters  
NOTTINGHAM

Ben Duckett and Harry Brook helped to turn a frustrating third morning at Trent Bridge into a 207-run lead for England against the West Indies in the second Test on Saturday.

England was made to work considerably hard.

A last-wicket stand of 71 between Joshua Da Silva and Shamar Joseph handed the tourists a 41-run lead, frustrating England as it failed to kill off a first innings that sprawled to 457.

England was still 34 behind when Zak Crawley



Attacking strokeplay: Brook took on the West Indies bowlers in an enterprising knock. REUTERS

was unluckily run out by a fingertip touch at the non-striker's end. But an enterprising knock of 76 from Duckett set England on the way to a stumps score of 248 for three.

Brook took over in the evening session, showcasing some wonderfully instinctive strokeplay as he racked up an unbeaten 71 and bossed a 108-run partnership with Joe Root (37

batting). Ollie Pope fired the starting pistol by sending five of his first 11 balls to the boundary, but it was Duckett who kept the bowlers on the back foot consistently.

Brook took his chance to shine, upper-cutting over the slips, threading the gaps behind square at will and taking a step down the ground to hammer Jason Holder.

Root was more sober but no less effective, peaking with a pair of immaculate cover drives.

**The scores:** England 416 and 248/3 in 51 overs (Duckett 76, Pope 51, Root 37 batting, Brook 71 batting) vs West Indies 457 in 111.5 overs (Brathwaite 48, Athanaze 82, Hodge 120, Da Silva 82, Joseph 33, Woakes 4/84).

## Norris on pole as McLaren locks out Hungarian Grand Prix front row

## FORMULA ONE

Agence France-Presse  
BUDAPEST

Lando Norris claimed pole for the Hungarian Grand Prix on Saturday ahead of Oscar Piastri as McLaren celebrated its first front row lock-out in over a decade.

Red Bull's three-time world champion Max Verstappen took third in quali-

fying to start Sunday's race on the second row with the Ferrari of Carlos Sainz for company.

## Perez crashes out

Verstappen's under pressure teammate Sergio Perez crashed out in the first session, triggering a red flag and increasing pressure on his job as the Dutch driver's number two at Red Bull.

Daniel Ricciardo, a form-

er winner at the circuit, produced a late flash of speed once Q1 resumed to top the times in his RB from Lewis Hamilton for Mercedes with the seven-time champion's teammate George Russell the big name absentee from Q2.

**Top five rows: Front:** Norris and Piastri; **Second:** Verstappen and Sainz Jr.; **Third:** Hamilton and Leclerc; **Fourth:** Alonso and Stroll; **Fifth:** Ricciardo and Tsunoda.

## Lowry pegged back as Horschel, Brown move into share of lead

## BRITISH OPEN

Agence France-Presse  
TROON

Shane Lowry saw a three-shot advantage slip away during his third round at the British Open on Saturday as American Billy Horschel and unheralded Englishman Daniel Brown moved into a share of the lead at six under.

Lowry, who claimed his sole Major victory at the 2019 British Open, began the day with a two-shot lead and stretched his advantage to three with a birdie at the par-five fourth.

However, he was the latest big name to fall foul of the 130-yard Postage Stamp eighth as he was pe-

nalised for finding a bunker off the tee with a double bogey five to drop back to six under.

Starting at two under, Horschel produced a sublime four-under 32 on the front nine thanks to birdies at four, six, seven and nine.

Brown continued to defy his lack of experience as the Major rookie made the turn at one under for the day as three birdies more than atoned for two dropped shots at the first and on the infamous Postage Stamp.

Behind the leaders, some of the star names to make the weekend are assembling.

Xander Schauffele closed to within two shots

of the lead, alongside Justin Rose at the midway point of their third rounds.

Two-time Major champion Justin Thomas and former Masters winner Adam Scott also impressed to move to level par.

One of the loudest cheers of the week so far was reserved for Si Woo Kim after the South Korean produced the first hole-in-one of the 152nd Open on the 17th that brought him back to five over for the tournament.

India's Shubhankar Sharma, who spent three hours waiting to find out whether or not he had made the cut, moved up the leaderboard with a 67.



Standout performers: Horschel produced a sublime four-under 32 on the front nine. Right: Kim made a hole-in-one at the 238-yard par-three 17th. REUTERS



## Paes, Amritraj and a walk down memory lane



One for the album: Paes poses with his memorabilia while Amritraj has a hearty laugh with his well-wishers. INTERNATIONAL TENNIS HALL OF FAME

## TENNIS

Avon Sengupta  
NEWPORT

It was a stroll down memory lane for Leander Paes as he, accompanied by his family, did a museum walk-through at the International Tennis Hall of Fame here.

Among Paes's memorabilia - which will be now in display here - is his most cherished possession - his 1996 Atlanta Olympics bronze medal.

"The main reason I started playing sport was to emulate my dad who won an Olympic (bronze) in Munich 1972) medal. My parents were there (in At-

lanta), and they mean the world to me. Both of my siblings gave up a lot for me. I am here because of all the love and support I got from so many people," said Paes, struggling to hold back his tears.

The Atlanta medal, won against Brazilian Fernando Meligne, catapulted Paes into Indian sports folklore. A country starved of success at the Olympics suddenly had a new hero who was not a cricketer.

His triumph made a generation of Indian athletes believe that they too could compete with the best. And since that historic medal, Indian has never returned from the Olympics emptyhanded.

Paes always wore his

heart on his sleeves on the tennis court; his emotion and courage as much part of his game as was his lightning quick reflexes at the net. That passion was magnified manifold when he played for India - be it the Davis Cup, Olympics or the Asian Games.

It was here for all to see as he spoke about Martina Navratilova, with whom he won two mixed doubles Grand Slams.

Navratilova and Paes's 2003 Wimbledon trophy is also on display.

Calling the 59-time Grand Slam winner his 'North Star', Leander said: "She has been my guiding light and has inspired me through longevity of lifestyle - diet, sleep, training

methods, recovery.

"I got a chance to play with her in 2003 and we won the Australian Open and Wimbledon. Playing with her was special as I grew up watching her play on black-and-white television in Kolkata.

"And then getting to know her as a person, to win Wimbledon together is special. She is not just a champion of tennis, but she is a champion of life."

The museum will also be the home of another Indian tennis legend. For Vijay Amritraj, inducted in the contributor category, sport has always been a way to unify the world.

"My parents were flying blind when we got into this sport. Never knew where it

was going to take us. I've often said that my greatest talent was being born to the right parents" Amritraj said.

"My biggest sadness, I would say, is them not being here with me.

"But it has been such a monumental task and effort on their part to get me into this situation and make something of me, which I never dreamt about."

The Hall of Fame, which received 30000 visitors a year, mostly during the enshrinement weekend in July will hope to see a rise in footfalls as it welcomed two of the greatest champions of the sports from the world's most populous nation.

**IN BRIEF**



**India archery, rowing teams check in at Games Village**

Gagan Narang, India's Chef-de-Mission for the Paris Olympics, said on Saturday that the archery and rowing contingents were the first from the country to check in at the Games Village. "I arrived here on Thursday night and have taken stock of the arrangements inside the Games Village for the Indian contingent," said Narang, the 2012 London bronze medalist shooter.

**Indian girls assured of last-eight spot**

India boys defeated Brazil 3-0 to top the three-team Group-F with a clean slate on Friday in the team event of World junior squash championships in Houston, and will meet Canada in the pre-quarterfinals. India girls beat Brazil and Australia by identical 3-0 margins to assure themselves of a quarterfinal berth and will play Hong Kong in their concluding Group D match.

**Indian results: Boys (Group-F): beat Brazil 3-0** (Yuvraj Wadhvani bt Caio Paiva 11-1, 11-4, 11-7; Shaurya Bawa bt Isaias Silva 12-10, 11-7, 6-11, 5-11, 11-8; Ayaan Vaziralli bt Lucas Carlson 11-4, 11-7, 11-6).

**Girls (Group-D): beat Brazil 3-0** (Nirupama Dubey bt Gabriella El-Masry 11-3, 11-2, 11-4; Anahat Singh bt Laura Da Silva 11-5, 11-2, 11-3; Unnati Tripathi bt Alix Borges 11-4, 11-5, 11-3); **beat Australia 3-0** (Shameena Riaz bt Emily Lamb 11-6, 11-13, 11-4, 11-3; Anahat bt Hannah Slyth 11-4, 11-1, 11-3; Nirupama bt Joanne Joseph 11-5, 11-3, 11-5).



**Nadal downs Ajdukovic, reaches Bastad Open final**

Rafael Nadal reached his first final since the 2022 French Open by rallying to beat Duje Ajdukovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Saturday at the clay-court Nordea Open in Bastad, Sweden.

**Shamrock claims feature event**

**BENGALURU:** S. Narredu trained Shamrock (Yash Narredu) won the Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (July 20). The winner is owned by Mr. M. Ravi, Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal & Mrs. R. Chellam.

**1. BEAUTIFUL BABE PLATE: CASTEEL (Suraj)** 1, The Leader (Trevor) 2, Wonderland (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Chhoti (J. Chino) 4. Not run: Martha. 1/2, 7/3/4 and 1-3/4. Im 26.23s. Rs. 18 (w), 11, 15 and 28 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 54, FP: 59, Q: 35, Trinella: 274, 2/1/4 and 7/1/4. Im 39.26s. Rs. 30 (w), 10, 10 and 20 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 35, FP: 51, Q: 17, Trinella: 260, Exacta: 405. Favourite: Monterio.

**2. LADY GIBRALTAR PLATE: BRAVE MAJESTY (Sandesh)** 1, Capri Girl (Sai Kiran) 2, Alice Blue (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Walvis Bay (Akshay K) 4. Not run: My Space. 2-1/2, 7/3/4 and 3. Im 14.57s. Rs. 21 (w), 10, 11 and 28 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 52, FP: 55, Q: 33, Trinella: 479, Exacta: 1,186. Favourite: Brave Majesty.

**Owner:** Dr. M.A.M Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust. **Trainer:** S. Ganapathy.

**3. MINISTERIAL PLATE: MANDARINO (Antony)** 1, Monterio (G. Vivek) 2, Rock Bank (Dhanu S) 3 and Verrazzano (Suraj) 4. Not run: Michiko. 3-1/4, 2/1/4 and 7/1/4. Im 39.26s. Rs. 30 (w), 10, 10 and 20 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 35, FP: 51, Q: 17, Trinella: 260, Exacta: 405. Favourite: Monterio.

**Owner:** Mr. Francis Arun Kumar, Mr. J. Ramesh & Mr. M.V. Balaji. **Trainer:** Irfan Ghata.

**4. VT. VELU MEMORIAL CUP: ELFIN KNIGHT (Trevor)** 1, Magnus (Neeraj) 2, Cape Wickham (S.J. Moulin) 3 and Roman Spirit (Tousif) 4. Not

**LIVE TELECAST**

**Women's Asia Cup:** India vs UAE, SS Select 1 & Hotstar, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
**TNPL:** Star Sports 1 & FanCode, 3.15 & 7.15 p.m.  
**England vs West Indies:** 2nd Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 3.30 p.m.  
**Formula One:** Hungarian GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 6.30 p.m.

**I want to compete freely and win the best tournament of my life: Tarundeep**

The 40-year-old archer, who is an integral part of the Paris-bound men's side, is focused on getting the process right in his fourth Olympics



**Y.B. Sarangi**  
KOLKATA



**Target in sight:** Tarundeep said he will not let the thought of winning a medal deter his attention. PTI

**A**t 40, archer Tarundeep Rai has emerged wiser after spending more than half of his life on the international circuit. On the verge of competing in his fourth Olympics, he understands the importance of not focusing on winning a medal.

Tarundeep - who made his Olympic debut in 2004 - is an unofficial mentor to his fellow India and Servic-

es teammates, B. Dhiraj and Pravin Jadhav, apart from being an integral part of the Paris-bound men's

side. In an individual sport, the trio works as a team. "It's not about an individual, it's about the

team," Tarundeep told *The Hindu*.

Years of wisdom tells him that focusing on the

process is essential. "We are working on getting the best version of ourselves that day. When the medal comes to the mind, then the problem starts somewhere. I have contacted many foreign athletes to know what they think and how they prepare.

"It is all about how you took the competition. Did you compete with medals in mind? Or did you want to show your best version there?"

Tarundeep, whose contemporaries have turned coaches, elaborates on his quest for an Olympic medal. "Getting a medal will be the ultimate satisfaction of my career.

"The mistakes I made, because of which I did not get the medal, whatever it is - be it stress, tension or thinking about the medal - I am not letting that happen this time.

"I tell myself that I don't

want to take a big mountain on my head. I want to compete freely and win the best tournament of my life, the best Olympics," said Tarundeep, ever thankful to his family members for their constant support.

**Momentum**

2024 has been a good calendar year for the three and they want to continue with the momentum.

"It has been the best year so far. In the beginning, we won the Asia Cup first-leg gold medal. In the World Cup Stage 1, we won the gold (beating powerhouse Korea). In the next two World Cup stages, we performed very well. We got good scores even though we could not win medals. We were able to achieve our goal. It is all a milestone for us. We are 100 per cent on the right track," asserted Tarundeep.

**Marquez succeeds Stimac as Indian men's team head coach**

**FOOTBALL**

**Amitabha Das Sharma**  
KOLKATA



**Hands full:** Marquez will continue to coach FC Goa simultaneously till the end of the season in 2025. FILE PHOTO: EMMANUEL YOGINI

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) named Manolo Marquez, the FC Goa gaffer, as the senior men's National side's head coach for the next three years.

The decision was made in the federation's executive committee meeting to find the next coach after the departure of Igor Stimac, whose contract was terminated after the Indian team failed to make it to the third round of the 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers.

Marquez's name was selected from a panel of 20 shortlisted candidates who had initially applied for the job. The seasoned Spanish coach was preferred for his knowledge of the Indian ecosystem.

Marquez is regarded as one of the best coaches in the ISL as he helped Hyderabad FC win the trophy in 2022 while playing a big role in developing Indian players, many of whom are now part of the National squad.

With the federation forced to economise owing to a financial crunch, the executive committee

tasked its president, Kalyan Chaubey, to negotiate the salary with Marquez.

While deciding on the appointment of Marquez for three years, the AIFF also accepted the option of allowing the Spaniard to coach FC Goa simultaneously till the end of the season in 2025.

"The AIFF, FC Goa, and Mr. Marquez will collaborate closely to ensure there is minimal impact between the two jobs and strive to achieve the best possible results for all involved," the AIFF president said in a statement.

The AIFF executive committee also decided to appoint the Kerala Football

Association secretary Anil Kumar Prabhakaran as the new secretary general of the AIFF.

This means that the acting general secretary M. Satyanarayan will be continuing in his previous role as the assistant secretary.

**Relegation put off**

The AIFF executive committee also decided to defer the relegation process in the Indian Super League by another Super.

According to the roadmap presented by AIFF to the Asian Football Confederation, the relegation process was supposed to start in the ISL by the 2024-25 season.

**Indumathi and Chhangte get AIFF Player of the Year Awards**

**Sports Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Indumathi Kathiresan and Lallianzuala Chhangte took home top honours while Khalid Jamil was recognised for his coaching credentials as the All India Football Federation (AIFF) held its annual awards after a gap of seven years on Friday night.

Apart from Chhangte and Indumathi, the other individual award winners were Khalid Jamil (Best Men's Coach), Sukla Dutta (Best Women's Coach), David Lalhlansanga (Promising Men's Player), Neha (Promising Women's Player), Ramachandran Venkatesh (Best Referee) and Ujjal Halder (Best Assistant Referee).

The 30-year old Indu-

mathi, named the Women's Player of the Year, is the first from Tamil Nadu to win the award. With back-to-back Indian Women's League titles with different clubs - Gokulam FC and Odisha FC - the midfielder has been key to the national team's performances as well over the past few years.

**On a roll**

Chhangte became only the fifth player to win the top award more than once after being named Player of the Year for the second straight time. The 2023-24 ISL winner scored 11 goals with assists for Mumbai City FC and was the highest scoring Indian in the ISL, besides scoring against Qatar during the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers in June.

Lalhlansanga and 18-year old Neha were named promising players of the year respectively while Jamil was recognised for leading Jamshedpur FC to its first-ever semifinal at the Kalinga Super Cup despite taking charge of the club only mid-season. The event was attended by Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and all AIFF officials among others.

**List of awardees: Player of the Year: Men:** Lallianzuala Chhangte; **Women:** Indumathi Kathiresan.

**Promising Player of the Year: Men:** David Lalhlansanga; **Women:** Neha.

**Coach of the Year: Men:** Khalid Jamil; **Women:** Sukla Dutta.

**Referee of the Year:** Ramachandran Venkatesh; **Assistant Referee of the Year:** Ujjal Halder.



**Recognition:** Indumathi receives her award from Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, right: Khalid was named the Men's Coach of the Year. AIFF

**NEW DELHI ROUND-UP**

**Ayush Badoni and Sanat Sangwan excel for Sonnet Club**

Man of the match Ayush Badoni took three wickets and Sanat Sangwan top-scored with 59 runs as Sonnet Club beat Food Corporation of India by two runs in the DDCA T20 League.

**The scores:** Sonnet Club 183/8 in 20 overs (Sanat Sangwan 59, Ayush Badoni 26, Swastik Chhikara 4/7) bt FCI 181/9 in 20 overs (Swastik Chhikara 77, Ayush Badoni 3/34). Madras Club 175/8 in 20 overs (Sarthak Ranjan 50, Vaibhav Kandpal 34, Mayank Rawat 2/23) lost to NK Khanna Club 177/3 in 18 overs (Mayank Rawat 103 n.o.). Gemini Club 190/3 in 15 overs (Akshay Kumar 61, Siddharth Singh 47, Tishant Dabla 44, Kamal Nagar 2/20) bt Young Friends Club 118/9 in 20 overs (Tanuj Panwar 43, Mayur Chauhan 3/18, Aryan Sharma 2/19). Telefonken Club 115/8 in 20 overs (Bharat Sindhwani 32, Vision Panchal 3/24, Manish

Sehrawat 2/14) lost to Sporting Club 119/6 in 16 overs (Lalit Yadav 46 n.o., Subhash Yadav 2/21). Delhi Colts 173/7 in 20 overs (Gaurav Gaur 58, Sumit Beniwal 41, Manjeet 3/33) bt Delhi Police 150/7 in 20 overs (Arun Kataria 67, Arun Kumar 2/8). Rani Bagh Club 146/8 in 20 overs (Harsh Kumar 50, Sanjay Kumar 39, Ujjwal Sharma 3/23) lost to Ekta Club 147/3 in 19 overs (Vivekash Rana 80, Harsh Pandey 2/35). Mount Club 173/6 in 20 overs (Pranav Rajvanshi 95) bt Radhey Shyam Club 100 in 18 overs (Mazy 35, Aman Singh 4/9, Saksham Gahlot 2/18). Essex Farms 62/9 in 8 overs (Aman Kumar 5/8, Sushil Gupta 3/16) lost to Delhi Administration 64/3 in 7 overs (Priyanshu Parashar 31). BSNL 113 in 18 overs (Shiv 27, Amit Yadav 3/24) lost to United India Club 114/5 in 15 overs (Amit Yadav 43, Sahil Sharma 41). Kashmere Gate Colts 216/5 in 20 overs (Priyanshu Bhardwaj 67, Gagan Vats 67, Suraj Prasad 3/26) bt RPCA 182/8 in 20 overs (Parth Bali 88, Harshit Sethi 5/9).

**Akhil cashes in on Pariat's mistake**

**MOTORSPORTS**

**Sports Bureau**  
CHENNAI

Akhil Agarwal was handed a victory in the marquee MRF Formula 2000 race following Jaden Pariat's disqualification in the third round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024 here on Saturday.

Pariat took the chequered flag but was penalised for a jump start and "failure to comply with a drive-through penalty". The penalty moved Akhil to P1, while Chetan Surinani and Tarun Muthaiah were placed second and third, respectively.

Meanwhile, starting from pole position, Biren Pithawala (Team NI Racing) enjoyed a trouble-free

run and was the lone finisher in Indian Touring Cars with rivals, Ananth Pithawala and Deepak Ravikumar, encountering mechanical issues. Neither was classified.

**Provisional results (winners only, all 8 laps unless mentioned): MRF F2000 (Race-1):** Akhil Agarwal (13mins, 04.066secs). **MRF F1600 (Race-1):** Abhay Mohan (13:52.487). **Indian Touring Cars (Race-1):** Biren Pithawala (Team NI Racing) (15:30.329). Note: Only one finisher. **Indian Junior Touring Cars (Race-1):** Hatim Shabbir (Team Performance Racing) (15:32.392). **Super Stock (Race-1):** Justin Singh (Redline Racing India) (16:41.923). **MRF Saloons (Toyota Etios) (Race-1):** Kesarra Godage (Redline Racing India) (16:34.736). **Polo Cup (Race-1):** Aditya Patnaik (15:30.830). **Formula LGB 1300 (Race-1):** Viswas Vijayaraj (DTS Racing) (15:04.786).

**Sahaja loses thriller in singles; makes the doubles final**

**TENNIS**

**Sports Bureau**

Sahaja Yamalapalli missed three match points and lost 5-7, 6-2, 7-6(6) to Iryna Shymanovich in the quarterfinals of the \$60,000 ITF women's tennis tournament at Evansville (USA). Sahaja led 5-3 in the third set, and later had three match points at 6-3 in the tie-breaker, but her opponent won the next five points to emerge victorious in a contest that lasted three hours and eight minutes. Sahaja, however, made the doubles final with Hiroko Kuwata of Japan.

Prarthana Thombare also made the doubles title clash of the \$60,000 event

in Portugal in partnership with Arianne Hartono.

**The results: \$742,350 ATP, Newport: Doubles: Semifinals:** Robert Cash & James Tracy (USA) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Arjun Kadhe 6-4, 6-3.

**\$15,000 ITF men, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand: Semifinals:** Jirat Navasirisomboon (Tha) bt Vishnu Vardhan 6-2, 6-4; **Doubles: Final:** Francis Alcantara (Phi) & Maximus Jones (Tha) bt Adil Kalyanpur & Vishnu 2-6, 7-5, [10-8].

**\$60,000 ITF women, Porto: Doubles: Semifinals:** Arianne Hartono (Ned) & Prarthana Thombare bt Evialina Laskevich & Ekaterina Yashina 6-7(6), 6-1, [10-5].

**\$60,000 ITF women, Evansville: Quarterfinals:** Iryna Shymanovich bt Sahaja Yamalapalli 5-7, 6-2, 7-6(6); **Doubles: Semifinals:** Hiroko Kuwata (Jpn) & Sahaja bt Sophie Chang & Catherine Harrison (USA) 6-4, 6-3.



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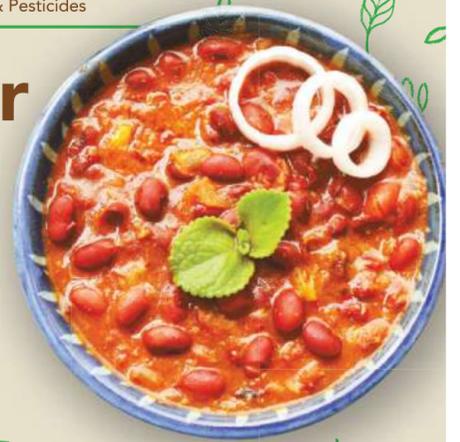


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**Grand entry:** An elephant enters the Sree Vadakkumnathan Temple premises to participate in the *Aanayoottu*.



**Setting the table:** Volunteers carry fruits to feed the elephants.



**Nourishing recipe:** A medicinal concoction for the elephants participating in the feast being prepared at the temple kitchen.

# All things huge: jumbos, feast and the crowd

The annual feeding of some 60 elephants organised by Sree Vadakkumnathan Temple in Thrissur of Kerala drew a massive crowd as usual



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**A** feast for the elephants, *Aanayoottu* in Malayalam, is a ritual meant to propitiate Lord Ganesha, who, according to Hindu belief, removes obstacles in one's life. Sree Vadakkumnathan Temple in Thrissur district of Kerala holds a mega *Aanayoottu* on the first day of the Malayalam month of *Karkkidakam* (mid-July to mid-August) every year, drawing a huge crowd of elephants and elephant lovers.

As many as 60 elephants from across the State participated in this year's feast held on July 16.

The event resembled a miniature Thrissur Pooram; the only difference was that the elephants lined up without any accoutrements.

The temple premises was packed to capacity. The heavy rain did not deter the audience. Perching on the shoulders of their parents, children were trying to get a glimpse of the elephants. People also had the chance to feed the elephants. The elephants were allowed for the ceremony after fitness tests by veterinary doctors

and officials of the Forest Department. Elephants in *musth* and those with a history of unruly behaviour were banned.

The eating marathon was kicked off after rituals. In no time, the elephants polished off 500 kg of rice, laced with ghee, jaggery and turmeric. They were also given fruit, sugar cane and specially prepared Ayurvedic medicine.

The jumbo feast at the temple started in 1982. The first time was for the elephants who participated in the parade during the opening ceremony of the Asian Games held in New Delhi that year, to help them regain their health after the long journey to the national capital and back and the parade duties. As many as 34 elephants were taken from various parts of Kerala to New Delhi on a train. The long journey made many of them sick and weak. The temple fed them nutritious food to nurse them back to health, a practice that has now become a tradition.

(Text: Mini Muringatheri)



**Crunchy buffet:** An assortment of fruits brought in crates for the jumbo feast.

