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LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

NORTH INDIAN Girl 30 Years Employed –Pursuing CA Parents settled in Chennai more than 30years Girl brought up and educated in Chennai knowing Tamil/English/ Hindi Seeks Alliance from a North/ South Indian Hindu Caste Family Bridegroom Preferably from Chennai Contact:: 9790724025

CHENNAI SETTLED RC parents seek alliance from Christian grooms for daughter 28, 159 cm; B.Tech., MS; employed in The Netherlands. Contact 9444072065

SEEKING ALLIANCE From Jehovahs Witnesses / Christians For Our US Returned 32/164 Daughter. +919962010999

DIVORCEE

DIVORCE THONDAI MANDALA Mudaliar Girl issueless Age 39, star poosam, B.Tech, M.B.A working as Manager in M.N.C at Tiruvallur. Seeks only same sect boy, well qualified and employed. Ct: 9381004883

ATTRACTIVE WIDOW 37, well–educated, talented, enterprising, family–oriented. Affluent S. Indian business family. Seeks compatible groom. Caste/lang. no bar. Call/WA 9345634365

BRIDE GROOM WANTED
Seeks Bride Groom (divorcee/widower) aged between 35-39 years (Engineer, Lecturer, Bank Officer) for Hindu Tamil Vanniyar 34 years Doctor MD DM Divorcee with Female Child, only daughter of doctor parents.
Parents of suitable and genuine person can send the horoscope with personal details.
Ct: 9043370040

DOCTOR

BALIJA NAIDU M.B.B.S Kettai, Viruchikam 27/167 fair good looking girl,Kanchipuram seeks Doctor (or) Professionally settled from Naidu families Contact: 9443380196, 9442202555

HINDU REDDY Fair, Slim PG Specialist Doctor 34/165 Cms in Private Practice from Elite Family. Seeks Suitable Never Married Groom From Elite Family CNB CT:8925640111

Fair, Cultured, Good Looking, Slim, Doctor Girl 36/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist. Doctor family, Father Keralite Nair Mother from Tamilnadu. Looking for Doctor groom or Engineer from respectable family.
98400 50381 / 98409 85383

PARENTS of Hindu Nair Girl MBBS(26 years, Chothi,163) presently doing internship in Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Medical College, Delhi seeks alliance from professionally qualified and well settled groom, preferably Doctors. Father's Contact no.9810196302.

ENGINEER

31 YEAR old girl, IIT Chennai graduate, belongs to SC from Kerala, Vishakam, working as scientist in Chennai, drawing Rs. 25 lakhs per year, seeking suitable alliance. Whatsapp to 9447763685

SEEKING QUALIFIED vegetarian brahmin groom Engineer, Doctor etc. working in India for beautiful brahmin bride very fair 1987 5'2" BTECH MBA Senior Software Consultant, mutually divorced (no child) , spiritual traditional from pure vegetarian Upper middle class family of Odisha (Father Retd Top executive, Sister doctor) Contact Parents: 8249215963

MALAYALAM

RC CHRISTIAN, 37yrs M.sc, M.tech, Asst professor, divorcee with daughter age 6, works in kerala seeks suitable groom age 38 to 42 divorcee/widower with or without children. Caste/ religion no bar. CT: 9443589787

HINDU NAIR lady 60/165, spinster entrepreneur seeks professional groom preferred doctor below 65 years. Excellent career and background. Call Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. 9810040319, 8547631691

HINDU NADAR girl, 32/169cm, Chothi, LLM Gazetted Officer seeks suitable groom. Contact: 8289842395.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, 31, MS, Private, 30 lakhs. 8137003550

CHRISTIAN, 31, MBA, 20 lakhs, Business. 8138801294

GOVT. DOCTOR (MD).38yrs,157cm Fair.Never married.Seeks Eng/Doc 38–40yrs.Never Married Christian Groom.India/abroad.Ct: 9940529886/ 9600573068

TAMIL MUSLIM Bride, 31/158, MCA., AVP-IT, 27L PA well settled family seeks Tamil speaking never married Groom with similar background. Ct: 9080501299.

LOOKING FOR Christian Bridegroom for the girl working in USA aged 26. End time message. 8939250457

TAMIL

ROMAN CATHOLIC, 28/155CM, fair slim pursuing MD Radiology seeks Groom. Preferably Doctor Contact: 94453 99103

CHRISTIAN, NRI, 29, Royal, 200 Crores. 8138900487

CHRISTIAN, 29, BE, 50 lakhs. 8137003550

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

CHRISTIAN NADAR Ht–165cm / 28yrs Fair Advocate in Chennai Prefer Doctor Email ID– itpleaseyou@gmail.com

HINDU, 26, NRI, Pillai, BE, 40 lakhs. 8138901189

HINDU, CASTE no bar, 40, ME, Engineer, 25 lakhs. 8138900412

HINDU, VIP, 23, Caste no bar, B.Arch, 200 crores, business. 7356483111

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR, 34/165, Mirugasim, Raghu Lagnam, PG (HR Manager, MNC) Seeks MS, M.Tech Groom 9176780777

CASTE NO Bar, 28yrs, B.Tech, Divorce, Affluent family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact:6385293227

BRIDEGROOM WANTED for a well–to–do hindu family's bride age 43, first marriage, degree–MSW, want from (FC, BC, MBC), working within India. CT: 9080359664.

VANNIYAR, 25YRS, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9962791888

HINDU SC pr 35 fair MSc BEd PGD-CM Private teacher 25000 pm seeks groom below 38 with govt job father DRO 9600966892.

HINDU SC Pr 39 fair MSc MPhil BEd govt PG Teacher 70000 pm divorced no child seeks groom below 42 with govt job father DRO 9790049517.

Hindu Valluvan girl 34/160 lawyer seeks doctor engineer scientist lawyer UK based groom. CNB. Ct: 9894053928.

HINDU VANNIYAR BE., MS, 176cm / 30 very Fair, Slim working in Australia, Seeks grooms working in Australia / USA or Canada. Contact: 98439 45395. 94436 76687.

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

VANNIER 27 MBBS Mph Fair Slim doing MRCS seeks PG Doctor UK/willing to relocate from Vannier Affluent Rich. Geetham 9884858014

HINDU NADAR girl, 30 yrs, 5'4", B.Tech, Working. Same Caste only. Call: 9940086376.

37,MCA,FAIR HASTHAM chennai seeks Pillai/Mudaliar professionaly Qulfd working Groom 9444136336/ 8220757159

SINGAPORIAN AERONAUTICAL Engineer Saiva Pillai Tamil Girl 23/173cm Magam Expecting Indian Base Singapore Working Tamil Groom from Vegetarian Caste. 88256 00084.

SC (AD), 27yrs,B.Tech, Working in Bangalore,Well educated Family Seeks suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

MUDALIAR 24, BE, MBA,160cm Good Looking Well Settled Family seeks Groom CNB Ct. 8778514465/ 7200866346

MUDALIAR (CNB) 25/Fair & Beautiful, B.E, MS (USA) Data science Associate, USA, well settled family, Seeks groom USA / Any abroad– 8925019776

VANNIYAKULA KSHTRIYA / Doctor/ PG/ Beautiful/ Fair/ 25 /167/ Chennai/ Rich Family seeks Well Educated and Well settled groom from suitable affluent noble family. 9840097530

BEAUTIFUL, CHEERFUL, 28, 165cm, well–educated (Master's), creative professional. Cultured, well–to–do Brahmin family. Seeks compatible, vegetarian groom. Call/WA 9345 634 365.

HINDU, 33, NRI, VIP, 100 crores, Caste no bar. 7356483111

HINDU, 32, MS, Chettiyar, VIP, NRI, 120 crores. 8138900316

HINDU, 35, divorced, Nadar, MBA, 20 crores. 8138900553

TVELLALAR GIRL 34/160cm, Rishabam Rasi Kirthigai, P.G, Employed Chennai. Ct: 94455 05491

NADAR 33/5'6" MBA working in Chennai Elite Family Seeks qualified Groom working in Cennai,CNB. 9962991979

LOOKING FOR a life partner from a family with both modern and traditional values for our daughter. She is a B.Tech (EEE), MBA(MM) graduate and currently pursuing German language. Residing in Vellore, Age (28 years), Height (175) , Fair and Good looking girl. Caste : Hindu Kuala /Udayar, Astrology details : Rasi–Mesham; Nakshatram–Ashwini & Lagnam–Mithunam. Contact : 099946 24941

HINDU NADAR– Divorcee Unconsummated Marriage – 35 US Bank/IT, Bangalore Sr.Associate 40L PA Own House.Seeksblw 37yr. Call / WA : 9442126376

MUDALIYAR, 27YRS, MBBS(UK), Well Educated Family background, Seeks suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

MUDALIAR UTHIRADAM 45/167 B.Sc, MBA business seeks educated, employed groom. Caste no bar. Ct: 9176999073

TAMIL

AGE 55 Retd Government Employee No children.Seeks I want upto 65yrs Bride Groom Govt Employee. 8056288863

HINDU, NADAR 32 Bank Officer in Chennai Aswini Mesham. Bridegroom Working in Chennai & Tiruvallur Preferred.Ct:9841103770

BRIDEGROOM NEEDED FOR SECOND MARRIAGE
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Seeks Bridegroom (unmarried), aged 36-40 years, Educated, Good looking Groom (Reputed Business in Tamilnadu) for Hindu Tamil Chettiar traditional girl(unmarried), 1989, Hastham Kanni Rasi, daughter of reputed Jewellery business family in Madurai. Suitable person can send details along with horoscope
WA: 94421 10063

Hindu Valluvan 41yrs, MBA, IT. MNC Working. Seeks Suitable Groom, CNB First Marriage only. Ct: 9886234181.

Vanniyar 33/165 Govt Doctor M.D.First year Chennai Upper Middle Class Star Kirurthigai Padam 4 Rashi Rishabam preferably Doctor or Govt Employed Groom from same community Cell 7299991172

TELUGU

VEG BRIDE 42/155/M.Com/B.Ed, Seeks well Educated & Professionally qualified, Caste No Bar. 8682080448

TELUGU BRAHMIN Girl 30yrs, M. Arch, working in Australia seeks suitable groom. Contact: 81487 77931.

NAIDU 27/167 Fair, Beautiful, MBBS MD, MGM Hospital, 20 Lac PA, Well Settled. CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

34Y/175, VERY FAIR, M.S. USA H1B Visa, Web Designer in a reputed company. Well settled Bride seeks suitable Groom settled in USA. Caste No bar. Ph: 93904 55676

NAIDU, 26YRS, B.tech, MBA, Rich & Affluent family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

BALIJA NAIDU Age 53 unmarried +2 Working in Private. seek Suitable Groom Caste No Bar Ct: 7397329382.

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM girl, 94born ,164cm , B.Tech ,never married,working in PSU bank Mumbai.U.P.based family well settled in Rajasthan. Father retired Addl.Director. #9461179587

SMU 1991 Born Unmarried Well–Settled MD Doctor from Chennai. Seeking Alliance from Doctors, Engineers From Well–Settled Family. 9444551651

BRIDES WANTED

BENGALI

Handsom Boy 27 yrs, height 160, Software Engr, Bangalore based, 21 LPA, seeks beautiful & educated bride from reputed family. (M) 9839187701.

COSMOPOLITAN

ADVOCATE, 59, Divorced, well settled, Age/ Caste/ Religion no bar. Call: 9844015114/ 8310073553

BRIDE WANTED Alliance invited from Senior IAS Officer (R) Chief Secy grade, for his Son Sept 93 born, 178 cm, Handsome, teetotaller, MBA Finance, Premier B School. Oil PSU, Currently Posted in Mumbai, Likely to transfer to Banglore. Maharashtrian/ Tamil Parents, Settled in Chennai. Expectation– professionally qualified bride Caste/ Language NO BAR Whatsapp: 7305236868

DIVORCEE

CHRISTIAN (AG) Surgeon, Handsome 38 years, 171 cm, Asst. Prof, Govt. Service, own clinic Chennai, innocent divorcee, doctors family seeks God fearing bride. Email: selvarajans89@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

33 Years Handsome Nair Youth 163cm Shoranur based upper middle class, Own Business of Medical Equipments, Financially settled with doshajathakam seeking Graduate Brides Contact: 9995393624. No agencies please.

NRI

NAIDU, 31/180CM, Pooratathi, BTech, MS, Research Engineer, Sweden Citizen, Call Father 9566682220

TAMIL

BACHELOR GROOM, 54, Govt 50K own house in Chennai & Native. Seeks Bride Age 30 to 40yrs, divorcee, widow with or without children. Community, Religion No bar. 9841152606

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar, 28yrs, BE, MS (US), 4lakhs pm, well educated family Ct: 9841329471/ 9380791999

CHENNAI, MUDLR. Any Cast, PhD, Tetolr Divorcd, 41yrs.GM Chess Govt 2Lac /mth.Educ Simple girl. 9884171419

PILLAI 39/186CM B E Cognizant as IT professional @ Chennai, seeks suitable Bride Veg. only. Ct. 9042555506

HINDU, MALAYALI Chennai 37, BBA,DCA.Electronika Sales(P)Ltd,Ch. RQM 80K PM.Seeks Suitable Bride 9840142978

THONDAI MANDALA Mudaliar boy 41, Star Rohini B.B.A,D.M.E,10Acre land owned.Working in Annamalai University seeks same sect girl. Ct:8668154951

AGE 47, Good Financial Prospects, Need A Well–Off Individual Bride, No Age restriction. Ct: 9884671173

UDAYAR, 38YRS, BE, MBA, Having Own Complex, Warehouses & Resorts, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact:6385293227

MUDALIYAR 36Y BE/LLB 170cm 14 Lacs well and settled family little vitiligo seeks bride CNB. Ct 9445242964

TAMIL

MUDALIAR, 87 born, 5'8", MSc (CEG, Anna Univ), MNC Chennai, 7.2 LPA, Clean habits, Highly educated well–settled family, Educated working brides only, CNB, 9940562947(W) , 9840276814

MUDALIAR, 91 born, 172 cm, M.S PhD (IIT Madras), PDF(UK), Asst.Prof (Tamilnadu), 10 LPA, Educated well–settled family, Educated working bride, CNB, 6383051148(w), 9840276814

MUDALIAR 26/175 B.Tech, M.S working in Tesla Motors Inc USA, only son, seeks educated girl from elite family who prefer to work or study in USA, CNB. Ct:7358115929/ 9677176335

IIT MADRAS (B.Tech) & IIM Ahmedabad (MBA) / Hindu / Thevar Mukkulathor / 26 Yrs / Tall / Fair / Handsome / Swati / Tulam / Reputed company in Bangalore. Looking for a suitable, fair & good looking bride from good family background. CNB. Ct: 91766 55891

WELL Settled Tamil based Intercaste (SC+Brahmin) Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 32 Yrs (Ragu-Kethu) Dr MD Pathology KMCH, Cbe. Mob: 9842221324, 9894186469.

PILLAI/ MUDALIYAR. B.Tech. MBA. HR. IT. Chennai. Poorattadhi, 30 / 167 Cm. Non Veg. Well Settled, Educated Family. Seeks Software / HR / Finance / CA Professional. 9444367697

GAVARA NAIDU, 40/180, Uthiradam, Maharam, B.E.,M.S(Engg), Chief Engr. MNC Chennai, 15L PA, First Marriage seeks Naidu Bride. Ct: 9487272897

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN IYER, 32, 183 cms, MBA, Sr Product Manager. Lives in USA. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from any Brahmin community. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 32, 170 cms, MBA, Businessman. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a like minded match from any similar community. Contact: 6366448343

CHETTIYAR, 33, 188 cms, Divorced, MS Ortho. Business class family. Lives in Trivandrum. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344



ELITE GROOMS WANTED

NADAR, 27, 163 cms, M.Sc in UK. Business class family amd lives in Coimbatore. Looking for a like minded match from Business class from any similar community. Contact: 6366448344

REDDY, 24, 165 cms, BBA LLB, Working Professional, Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is affluent. Looking for a suitable match from well settled background match & similar community. Contact: 6366448343

KAMMA, 25, 168 cms, Entrepreneur, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent. Looking for a well educated match from Kamma community. Contact: 6366448343

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TAMIL

NEVER MARRIED BDS Own house, Chennai 43yr Seeks Christian Employed Bride 35to 40yr 7418218553, 9444842029

CHRISTIAN, Bornagain, 29, NRI, 25 crores. 8138900487

TAMIL MUSLIM 28 yr old ME graduate working in Chennai seeking bride of age 23–27 BE or any Master degree, working or willing to work. Ct 9361134612

RC CHRISTIAN Udaiyaar, Advocate, 27, Tiruchy Settled Seek Working / Qualified to Work, Good looking Bride. 9047736933.

TAMIL MUSLIM Rowther 175cm 26 MBA, Coimbatore, seeks Bride Well Educated, Religious, Good Looking, Working / Not Working. Contact 9944933305

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

TAMIL MUSLIM, 41, BE, own Pharmacy and House, Divorcee seeks suitable Bride (35-40yrs). Ct: 9442294453

Christian Vellalar 27/165cms, MSC , DMLT, (PhD) working in Chennai MNC, seeks educated bride Ct: 98405 88808

CSI NADAR, 30yrs, MBBS, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Bride. Contact: 9841329471 / 9380791999

PILLAI 44 Divorcee M.Com Central Govt service Rs.13.50 lakhs PA seeks bride caste no bar 9094020665

HINDU, 30, separated, NRI, BHM, 50 lakhs. 8138900316

HINDU, CHETTIYAR, MD, Doctor, 40 lakhs. 8138009140

HINDU Tamil Nadar 45 B.E., Carleton IISc https://ingeniousdesigntech.com 99943-51766

TAMIL MUDALIAR, 32yrs BE, MS(USA). Working in Kuwait as QA/QC Engineer seeks well Educated Bride Pooradam/Dhanush Rasi Ct: 8056229298

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR 36/168, Rohini, Sudhaa Jathagam, PG, Team Leader, MNC, Seeks Graduate Bride. 9176780777.

MUDALIYAR, 37YRS, M.Tech,Well Educated and Affluent family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:6385293227

TAMIL

HINDU, 39/183CM, fair, handsome, PG Engg. Consultant. Divorced (no kids). Seeks well–educated, good–looking girl, unmarried/divorcee (no kids) from good Tamil family (Mudaliar, Pillai, Chettiar, Naidu preferred). Ct: 9566221110

CHETTIAR TAMIL 27, fair ,engineer , Teetotaler @ chennai brides wanted cast no bar . 8438358006/7418101960

✔ MUDALIAR THIRUVADURAI Mithunam rich&affluent slim fair&handsome 6.1 Sep–95 boy BE CSE Sr Dev 18LPA Wipro, seeks well–educated slim fair good character Girl fr well–settled family Ct/Whatsup 9443228917

MBA / 33 Years / Male / 42 LPA seeks Qualified Hindu Girl, Contact Mobile: 95438 15803

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

CASTE NO Bar 31yrs BE, Running Own Manufacturing Industries in Chennai Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:9962791888

MUDALIYAR, KETTAI 39/165, M. Tech.,Ph.D.,HOD, Pvt.Engg. College, Pondy Seeks Bride 30 to 37yrs. 9942257578

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar, 28yrs B.Tech MS S/W Engineer 2L/pm, well educated family 9380791999/ 9841329471

INTELLIGENT, HANDSOME 29, 170cm, well–educated professional (MEng), EU citizen (Paris). Loving Tamil/ Telugu family. Seeking compatible bride. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

HINDU , 27, Thevar, NRI, MS, VIP, 200 cr. 8138900312

HINDU, VVIP, 33, divorced, caste no bar, 300 crores. 8138900412

HINDU, CASTE NO bar, 26, Pillai, VIP, Canada. 8138009235

PILLAI, SOZHIA Vellalar 40yrs MBA, Manager, Pvt. 5Lpa, Divorcee, seeks suitable bride. CNB. Ct: 9952362396

TAMIL HINDU Chettiar BE MS 180 cm/ 27 very fair slim working in australia seeking bride–9444706114

TAMIL

TAMIL HINDU SC AD 42 years BE, MBA, BANK(PSU) AGM Kochi Branch Legally divorced no child seeks Affectionate and Compatible Bride between 36 and 41years /divorcee without child. Ct: 88703 15039

HINDU–BE/SWE/172CMS/25LPA/AYILLAM–KATAGAM. Settled in Bangalore, financially stable and educated . Seeking Bride from educated and decent family. Con No 9845401461.

GAVARA NAIDU Affluent family Chennai 29/165 ME Design Engineer in MNC and Own Business, Rental income also, Star Thiruvonam Rasi Magaram, CNB. Call: 9841097110

HINDU, VANNIAR (Gounder) 39yrs, 175cm, Malaysia, Logistics Professionals Salary 200000 per Month Seek Suitable Unmarried or Divorce (Below 2yrs) with No Children Bride From Age 28–38yrs From Good Family Backgrounds. No Financial Expectations & Caste no Issue. Must Be Relocate Malaysia After Marriage Phone – +60176260092 / +60173366244

HINDU PILLAI, B.Tech 42/184cm Divorcee Mutual No issue CNB Director Software Co Bangalore 30lacs/am. Needs Suitable Educated Bride. Contact : 90803 87866 Or famm0814@gmail.com

1985 BE Mudaliyar Chennai Asst Manager, Private, Decent Background Seeks Bride. Ct 8610518808, 9952010118

IYER KASYAB Barani Oct85/180 Mutual Divorcee Double Masters,Ph.D thesis(Germany) Employd Germany Seeks Qualifd Unmarried Bride willing Relocate Germany 9444551216/ 04426861097

WANTED BRIDE Age between 28 – 30 Brahmin Iyengar any Brahmin Girl Preferably Iyengar Group. Ct. 9444261735

Iyer 27 Years Viswamitra MBA HDFC Hyd 8 Lpa seeks Brahmin Girl - whatsapp 9491627972

Pillai, 32 years, BE MS-PhD-IITM, 50L p.a., Upper Middle Class, 174cm, Fair, MNC Bangalore, Seeking Good-looking PQM, CNB, Ct - 9840161742.

Hindu Nadar 28yrs/180cm Fair, Clean Habbit MBBS Boy, seeks Doctor, IAS, Elite Industrialist.CNB.Ct: 9677056755

Hindu Nadar, 27/183 cm fair M.Pharm Chennai seeks bride. Ph: 98847 33435 Email: benro1997@gmail.com

TAMIL

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

Mudaliar SWE BE PGPML Team Lead 35/170 seeks SWE BDS Dr Bride willing to relocate in Bangalore Phone 9444176384, uus236@gmail.com

Christian, Vellalar, 28yrs/180cm, B.Sc Viscom, Chennai well settled boy seek Suitable Educated Bride. 94445 57751

TELUGU

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

NAIDU, 30YRS, B.Tech, MS (US), working in US, well educated family. Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 6385293227

NAIDU 30/184 Fair, Handsome, MBBS, MS, Surgeon, Apollo Hospitals, 3000000 PA, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

URDU

URDU MUSLIM Age 35 / 172cm DCE,BA. Business Rs.25Lac/PA Well Settled, Seeks Graduate, Beautiful Religious Bride. Ct:9884546312 / 9790706354

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

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Office of Chief Project Manager, Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd., Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004.

Tender No: PAMBAN_ BRIDGE _OT – 18
Dated 31.10.2025

e-Procurement

1) Name of Work: Dismantling of Scherzer's Rolling and lift span of old Pamban Bridge (Br.No.346) at Km 655/000 to 657/200 between Mandapam and Pamban Stations in Madurai Division of Southern Railway; **2)** Mode of Bid Submission : e-tendering **https://www.ireps.gov.in** **3)** Estimated Cost : ₹ **2.81 Crore.** **4)** Time of completion: **4 months;** **5)** EMD to be submitted online : ₹ **5,62,100.00; 6)** Date / Time of publication of tender on website: **31/10/2025 @ 12.37 hrs; 7)** Last Date / Time of Bid Submission: **21/11/2025 @ 11:00 hrs; 8)** Date / Time of opening of bid: **21/11/2025 @ 11.30 hrs; 9)** Bid Submission: **Through Online only - https://www.ireps.gov.in; 10)** Phone No.: **044-24618460 Extn: 22.**

BUSINESS OFFERS

BUSINESS FOR SALE

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SURAPARAJU MANJULA, W/o SURAPARAJU SUBRAMANYAM, residing at D.No. 12-313, Vasundhara Nagar, Thukivakam, (Post, Panchayat), Renigunta (Mandal), Tirupati (Dist.), A.P.- 517 520. Henceforth be known as **SURAPARAJU MANJULA (new name)** Wife of SURAPARAJU SUBRAMANYAM instead of **MANJULA (old name)** Wife of SURAPARAJU SUBRAMANYAM.

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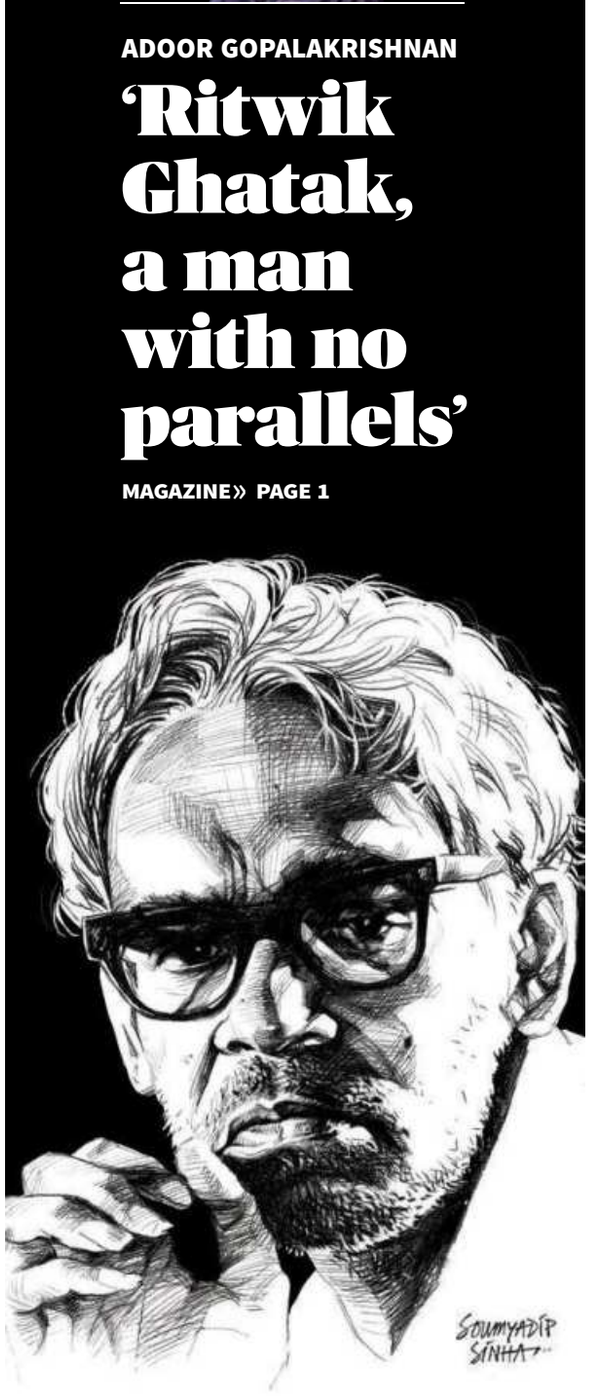
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ADOOR GOPALAKRISHNAN

'Ritwik Ghatak, a man with no parallels'

MAGAZINE» PAGE 1





PM SHRI scheme: between funds and ideology

PROFILES » PAGE 12



How do scam hubs in Southeast Asia operate?

FAQ » PAGE 11



Brain response to rhythm detected in preterm babies

SCIENCE » PAGE 10



India and South Africa to battle it out for World Cup crown

SPORT » PAGE 14

Nine devotees killed, 15 injured in Srikakulam temple stampede

Thousands throng the under-construction A.P. temple that did not inform police about expected crowd on 'ekadashi'; there was only a single passage to enter and exit, say witnesses; tragedy could have been averted, says CM, who promises action

Hareesh P
KASIBUGGA (SRIKAKULAM)

Nine devotees – eight women and one child – were killed and 15 injured in a stampede at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Kasibugga in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday morning.

Thousands thronged the temple, managed by a private individual, for darshan. The police and locals said the temple, still under construction, has been attracting nearly 2,000 devotees on Saturdays but the crowd swelled to more than 20,000 on the occasion of 'ekadashi'.

Hari Mukund Panda, the temple administrator, said the management had not anticipated such a big turnout. It did not inform the police and there was no police deployment to manage the rush.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said the incident could have been prevented had the police been informed and arrangements made. He promised action against those responsible.

Eyewitnesses said a single passageway was used to enter and exit the temple, with the queues of devotees separated by an aluminium barricade. Commotion broke around 11.30 a.m. when people exiting the shrine tried to force their way out and those entering it fell from the stairs.



Heartbreaking incident: Police personnel inspecting the stairs leading to the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. V. RAJU

'Barricade collapsed'

"The barricade on one side of the staircase collapsed and people started to fall from a height of 10 feet," K. Krishna of Palasa told *The Hindu*. Soon panic broke out even though some devotees were pulled out and rushed to hospitals after the police arrived.

State Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu and local MLA Gouthu Shirisha, who were attending government events in nearby villages, reached the spot and supervised rescue operations.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6
RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 3

NEARBY

YSRCP ruined State's growth, alleges Naidu

PUTTAPARTHI
Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday accused the previous YSRCP government of ruining the State's development and resorting to "fake politics built on lies and deceit." » Page 4



November to be warmer in State, says IMD

VIJAYAWADA
November will be warmer in State as the IMD has forecast above-normal minimum and normal to above-normal maximum temperatures.

» Page 4

MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

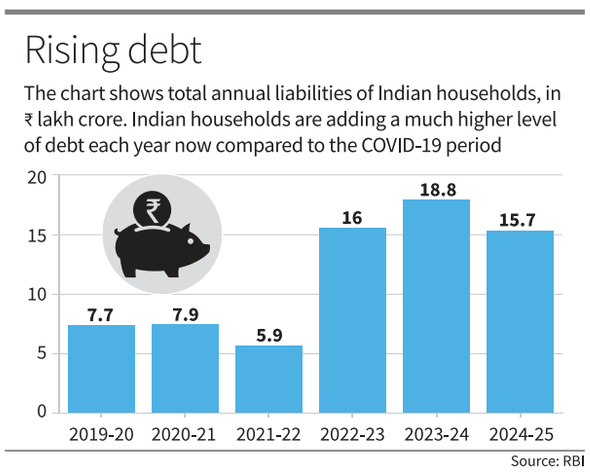
'Households piling on debt faster than creating assets'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The annual financial debt accumulated by Indian households has grown faster than their annual financial assets since the pre-pandemic year 2019-20, an analysis of Reserve Bank of India data has found.

The amount of financial assets added each year has grown 48% between 2019 and 2025, while the annual liabilities have grown 102% over that period. Even as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the annual financial asset addition is lower this year than before the pandemic, while the annual liabilities added are higher.

Data also reveal a significant shift in the way Indians save, with mutual funds becoming a popular instrument for households to invest their money.



Households added ₹24.1 lakh crore to their financial assets in 2019-20, which grew to ₹35.6 lakh crore in 2024-25, the latest period for which the RBI has released data. This is a growth of 48%. On the other hand, households added ₹15.7 lakh crore worth of financial liabilities to their portfolios in 2024-25, which is 102% higher than the ₹7.5 lakh crore they added in 2019-20.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6

Despite heavy rush of devotees, there were no security arrangements: eyewitnesses

Harish Gilai
Hareesh P.
VISAKHAPATNAM/
PALASA/ KASIBUGGA

Eyewitnesses recounted the horrifying scenes during the stampede at the Sri Venkateswara Temple in Kasibugga town in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday.

One of the eyewitnesses, Ginni Swathi from Cherukupalli village, described how she narrowly escaped. She said that she and a group of around 25 people from her village entered the queue line at approximately 9.30 a.m.

Heart-wrenching scenes

It took them more than two-and-a-half hours to complete their darshan due to the rush of devotees, in view of Karthika Ekadashi.



Devotees scrambling to exit the queue line at the Sri Venkateswara temple, at Kasibugga in Srikakulam district on Saturday. PTI

"The crowd was huge and uncontrollable. I could barely spot any police personnel and there was no private security arrangements either," she recalled. While coming out after the darshan, she witnessed the heart-wrenching scenes. "It was terrifying. People were trapped, struggling to find any possible way to get out.

Many were gasping for breath, while others tried desperately to help those who had fallen unconscious. Some devotees who had been pulled out of the crowd were being administered CPR on the spot," she said.Another devotee, R. Meena, said: "The queue got completely stalled, and people behind us began pushing to move forward. I was eventually pulled out by some devotees." S. Ravi, another devotee from Palasa, said the crowd was calm and composed till around 11.30 a.m.

"All of a sudden, devotees started to rush out and fell on those waiting to enter inside, he said. They in turn fell on the steel railings and from there to the ground."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 3

Kerala declares itself free of extreme poverty; CM calls it a historic moment

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared Kerala 'free from extreme poverty' at a special session of the Assembly on the occasion of the State Formation Day (Kerala Piravi) on Saturday, making it the first State to do so.

The Opposition United Democratic Front walked out of the session questioning the propriety of convening a special session just for the Chief Minister to make a statement under Rule 300 of the House procedures. Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan also called it a "hollow proclamation".



Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan giving the report declaring Kerala 'free from extreme poverty' to actor Mammootty. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Mr. Vijayan, who called this year's Kerala Piravi the birth of a new era, spoke at length about the four-year long process that led to the declaration. Refuting the Opposition charge that the declaration was a publicity stunt ahead of the local body elections, he said that the implementation of the Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme was a decision taken in the first Cabinet meeting of the Left Democratic Front in 2021.

"We only make promises we can fulfil and we have fulfilled what we promised," he said. "This proud achievement belongs to the entire people of Kerala. We are witnessing a historic moment," the Chief Minister said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6

Modi, Naidu express shock; ₹2 lakh aid for victims' kin from PM relief fund

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives in the stampede at Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple at Kasibugga in Srikakulam district, and wished speedy recovery to those injured.

He announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased and ₹50,000 to those injured from the PM's National Relief Fund. In a post on X, the PM said he was pained by the stampede and his thoughts were with those who lost their near and dear ones.

Home Minister Amit Shah said on X that he was deeply shocked by the loss of lives in the stampede. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased, and said he was praying for the speedy recovery of the injured.

BJP National President and Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said he was shocked by the incident and wished speedy recovery to the injured.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said at the NTR Bharosa pensions' distribution programme in Sri Satya Sai district that the incident could have been averted if police were informed about the congregation in advance and necessary arrangements made.

He promised to take stringent action against those responsible for the incident.

Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan said in a press release that he was deeply saddened by the death of several people in the stampede and attributed it to failure to control the heavy rush.

He told the officials of the Endowments Department to ensure strict management of queue lines at temples on such festive occasions. He sought special care for women, children and the elderly so that they do not face any inconvenience, and deployment of police personnel and doctors and paramedical staff in advance to deal with such emergencies.

Minister for IT and HRD Nara Lokesh said he was appalled by the stampede and that the government would stand by the victims.

CONTINUED ON
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INBRIEF



Workshop on mediation in domestic violence cases held

A one-day workshop on "Mediation in Domestic Violence Cases" was conducted at the Andhra Pradesh Judicial Officers Training Centre in Kaza village of Mangalagiri mandal in Guntur district, on Saturday. The programme was graced by Justice J.K. Maheshwari, Judge of the Supreme Court of India, and Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Chief Justice of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh. Justice Ravi Nath Tilhari, President of the Board of Governors, Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy, along with other High Court Judges and Registrars, also attended the event. The workshop was attended by Principal District and Sessions Judges heading District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA), one Additional District Judge from each district, authorised officers of Commercial Courts, the Member Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority, the Secretary of the High Court Legal Services Committee, the Deputy Secretary of the State Legal Services Authority, Secretaries of all District Legal Services Authorities, and one Magistrate from each district.

New principal of Maris Stella College assumes office

Sister Innyasamma taken charge as the new principal of Maris Stella College, Vijayawada, following the completion of the tenure of Sister Jasintha Quadras on October 31. The new appointment was announced by the college correspondent Sister Leena Quadras on Saturday. Sr. Innyasamma said she would work to uphold the college's vision and mission, with the focus on women's empowerment. Sr. Jasintha Quadras handed over the responsibility to the new principal in the presence of faculty members and students, including degree wing vice-principal Usha Kumari, intermediate wing vice-principal Swapna Vunnam and deans Sr. Lavanya and Padmalatha.

Tech advances have made healthcare accessible in remote villages: APSCHE chief

Madhu Murthy highlights Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences' pioneering role in health education during the varsity's 39th Foundation Day celebrations; new air-conditioned lounge inaugurated for the former university employees in recognition of their service



APSCHE Chairman Kotta Madhu Murthy, Medical Education Director G. Raghunandan, and NTR University V-C P. Chandrasekhar cutting a cake to mark the 39th anniversary celebrations of NTR University of Health Sciences in Vijayawada, on Saturday. G.N. RAO

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) Chairman K. Madhu Murthy said that with the advancement of modern technology, medical services have now reached even remote villages.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the 39th Foundation Day celebrations of Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences (Dr. NTRUHS) held on the university premises on Saturday (November 1).

Mr. Madhu Murthy noted that Dr. NTRUHS is the first university in the country dedicated exclusively to health education and that the establishment of medical colleges in every district of the State has made healthcare more accessible to the common people.

He emphasised the need to move forward by effectively utilising technological innovations in the medical field.

Mr. Madhu Murthy further said that former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao holds the distinction of founding the country's first university devoted solely to medical education.

Director of Medical Education (DME) G. Raghunandan said that the increase in undergraduate and postgraduate medical seats in the State is a welcome development.

As part of the celebrations, a new air-conditioned lounge was inaugurated for former university employees.

CHOs urge government to address long-pending demands

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

After the State government provided assurance to the PHC doctors and managements of Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva-empanelled hospitals, Community Health Officers (CHOs) have urged the government to lend them an ear and resolve their issues at the earliest.

Pointing out that they have been waiting for a meeting with Minister for Health Satya Kumar Yadav since May, Sandeep Kumar, secretary of Andhra Pradesh Midlevel Health Provider/Community Health Officers' Association, said, "We called off our strike, held from April 17 to May 26, after the government assured us that our issues would be addressed. We were promised that a meeting with the Minister would be scheduled immediately to discuss our demands."

But, five months have passed since then, and the CHOs continue to wait for a date for the meeting. In the meanwhile, their demands, including removal of Facial Recognition System (FRS), payment of incentive arrears and rent, provision of transport allowance, a fixed pay, remain unfulfilled.

Recently, CHOs, who work in Village Health Clinics (VHCs) or Ayushman Aarogya Mandirs, had to fill in for PHC (Primary Health Centres) doctors, who were on a strike for more than a month. Moreover, 545 VHCs in the State do not have an ANM, whose duty, too, has now been added to the CHOs' list of responsibilities.

"We have no transport allowance, no fixed pay and no incentives, and yet, the government wants to take up additional responsibilities. How long can we go on like this," he asked. The CHOs are yet to receive monthly incentives of ₹15,000 for seven months.

There are around 10,000 VHCs in the State, which are manned by one CHO, an ANM and two or three ASHAs.

Siddhartha Institute students bag first prize

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

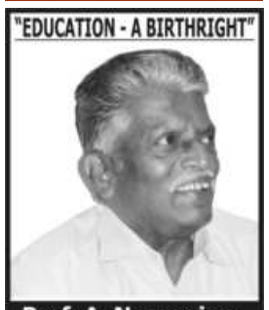
Students of the Civil Engineering department in PVP Siddhartha Institute of Technology (PVPSIT), Vijayawada, won the first prize in a national-level 'Mix Design and Cube Test Competition - Season 3' held at SRM University, Chennai, on Saturday.

The team of K. Dinesh, M. Govardhan and M. Varaprasad, guided and mentored by the Head of the Department of Civil Engineering Jagadish Vengala, secured the first prize of ₹1,00,000 in the event, organised by RDC Concrete and the Indian Concrete Institute (ICI), Chennai Centre. Their project demonstrated sustainable techniques in concrete mix design.

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PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction sale notice for Sale of immovable Assets under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property/ies, mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Overseas Bank, Chandramouli Nagar Branch** (the Secured Creditor), and will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS"** basis on **20.11.2025** for recovery of **Rs.3,92,52,486.68 Ps** (Rupees Three Crores Ninety-Two Lakhs Fifty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Six Rupees and Sixty-Eight Paise Only) as on **31.10.2025** plus interest/further interest & costs, with **Indian Overseas Bank, Chandramouli Nagar Branch**)

Sale of immovable property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002) and whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Overseas Bank has taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest & costs as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the **Web Portal https://baanknet.com.**

Name & address of the Borrower/Mortgager: M/s. OM Poultry farms, partnership firm, G.T Road, Chinakondrupadu, Prathipadu Mandal, Guntur, A.P - 522 001. **Represented by it's partners as mentioned under: Sri. Paruchuri Madhava Rao (Managing Partner/Mortgagor/Guarantor)**, G.T Road, Chinakondrupadu, Prathipadu Mandal, Guntur, A.P - 522 001. **Smt. Paruchuri Nagaraja Kumari,** w/o Sri Paruchuri Madhava Rao **(Partner/Mortgagor/Guarantor)**, G.T Road, Chinakondrupadu, Prathipadu Mandal, Guntur, A.P - 522 001. **Sri. Paruchuri Sunil Krishna**, s/o Sri Paruchuri Madhava Rao **(Partner/Mortgagor/Guarantor)**, Flat no 402, 4th floor, Sai Venkatadri Apts, Vijayapuri colony, 5th lane, JKC College Road, Guntur, A.P- 522 006. **Smt. Paruchuri Venkata Srilakshmi**, w/o Sri Paruchuri Sunil Krishna **(Partner/Guarantor)**, Flat no 402, 4th floor, Sai Venkatadri Apts, Vijayapuri colony, 5th lane, JKC College Road, Guntur, A.P- 522 006. **Name & address of the Guarantor/Mortgagor: Mrs. S.Sudha Vahini**, D/o Sri Paruchuri Madhava Rao **(Guarantor/Mortgager)**, **GPA holder: Sri. Paruchuri Madhava Rao (Managing Partner/Mortgagor)** G.T Road, Chinakondrupadu, Prathipadu Mandal, Guntur, A.P - 522 001.

Date of NPA: 23.05.2024 **Date of Demand Notice: 30.05.2024**
Dues claimed in Demand Notice: Rs.4,34,06,207/- as on **23.05.2024** with further interest & costs thereon.
Date of Possession Notice: 03.08.2024; **Paper Publication Date of Possession notice : 06.08.2024**
Dues Claimed in Possession Notice: Rs.4,34,06,207/- as on **23.05.2024** with further interest & costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

1. All the piece and parcel of the property situated at D.no. 129/3, 111/3M. 111-3L3, 139, 111/3L5, 1113M , 129/3, 111/3L4, 111/3M of Nadim Palem, Chinakondrupadu, Nadimpalem Village and Panchayat, Prathipadu Mandal, Guntur Dist.
Item-1: Doc. No: 2483/1994 in the name of Mr. Paruchuri Sunil Krishna: (As per gift settlement deed with doc.No. 746/2007 executed by Mr.Paruchuri Madhava Rao): Guntur District, Prathipadu Sub District, Nadimpalem Panchayat area Nadimpalem Village an extent of Ac.1.02 cents standing in the name of Mr. Paruchuri Sunil Krishna is being **Bounded by: East:** NH-5, **South:** Land of R. Venkateswara Rao, **West:** Land of A Veera Raghavulu, **North:** Land of K Lakshmi Kumari.
Item-2: Doc. No: 176/1999 in the name of Mr. Paruchuri Sunil Krishna: Guntur District, Prathipadu Sub District, Nadimpalem Panchayat area Nadimpalem Village an extent of Ac.2.32 cents standing in the name of Mr. Paruchuri Sunil krishna is being **Bounded by: East:** Land of P Venkateswara Rao and P Madhava Rao, **South:** Others Property, **West:** Land of Viswa nagar, **North:** Land of A Veera Raghavulu.
Item-3: Doc. No: 1807/1996 in the name of Mr. Paruchuri Sunil Krishna: Guntur District, Prathipadu Sub District, Nadimpalem Panchayat area Nadimpalem Village an extent of Ac.0.72 cents standing in the name of Mr. Paruchuri Sunil Krishna is being **Bounded by: East:** Land of Babulal Ramesh kumarkankaria, **South:** Land of Paruchuri Sunil Krishna, **West:** Naidu Tank Bunk, **North:** Land of Vemulapalli Ram Prasad.
Item-4: Doc. No: 2763/1999 in the name of Mr. Paruchuri Sunil Krishna: Guntur District, Prathipadu Sub District, Nadimpalem Panchayat area Nadimpalem Village an extent of Ac.0.52 cents standing in the name of Mr. Paruchuri Sunil krishna is being **Bounded by: East:** Land of Paruchuri Madhava Rao and others, **South:** Own property, **West:** CirkarPoramboku kata, **North:** Land of A Veera Raghavulu.
Item-5: Doc. No: 719/2002 in the name of Mr. Paruchuri Sunil Krishna: Guntur District, Prathipadu Sub District, Nadimpalem Panchayat area Nadimpalem Village an extent of Ac.0.51 cents standing in the name of Mr. Paruchuri Sunil Krishna is being **Bounded by: East:** Land of Alla Parameswarudu, **South:** Land of Paruchuri Sunil Krishna, **West:** Land of Paruchuri Sunil Krishna, **North:** Land of Alla Veera Swamy.
Item-6: Doc. No: 718/2002 in the name of Mr. Paruchuri Sunil Krishna: Guntur District, Prathipadu Sub District, Nadimpalem Panchayat area Nadimpalem Village an extent of Ac1.15 cents (D. No-111/3/L3 Ac.0.92cents and D. No-139 Ac.0.23cents) standing in the name of Mr. Paruchuri Sunil Krishna is being **Bounded by: East:** Saled Land of Yeluri Veeraiah, **South:** Own land, **West:** Naidu Cheruvu Katta, **North:**LandAllaMallaiah sons Veeraiah and Venkateswarlu.
Item-7: Doc. No: 1861/2001 in the name of Mr. Paruchuri Sunil Krishna: Guntur District, Prathipadu Sub District, Nadimpalem Panchayat area Nadimpalem Village an extent of Ac1.11 cents standing in the name of Mr. Paruchuri Sunil Krishna is being **Bounded by: East:** NH-5, **South:** Land of Paruchuri Sunil Krishna, **West:** Land of Paruchuri Sunil Krishna, **North:**Land sold by K V Subbarao to others.
Total extent for item 1 to 7 above is Ac. 7.35 cents. Out of which Ac.0.23 cents is deducted for road widening and another Ac.1.96cents (Ac 0.52 Cents in Iten No 2, Ac 0.52 Cents in Item No 4 and Ac 0.92 Cents in Item No 6) is deducted for assigned land. Total extent considered for valuation as per valuation report is Ac.5.16cents.
Reserve Price: Rs.4,57,58,000/-; EMD: Rs.45,75,800/-; Bid increase amount: Rs.1,00,000/-

2. All the piece and parcel of the property situated at Guntur District, Prathipadu Sub district, Nadimpalem panchayat area nadimpalem village, D.no: 154-3A, resurvey no. 154-3A1 as per endorsement given by Tahsildar, Prathipadu vide Spl.Reg. No. 417/2020-C, in an extent of Ac.1-57 cents Land standing in the name of Smt. Paruchuri Nagaraja kumari (**Doc. No: 16/1989**) is being **Bounded by: East:** Trunk Road, **South:** Land of Lakshmi Ginning Mill, **West:** Donka, **North:** Tank Poramboke.
Total extent is Ac.1.57cents. Out of which Ac.0.01cents is deducted for road widening.
Total extent considered for valuation as per valuation report is Ac.1.56 cents.
Within these boundaries an extent of Ac.1-56 cents or 7550.40 sq yds or 6313.09 Sq.mts of site.
Reserve Price: Rs.1,88,63,000/-; EMD: Rs.18,86,300/-; Bid increase amount: Rs.1,00,000/-

***TDS @ 1% shall be collected on successful bid of Rs.50.00Lakh and above.**

Date & Time of auction: 20-11-2025, between 11.00 A.M to 01.00 P.M with auto extension of 5 minutes each till sale is completed at the plat form of https://baanknet.com

EMD Remittance: The intending Bidders /Purchasers are requested to register on portal **https://baanknet.com** using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders /Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet account by **20.11.2025 before 01.00 p.m.** Intending bidders shall have a valid email address and should register their name / account by login to the website of the aforesaid service provider.

Bid increase amount: Mentioned above separately for each property | **Known Encumbrance if any: NIL**
Inspection Date& Time: Dt.02-11-2025 onwards with prior appointment with Bank
Submission of Online Application for bid with EMD: 02-11-2025 Onwards
Last date for submission of online application for BID with EMD: Dt.20-11-2025 BEFORE 01.00 P M
*** Outstanding dues of Local Self Government (Property Tax, Water sewerage, Electricity Bills etc) to be ascertained by the prospective bidders and to be paid by the successful bidders**
***Bank's dues have priority over the statutory dues**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in service provider's **website: https://baanknet.com or bank's website www.iob.in/e-Auctions.aspx**
For further details please contact: The Branch Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, Chandramouli Nagar Branch, Bishop's House Compound, Ring Road, Chandramouli Nagar, Guntur - 522007. Phone: 0863 -2350085/255024, Mobile Number: 8925951178 & E mail: iob1178@iob.in; Service Provider : M/s. Bank Asset Auction Network (BAANKNET) having Registered office at Unit -1, 3rd Floor, VIOS commercial tower, Near Wadala Truck terminal, Wadala East, Mumbai- 400037, email: support.baanknet @psballiance.com (Contact No: 8291220220, operation time of Help desk: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm).

Date : 01-11-2025, Place : Guntur **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
Syndicate
ARM Branch, Circle Office, D.No. 54-16-4B, Ground floor, Lakshmi Avenue, Srinivasanagar Bank Colony, Ring Road, Vijayawada, AP-520008. Ph: 8331011695, E-mail: armvij@canarabank.com

AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of branches mentioned below of the **Canara Bank,** will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **20.11.2025,** for recovery of **amounts mentioned below** due to the **ARM Branch, Vijayawada** of **Canara Bank** from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). Description of the immovable properties with no encumbrances to the knowledge of the bank.

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 20.11.2025 at 2.00 PM to 4.00 PM (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale) | **LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD: 20.11.2025 by 12.00 pm**

EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (baanknet) portal directly or by generating the challan therein to deposit the EMD amount through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before 20.11.2025 at 12.00 PM.

S No	Borrower/Guarantors & Branch Details (All Accounts Transfered to ARM, Vijayawada Branch)	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTIES	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	EMD (10% of Reserve Price)
1	Bhavanipuram Branch, Vijayawada **Sri Mohammed Maqbul, S/o Akbar Mohammed** Total liabilities as on 28.10.2025: Rs.29,74,033.27 + interest + Other Expenses	**A-Schedule:** An extent of 1132.66 sq.yds or 947.02 sq.mts of site in R.S. No.259/5, situated at Chodavaram Village, Kankipadu Mandal, Krishna District within the jurisdiction of Kanikipadu Sub Registrar office, Vijayawada East District Registrar office, Vide Doc No. 650/2021 in the name of Mr. MD Maqbool, S/o. Md. Akbar. **Boundaries as per deed.** In between above four boundaries an extent of 1132.66 sq.yds or 947.02 sq.mts site undivided joint share of 35 sq yds or 29.26 sq.mts site. **B-Schedule:** In the above A-Schedule total site constructed an apartment in the name and style of **ESWAR TOWERS in which First Floor Flat No.102,** Assessment No.927, Door No.6-154, 750 sft plinth area of Flat, 110 sft common area, 84 sft parking area. **Boundaries as per deed.**	**Rs. 20.88 lakhs**	**Rs. 2.088 lakhs**
2	SIDDHARTHA NAGAR BRANCH **Sri Sita Mahalakshmi Rice Traders Represented by its Managing Partners: 1. Sri. Dutta Venkateswara Rao, 2. Smt. Dutta Sesha Kiranmayi.** Total liabilities as on 28.10.2025: Rs. 1,17,95,302.91 + interest + Other Expenses	**(Under Physical Possession)** The Property situated at Krishna District, Kanumolu Sub Registry, Bapulapadu Gram Panchayat area, Bapulapadu Village, in D.No. 5-46 and 5-47, RS No: 81/1B an extent of Ac.0-26 cents in R.S No. 81/2 an extent of Ac. 0-78 cents totalling to **Ac.1-04 cents or 5033.6 Sq. yds. of site and Sita Mahalakshmi Rice and Ground Nut Oil Mill** thereon along with all amenities etc. vide Doc No. 30/2002 in the name of M/s Sri Sita Maha Lakshmi Rice Traders, Rep by Managing Partner Mr. Dutta Venkateswara Rao, S/o (late) Seeta Ramaiah. **Road effected area 38.88 Sq. Yds., Net extent of site 4994.72 Sq. yds. CERSAI ID: 200040528124. Boundaries as per Deed.**	**Rs. 1330.00 lakhs**	**Rs. 133.00 lakhs**
3	VIJAYAWADA MAIN BRANCH **Sri Mallela Gopala Rathaiah and Smt. Alla Roja Ramani.** Total liabilities as on 27.10.2025: Rs. 38,35,910.28 + interest + Other Expenses	**(Physical Possession taken): Schedule-A:** Krishna District, Vijayawada District Registrar Limits, Patamata Sub Registrar, Penamaluru Mandal, Yenamalakuduru Village & Panchayath, Yenamalakuduru Village S No.4/2, admeasuring 401.24 Sq. yds or 335.47 Sq. mts Residential Site. **Boundaries as per Deed. Schedule-B:** An undivided and unspecified Joint share of 26 Sq. yds or 21.739 Sq. mts in the Apartments named **Gopi Krishna Constructions, Flat No. SF 301**, in the second Floor was covered vide Doc No.2330/2017, in the name of Mr. Mallela Gopal Rathaiah. **Boundaries as per deed.**	**Rs. 17.40 lakhs**	**Rs. 1.74 lakhs**
4	Auto Nagar Branch, Vijayawada **Smt Jonnalagadda Nagalakshmi W/o. Prasad and Sri Jonnalagadda Prasad S/o Satya Narayana** Total liabilities as on 27.10.2025: Rs. 96,14,238.93 + interest + Other Expenses	**(Under Physical Possession) A-Schedule:** An Undivided and unspecified share of an extent of 60 Sq Yards out of total extent of 710.22 Sq Yards of site together with **RCC roofed residential flat in Third Floor flat No: 402** consisting of plinth area of 1455 sft, common area is of 350 sft and 200 sft parking area in a residential apartment constructed under the name of "APPLE GRAND" in R S No.225/4, nearest D No:74-24-35/1A, old Asst No: 1073152225, Revenue ward No: 10, Patamata, V M C area, Vijayawada. Within the limit of Patamata SRO, Vide Doc No.7694/2023 in the name of Mrs. Jonnalagadda Naga Lakshmi. Boundaries as per deed. **B-Schedule:** And finished **Flat No.402 in a plinth area of 1455 Sft.,** common area of 350 sq.ft and 200 sq.ft parking area in Third floor of **"APPLE GRAND"** in the aforesaid total site, along with all amenities etc. **Boundaries as per deed.**	**Rs. 72.68 lakhs**	**Rs. 7.268 lakhs**
5	Vijayawada NTR Circle Branch **Sri Pulivarthi Lakshimi Chenchu Nageswara Rao and Sri Pulivarthi Nagamani.** Total liabilities as on 30.10.2025: Rs. 38,35,910.28 + interest + Other Expenses	Krishna District, Patamata Sub Registry, Yanamalakuduru Grama Panchayat area, Yanamalakuduru village, in R.S.No.57/6 consisting of an 1/5th undivided joint share of **31.68 sq yards or 26.48 sq. meters** in a total extent of 158.44 sq. yards or 132.94 sq. meters of site. **Boundaries as per deed.** and **Flat No.GF-1** in a plinth area of 800 S.ft. In ground floor of **"SAI CHAITANYA TOWERS"** in the aforesaid total site along with all amenities etc. **Boundaries as per deed.**	**Rs. 20.07 lakhs**	**Rs. 2.007 lakhs**
6	MADHUNAGAR BRANCH **Mrs. Santhi Gottimukkala and Ms. Navya Ghanta.** Total liabilities as on 28.10.2025: Rs. 70,39,819.99 + interest + Other Expenses	**Schedule-A:** Guntur District, Nallapadu Sub District, Guntur Municipal Corporation Area, Nallapadu Village, D No.403/C, Plot No.10A, 11,12,13,14 situated in 470 Sq. yds of site out of total extent of 1200 Sq. yds near D. No. 3-73/2, an apartments named ABHAYA Residency covered by sale Deed Doc No. 2920/2020. **Boundaries as per Deed.** **Schedule-B: Item No.1:** An undivided and unspecified Joint share of 23.5 Sq. yds or 19.64 Sq. mts situated in Schedule A property in the Apartments named Abhaya Residency, **Flat No.101** in the Ground Floor 625 Sq. ft (including common area), having Current Consumer Connection with S.C.No.1113819005225, including all amenities. **Boundaries as per deed.**	**Rs. 14.67 lakhs**	**Rs. 1.467 lakhs**
	Item No.2: An undivided and unspecified Joint share of 23.5 Sq. yds or 19.64 Sq. mts situated in Schedule A property in the Apartments named Abhaya Residency, **Flat No. 102,** in the Ground Floor 625 Sq. ft (including common area), having Current Consumer Connection with S.C.No.1113819005226, including all amenities. **Boundaries as per deed.**		**Rs.14.67 lakhs**	**Rs. 1.467 lakhs**
7	GUNTUR MAIN BRANCH **M/s Paramount Foot Wear** rep. by its proprietor **Sri Yalamanchili Sambasiva Rao and Smt Yalamanchili Sudha Rani (Guarantor).** Total liabilities as on 28.10.2025: Rs. 5,59,57,849.01 + interest + Other Expenses	**Property No.1:** Contd. EMT of **residential vancant site of Y. Sambasiva Rao admeasuring 393 sq yards in Plot no's: 27,19 and 220 sq yards in Plot No:15,** situated at Guntur District, Nallapadu Sub-district, Hamlet of Ankireddypalem, Vengalayapalem Gram Panchayat, Ankireddypalem village: vide sale deed no 10430/2015. **Boundaries as per deed.**	**Rs. 22.50 lakhs**	**Rs. 2.25 lakhs**
	Property No.2: Contd. EMT of **residential vacant site of Y Sambasiva Rao admeasuring 183 sq yards** plot no: 9 situated at D.No.1206/B2 of Ankireddypalem Guntur District, Nallapadu Sub-district, Hamlet of Ankireddypalem, Vengalayapalem Gram panchayat, Ankireddypalem village vide Doc No.32/2016. **Boundaries as per deed.**		**Rs. 6.66 lakhs**	**Rs. 66,600/-**

Date & Time of Inspection of the Property: 18.11.2025 at 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website www.canarabank.com or may contact Authorized Officer, ARM Branch, Vijayawada, Canara Bank, Ph No: 8331011695 during office hours on any working day.
* Dues/taxes, if any, known/not known to the Bank are to be borne by the auction purchaser and the same is exclusive of the final bid amount.
Bidders shall improve their offers in multiplies of Rs 10,000/- for Reserve Price up to Rs.25 lacs, in multiples of Rs 25,000/- for reserve price above Rs.25 lacs and up to Rs.50 lacs, in multiples of Rs 50,000/- for reserve price above Rs.50 lacs and up to Rs.100 lacs and in multiples of Rs 1,00,000/- for reserve price above Rs.100 lacs. The bidder who submits the highest bid (above the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder.
E-Auction Process and Terms & Conditions, contact Service Provider: M/s PSB Alliance (baanknet), web portal: "https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb" (Contact No. 7046612345/6354910172/ 8291220220/9892219848/8160205051,Email: support.baanknet@psballiance.com
Date : 30.10.2025, Place: Vijayawada **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Canara Bank**

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From Page One

Modi, Naidu express shock over stampede

Ministers Vangalapudi Anitha, K. Atchannaidu, T.G. Bharat, Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Kondapalli Srinivas, Anagani Satya Prasad and Kolusu Parthasarathy expressed shock over the incident and wished speedy recovery of the injured persons.

Expressing shock and sadness over the incident, BJP State president P.V.N. Madhav said the government should inquire into the stampede and support the victims by all possible means.

While expressing shock and grief over the loss of lives in the stampede, YSRCP president and former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy held the government responsible for the tragedy. He said in a press release that six devotees died during a stampede during *Vaikuntha Ekadasi* in Tirupati and seven died in a similar incident at Simhachalam temple earlier. "Despite repeated tragedies, the government failed in taking proper precautions and has acted with utter negligence. The loss of innocent lives reflects the inefficiency of Chandrababu Naidu's administration," he commented.

There was no security arrangement: witnesses

The temple draws visitors not only from various parts of Srikakulam district but also from the bordering regions of Odisha.

Devotees recalled that the temple had drawn visitors not only from various parts of Srikakulam district but also from the bordering regions of Odisha, with some travelling nearly 80 to 100 km to seek the Lord's blessings.

G Usha Rani, a resident of Kasibugga, who offered prayers at the temple said public announcements were being made asking the devotees to maintain calm and move slowly.

"Devotees seemed to be in a hurry as they came from far off places, they were observing a fast and it was getting hot," she said.

Another devotee, K Krishna, said while the temple management did not inform the police, those present at the site failed to gauge the situation. "One or two constables were posted at the entrance of the colony while just two others in a lane to control traffic," he said.

The popularity of the temple grew after videos were circulated on social media, according to a visitor.

Tragedy strikes




A view of the pathway with mangled iron railings inside the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple at Kasibugga on Saturday. (Right) An injured woman being shifted to hospital.

Rush of devotees to temple was unexpected, says Lokesh

Minister stresses need of formulating standard operating procedure to be followed for crowd management, says people availing of free bus facility provided by government to visit temples

The Hindu Bureau
KASIBUGGA (SRIKAKULAM)



Ministers Nara Lokesh and V. Anitha and Union Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu visiting the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple at Kasibugga, where a stampede killed nine on Saturday. V. RAJU

Minister Nara Lokesh said the unexpected turnout at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple at Kasibugga in Srikakulam district that led to a tragic stampede can be attributed to the social media exposure given to some temples and also the free bus scheme that was introduced by the government.

Speaking to media at the Kasibugga CHC, after interacting with the patients being treated there, along with Home Minister V Anitha and others, Mr Lokesh stressed the need of formulating a standard operating procedure (SOP) to be followed for crowd management and others at the temples.

When pointed out that social media posts have been resulting in unexpected rush at temples like Vadapalli Venkateswara Swamy temple, the Minister said not just social media posts but the devotees are availing free bus facility provided by the government to visit temples.

Mr. Lokesh, quoting the eyewitnesses and injured, said a majority of those who visited the temple are first timers to the place. "Nine out of 10 have visited the temple for the first time on Saturday. The local police, administration or the temple management had no idea that such a huge devotee turnout will be there," he said.

Mr. Lokesh said there were no CCTVs in the temple and as per the eyewitnesses, the temple gates generally close at 12 noon and as time was nearing, devotees started to rush towards the entrance. Those coming out from the temple fell on them resulting in the stampede.

He said the barricades should be of six inches but only two-and-half inches barricades were erected. Mr Lokesh said the State government had decided to give ₹15 lakh as compensation for the family of the deceased and would also monitor the injured till their health condition improves.

The Union government has also announced ₹2 lakh compensation to the deceased, Mr. Lokesh said and added that three of the deceased are TDP activists and they will get ₹5 lakh insurance cover provided by the party.

Couldn't have darshan at Tirumala, man builds temple

Harish Gilai
VISAKHAPATNAM/PALASA

Consecrated about six months ago, the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple at Kasibugga quickly gained popularity

The Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple at Kasibugga in Srikakulam district, where the stampede occurred on Saturday, was built reportedly by Hari Mukunda Panda, an 80-year-old resident of Palasa town who originally hailed from Odisha. Spread over 12.40 acres, it is currently being managed by Mukunda.

According to residents, Mukunda visited Tirupati for the darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy a few years ago, but couldn't have it despite waiting in queue for nearly five hours. Disheartened, he shared the experience with his mother, who then suggested that he construct a temple similar to the one in Tirupati, so that not only he but also others unable to visit Tirupati could have the darshan of Lord Venkateswara locally.

Following his mother's advice, his family built the temple, ensuring that the idol of Sri Venkateswara Swamy closely resembled the original at Tirupati. The temple was consecrated about six months ago, but quickly gained popularity among the locals and also in Odisha, with a number of social media influences doing tours of the temple. Over the past few months, the story of Hari Mukunda Panda's devotion spread across several villages in the district.

Devotees from interior parts of Srikakulam and even from neighbouring Odisha fondly refer to it as 'Chinna Tirupati' and visit in large numbers to offer prayers, especially on auspicious dates such as on Saturday (November 1), which was the first Ekadasi of the auspicious Kartika masam (Kartika month), as per the Hindu calendar.

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Eluru police bust international 'digital arrest' racket

Rajulapudi Srinivas
VIJAYAWADA

The Eluru district police detected an international 'digital arrest' fraud, which was being operated from Cambodia and Nepal, on Saturday.

The racket has links to U.S., China and Singapore. The team headed by Superintendent of Police (SP) K. Pratap Shiva Kishore arrested 11 accused, and more arrests are likely soon, said Inspector General of Police (IGP) and EAGLE Head Ake Ravi Krishna.

The Eluru Two Town police seized 12 malicious APK software files, over 150 bank accounts and about 40 crypto currency transactions, 112 Chinese illegal payment gateways and cloud servers traced to U.S., China and Singapore, and ₹7 lakh from the accused, the SP said.

Speaking to the media at the AP Police Headquarters on Saturday, Mr. Ravi Krishna said the accused made a phone call to a 66-year-old lawyer of Eluru a few days ago.

The accused threatened that the victim's Aadhaar card was used in criminal activities and showed her a forged 'digital arrest warrant'.

"The woman was confined for about 72 hours under 'digital arrest'. She was forced to mortgage gold, borrow loans. The victim, who panicked, transferred ₹51.90 lakh in multiple locations to the gang. But, finally she sent a message to Eluru SP at midnight, who swung into action," the IGP said.

The accused had made the calls from numbers routed through Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) gateways in Cambodia and Nepal, using Indian virtual phone numbers.

The gang flashed fake IDs, warrants and case files to the women and threatened her, said Mr. Pratap Shiva Kishore.

"They took the victim virtually into their control for about three days, prevented her from contacting her family members or police. They insisted on the transfer funds to mule accounts," the SP said.

The police team led by Eluru Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) D. Sravan Kumar and other officers tracked the transactions, which led them to Nepal borders. During investigation, it was found that the accused transferred money through APK malware, converted into cryptocurrency and then routed abroad, Mr. Pratap Shiva Kishore explained.

Police arrested Poonam Pravin Sonawane of Mumbai, Sachindra Sharma from Uttar Pradesh, Nithin Mishra, Harshit Mishra, Abhishek Kashyap and Gopal Yadav, natives of Uttar Pradesh, Sandeep Alone, a bank manager in Yavatmal (Maharashtra) and Sandeep Wakpanjar, a police constable.

"Investigation officers located the scam servers in China, Singapore, Hong Kong and the U.S. Origin of the mule accounts were located in Bengaluru, and the accused operated from Hardoi, Sitapur and Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh, and the role of a bank manager and police constable was unearthed in the international fraud," said Mr. Ravi Krishna.

Over 400 cybercrime cases were solved following the unearthing of the racket, in which more than 15 gangs operated at different stages. More arrests are likely in the case, Mr. Pratap Shiva Kishore Krishna added.

Timings
VIJAYAWADA

SUNDAY, NOV. 02	
RISE 06:05	SET 17:37
RISE 15:07	SET 02:35
MONDAY, NOV. 03	
RISE 06:06	SET 17:36
RISE 15:47	SET 03:33
TUESDAY, NOV. 04	
RISE 06:06	SET 17:36
RISE 16:30	SET 04:32

Vijayawada Weather	max	min
Machilipatnam	34	26
Guntur Town	35	21
Vijayawada City	34	24

Vijayawada City Today
34°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

Vijayawada City Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of moderate rain and thundershower.

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Amaravati's soil, air, water shaped my life: former CJI

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA



Former Chief Justice of India Justice N.V. Ramana speaking at the fifth convocation of VIT-AP University, at Inavolu in Guntur district on Saturday.

Amaravati embodies the aspirations of a new Andhra Pradesh – rooted in heritage yet striving for the future, said former Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana.

Speaking at the fifth convocation of VIT-AP University, held on Andhra Pradesh Formation Day, Justice Ramana reflected on the region's legacy – from ancient Buddhist scholars to modern innovators – and paid glowing tributes to leaders from the land who shaped modern Andhra.

Their struggles, he said, paved the way for the creation of linguistic States and underscored the enduring significance of language and cultural identity.

Sharing personal memories, Justice Ramana said the soil, air, and water of Amaravati had shaped him as a student, a leader, and a lawyer. Recalling his youth spent around the Krishna river, he said, "Whatever happens on this soil affects me deeply. Amaravati continues to inspire me."

Farmers lauded

Justice Ramana lauded the farmers of Amaravati, describing their five-year agitation as the longest farmers' protest in southern India since Independence. He saluted their courage, patience, and faith in the "judicial system and democratic process," reaffirming the constitutional right to peaceful dissent. Reflecting on challenges, he recalled how his family was targeted and false cases were filed against them during turbulent times. Even judges who upheld constitutional values faced pressure, he said, stressing that "institutions are tested in crisis, not in comfort."

भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान कोट्टयम
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY KOTTAYAM
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REGISTRAR

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
PALAKOL MUNICIPALITY

e-Procurement Short Tender Notice

NIT No.514/2025/E1, **Dt: 01.11.2025**

Name of the Work : Construction of Compound wall along with Railing and Other Developmental works in Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam Health Park in 12th Ward of Palakol Municipality. **Under EUDA (Special Grant).**
Estimated Contract Value : **Rs.81,10,890/-**
Form of Contract : Lump Sum
Bid Document Downloading Start Date : 01.11.2025 @ 11.00 AM
Bid Document Downloading End Date : 07.11.2025 Upto 04.00 PM
Last Date & time for receipt of bids : 07.11.2025 Upto 04.15 PM
Name and Address of authority concerned : Municipal Commissioner, Palakol Municipality, Palakol - 534260.
Contact Nos : 9849905815 & 8885040790
Further details can be seen @ "e" procurement market place @ www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.

Sd /- Commissioner, Palakol Municipality.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
HEALTH, MEDICAL & FAMILY WELFARE(J) DEPARTMENT

Memo.No.2444284/J/2024 Dated: 27.10.2025

Ref: 1. Rc.No.1762/APPC/2024, Dt:09.07.2025 from the Returning Officer, AP Pharmacy Council Elections, Sri K Dinesh Kumar, IAS, Director, Dept of AYUSH, Govt of AP.
2. Rc.No.1770-1/Elections/APPC/2025, Dt:23.10.2025 along with letter dated: 16.10.2025 from the Registrar, AP Pharmacy Council, Vijayawada.

PRECEPT

In compliance with the order dated 16.04.2024 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh in WP No. 19324 of 2023 and in accordance with Rule 3(2) of the Andhra Pradesh Pharmacy Council Rules, 1955 with regard to Election to the Andhra Pradesh Pharmacy Council Under Section 19(a) of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 notice is hereby given that an election of 6 Members of the Council to be elected from amongst themselves by registered Pharmacists viz., the Andhra Pradesh Pharmacy Council Registered Pharmacists of this State whose names appear in the Electoral Roll of Pharmacists viz., the Andhra Pradesh Pharmacy Council Register of 2025, with a lists of pharmacists registered subsequently three months before the ordinary Election to the Council published.

Nomination papers in form 'B' Under the Andhra Pradesh Pharmacy Council Rules, 1955 will be supplied by the Returning Officer to any elector who may apply for the same. These must be filled in accordance with the instructions thereon and returned to the Returning Officer not later than 12.00 noon on Wednesday the 19th November, 2025. The scrutiny of the nomination papers will take place at 12.00 Noon on Wednesday, the 19th November, 2025 at the office of the Returning Officer. A list of valid nominations will be published in Andhra Pradesh Gazette on Wednesday, the 19th November, 2025. Voting papers and other forms connected there with will be sent by post by the Returning Officer on or before 11th December, 2025 to all electors with instructions printed therein and the voting papers are returnable to the Returning Officer not later than 5.00 PM on Wednesday, the 24th December, 2025 at the office of the Returning Officer. The scrutiny and counting of votes will take place in the office of the Returning Officer from Saturday, the 27th December, 2025 at 10.00 AM and 28th December, 2025, if necessary.

To
The Returning Officer, AP Pharmacy Council Elections,
Sri K Dinesh Kumar, IAS,
Director, Dept. of AYUSH, Government of Andhra Pradesh
22-19, Jasthi Towers, 4th Floor, Saipuram Colony,
Gollapudi, Vijayawada 521225.

SAURABH GAUR, I.A.S
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
HM & FW DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF AP

Dated:27.10.2025

OFFICE OF THE RETURNING OFFICER FOR THE ELECTION OF ANDHRA PRADESH PHARMACY COUNCIL
OFFICE: Director, Dept. of AYUSH,22-19, Jasthi Towers, 4th Floor, Saipuram Colony, Gollapudi, Vijayawada-521225.

APPC/ELECTIONS/2025 Date: 02-11-2025

ELECTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in pursuant to the provision of Rule 3(2) of the Andhra Pradesh Pharmacy Council Rules, 1955 for the election of six (6) members of the Andhra Pradesh Pharmacy Council.
Electors, whose names are available in the Electoral Roll which is displayed in the website: **www.appharmacycouncil.gov.in** are requested to participate in the election as per the following schedule:

Details	Schedule Dates
Receipt of Nominations	Starting from14th November, 2025 to 18th November, 2025 (from 10 AM to 5 PM &19th November till 12 Noon i.e 16th November 2025 is Public holiday
Scrutiny of Nominations	19th November, 2025 (after 12 Noon)
Last Date for withdrawal of Nominations	19th November, 2025 till 12 Noon
Publication of Final list of approved nominations	19th November, 2025 after the scrutiny of the Nomination Papers
Dispatch of Voting papers under Rule 7(4)	11th December, 2025
Receiving of Voting Papers	24th December, 2025 up to 5.00 PM
Scrutiny &Counting of Votes	27th December, 2025

Forms of nomination papers may be obtained from the office of Andhra Pradesh Pharmacy Council from **10th November 2025 to 19th November 2025 (10.00 AM to 4.00 PM) except 16th November, 2025.**
Every nomination paper shall be as per Form B of AP Pharmacy Council Rules, 1955. Nomination papers which do not complain the provisions of Part I of the AP Pharmacy Council Rules, 1955 shall be rejected by the Returning Officer.

K DINESH KUMAR, IAS
Returning Officer, AP Pharmacy Council Elections & Director, AYUSH, Govt of Andhra Pradesh

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Rebuilding State brick by brick: Naidu

Accusing YSRCP of resorting to politics based on lies, deceit and criminality, the Chief Minister says the coalition government is providing a transparent and technology-driven governance with focus on welfare of the poor; govt. to celebrate Sathya Sai's birth centenary from Nov. 13 to 23

The Hindu Bureau
PUTTAPARTHI

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday launched a blistering attack on the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government, charging it with destroying the State's development and indulging in "fake politics built on lies, deceit, and criminality."

Addressing a public meeting at Peddannavaripalle village of Talupula mandal in Sri Sathya Sai district after disbursal of pensions under the NTR Bharosa scheme, Mr. Naidu reiterated the NDA government's commitment to reconstructing the State through transparent governance, technology-driven administration, and welfare, focusing on the poor.

"The 94% strike rate in the 2024 elections shows people's trust in our governance. After five years of destruction under the YSRCP term, we are rebuilding the State brick by brick," Mr. Naidu said, adding that the government was determined to reach every beneficiary directly.


Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu interacting with a beneficiary after distributing pension under NTR Bharosa scheme, at Peddannavaripalle, near Kadiri, in Sri Sathya Sai district on Saturday.

Viveka murder case

"The YSRCP government had deployed over 2.6 lakh volunteers to distribute pensions without transparency and politicised the system. In contrast, the NDA dispensation is delivering pensions at people's doorstep promptly every month, without middlemen or manipulation," the Chief Minister said.

Mr. Naidu accused the YSRCP of being a "fake party run by criminals." Referring to the gruesome murder of former MP Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy, the Chief Minister alleged that attempts were made to frame him in the case.

"They washed the blood-stained room, destroyed evidence, and blamed me. Can such people call themselves politicians? Their very existence is fake. They have no right to do politics," Mr. Naidu said. Warning those trying to stoke caste and communal tensions of stern action, the Chief Minister said, "The YSRCP is spreading lies, staging drama, and playing with public sentiment every day. But we have CCTV footage, data, and facts. We will expose them all."

'Record welfare spend'

Observing that Andhra Pradesh was setting national records in welfare spending, having disbursed ₹50,764 crore so far under the pension scheme and allocating it ₹33,000 crore annually, the highest in India, Mr. Naidu said, "We are the only government that thinks of the poor every day, not just during elections."

Referring to the devastation caused by Cyclone Montha, he said technology-based alerts could save many lives. The State suffered property losses of ₹5,244 crore and two fatalities, he added.

"Our Ministers, MLAs, and officers worked on the ground round the clock. We have already sent a detailed report to the Centre seeking assistance," the Chief Minister said.

Mr. Naidu said that Google had decided to set up a ₹1.33 lakh crore data centre in Visakhapatnam. Kia Motors' earlier investment in Anantapur was also a result of the TDP's governance record. "We are ensuring that every rupee of public money is spent wisely – not on corruption and propaganda, but on the people," Mr. Naidu said.

Referring to the court awarding death penalty to the five accused in the murder of former Chittoor Mayor Anuradha and her husband, the Chief Minister said, "Justice may be delayed, but it will never be denied."

Mr. Naidu announced that the government would celebrate Sri Sathya Sai Baba's centenary from November 13 to 23. He said Puttaparthi would be developed into a global spiritual hub.

"We are reviving the works stalled by the previous YSRCP regime. When good governance returns, progress follows," he said.

'Compassionate governance hallmark of NDA'

The Hindu Bureau
PEDDANNAVARIPALLE

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday distributed pensions under the NTR Bharosa scheme at Peddannavaripalle village of Talupula mandal in Sri Sathya Sai district.

The Chief Minister walked through the narrow lanes of the village to personally hand over pensions to the beneficiaries under various categories.

Interacting with the beneficiaries on the occasion, Mr. Naidu said that the gesture reflected the NDA government's commitment to "transparent and compassionate governance."

The Chief Minister first called on Meda Mallayya, an 80-year-old artisan, and handed him over the 'Kalaakar Pension'. On coming to know that Mr. Mallayya's wife was suffering from paralysis, Mr. Naidu said that immediate medical assistance would be arranged. Later, he visited the residence of Meda Reddamma, a widow, who sought a house site and financial aid for housing. The Chief Minister assured that her request would be duly considered. Mr. Naidu later interacted with Meda Maheshwari, a 'Bangaru Kutumbam' beneficiary under the P4 scheme. She sought employment opportunity and educational support for her three children. Ms. Maheshwari also sought medical help for her ailing mother. D. Chaitanya, a farm worker, urged him to allot a house and sought educational support for his children. Addressing the villagers, Mr. Naidu said the NTR Bharosa scheme symbolised the government's resolve to "restore dignity to the elderly, widows, and vulnerable families," who had been neglected during the YSRCP regime.

Mr. Naidu accused the YSRCP government of "manipulating welfare schemes for political gain," and vowed to rebuild trust through direct, corruption-free welfare delivery.

On his arrival, he was accorded a warm welcome by Ministers A. Satya Prasad (Revenue) and S. Savitha (BC Welfare); Hindupur MP B.K. Parthasarathi; Collector A. Syam Prasad; and SP S. Satish Kumar. Legislators K. Venkata Prasad (Kadiri), P. Sunitha (Raptadu), and P. Sindhura Reddy (Puttaparthi) were among others present.


The State may receive normal to above-normal rainfall as part of the Northeast Monsoon during November, says the IMD. FILE PHOTO

State likely to have warmer November

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

In its forecast for the month, IMD says the State may see above-normal minimum and normal to above-normal maximum temperatures

November will be warmer in Andhra Pradesh as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast above-normal minimum and normal to above-normal maximum temperatures for the month.

In its forecast for the country for the month issued on November 1, 2025 (Saturday), the IMD said above-normal minimum temperatures were likely for most parts of the country, including Andhra Pradesh. The previous year year, too, the State saw a warmer winter, which usually lasts from December to February.

The IMD said the State might receive normal to above-normal rainfall as part of the Northeast Monsoon during the month. But the State might not see any rainfall activity until November 7, except for thunderstorms at a few places.

La Nina conditions

The IMD further said that La Nina conditions were prevailing over the Equatorial Pacific Ocean and negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions over the Indian Ocean.

The latest global model forecasts indicated that La Nina conditions were likely to continue during November-December-2025.

Similarly, negative IOD conditions were likely to weaken over the Indian Ocean during the upcoming months.

INBRIEF

CM failed to reach out to cyclone-hit farmers: Kakani

YSRCP leader Kakani Govardhan Reddy on Saturday lashed out at Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for not announcing financial assistance so far to farmers who suffered crop losses due to Cyclone Montha. Addressing the media at the district party office, Mr. Govardhan Reddy accused the coalition government of turning a blind eye to the plight of the cyclone-affected farmers. "The NDA government has completely failed to take precautionary measures. Moreover, they are shamelessly promoting the Chief Minister as if he handled the situation efficiently," he alleged. He said the Chief Minister and his son and IT Minister N. Lokesh were busy making foreign trips, while Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu failed to take necessary steps to help the affected farmers.



Beautification drive on for Partnership Summit in Vizag

District Collector M.N. Harendira Prasad has directed the officials concerned to make the parks and tourist spots more attractive. As part of the CII Partnership Summit scheduled to be organised in Visakhapatnam on November 14 and 15, many delegates from India and abroad would visit the city and might tour local tourist destinations, he said, and directed the officials to take appropriate measures. In the process of identifying a location for the 'Gala Dinner' to the delegates, which is likely to be hosted on November 13, the Collector visited several parks, including VMRDA Park, MGM Park, Sea Harriers, TU-142 Aircraft Museum, Submarine Museum, and Tenneti Park. He reviewed the conditions at each site and discussed with officials the feasibility of arranging the dinner and other activities at these venues. The Collector examined several aspects such as parking, suitable areas for cultural programmes etc. He instructed the officials to undertake necessary development works, repairs, tree plantation, and beautification activities wherever required. VMRDA Chief Engineer Vinay Kumar, SE Bhavani Shankar, and other officials were present.

'Complete smart meters' installation in stipulated time'

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

It is a transformative initiative that enhances billing efficiency, reduces losses, and empowers consumers through transparent and digital energy management, says Chief Secretary

Chief Secretary and Special Chief Secretary (Energy) K. Vijayanand has emphasised the significance of completing 100% feeder and distribution transformer (DT) metering within the stipulated timelines and has directed the DISCOMs to ensure reliable communication and data integration through the Head-End and Meter Data Management System (MDMS).

Addressing a review meeting with the CMDs of DISCOMs L Sivashankar, I. Prudhvi Tej, and P. Pulla Reddy on Saturday on the progress of smart meter installation under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), Mr. Vijayanand called upon the DISCOMs to focus on accelerating the implementation, enhancing field-level efficiency, and strengthening consumer engagement for smart metering.

He instructed the DISCOMs and advanced metering infrastructure service providers to augment manpower deployment and expedite installations, particularly for government, commercial, and high-consumption domestic consumers.

The Chief Secretary said the DISCOMs had installed 17.96 lakh smart meters, covering about 45% of the sanctioned scope, and nearly 96% were communicating successfully, reflecting improved system integration.

He appreciated the DISCOMs for the progress made and urged all stakeholders to sustain the pace to achieve maximum smart meter rollout within the next quarter.

Further, Mr. Vijayanand directed the utilities to scale up prepaid operations across all government departments and to ensure timely arrears clearance and efficient energy usage through the new group wallet mechanism.

He asserted that smart metering was a transformative initiative that would enhance billing efficiency, reduce losses, and empower consumers through transparent and digital energy management, and instructed the DISCOMs to work in coordination with the Power Finance Corporation to ensure smooth fund flow and compliance with RDSS guidelines.

He noted that online monitoring of 11 kV feeders reached 92.65% across all the DISCOMs, with the SPDCL achieving 98.07%, CPDCL 93.88%, and EPDCL 83.53% coverage.

He emphasised that fixing of smart meters for non-communicating or no-modem feeders should be completed by the end of November 2025 to ensure 100% real-time visibility and seamless integration with the government's Real Time Governance System.

Laudable effort



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the 'Cyclone Montha Fighters' felicitation programme organised at his camp office, near Vijayawada, on Saturday.

Potti Sriramulu remembered on State Formation Day; Opposition slams govt. for skipping celebration

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Leaders of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) celebrated Andhra Pradesh Formation Day at the party's central office near Mangalagiri in Guntur district on Saturday. Srisailam Temple Trust Board member A.V. Ramana, TDP NRI wing leader Ch. Rajasekhar, Paruchuri Krishna, Valluri Kiran, and others paid floral tributes to Potti Sriramulu. They lauded his sacrifice for the creation of Andhra Pradesh–the first State formed on a linguistic basis–and urged people to uphold the ideals he espoused.

Meanwhile, extending warm greetings to the people of Andhra Pradesh and paying glowing tributes to Amarajeevi Potti Sriramulu, YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said that the State government's refusal to officially observe the Formation Day was an insult to the martyr's legacy.

> Government's refusal to officially observe the day is an insult to the martyr's legacy
> **Y.S. JAGAN MOHAN REDDY**
> YSRCP president

"By not celebrating this historic day, the Chandrababu Naidu government is undermining the sacrifice of Potti Sriramulu garu and the pride of the Telugu people. This day must always be celebrated beyond politics," he said in a press release.

Marking the occasion, YSRCP leaders celebrated Formation Day at the party's central office in Tadepalli, where they paid floral tributes to Potti Sriramulu's portrait. They expressed anguish over the coalition government's decision to neglect official celebrations.

YSRCP State general secretary and MLC Leella Appi Reddy said that Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, and later Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy, reinstated the importance of the day by officially celebrating it and ensuring that future generations remembered the sacrifices made for the State's formation.

Former Minister Velampalli Srinivasa Rao criticised the government for sidelining the Formation Day and ridiculed the collection of funds in the martyr's name for installing his statue while allocating crores for statues of other political leaders.

BJP State president P.V.N. Madhav also conveyed his best wishes to the people, recalling that Andhra Pradesh was born out of Potti Sriramulu's supreme sacrifice and highlighting the State's rich and distinguished cultural heritage.

Sabarimala former officer held in gold theft case

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

The magistrate court in Pathanamthitta on Saturday remanded former Sabarimala Executive Officer D. Sudheesh Kumar in judicial custody for 14 days in connection with the Sabarimala gold theft case. He is the third person arrested in the case.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) inquiring into the misappropriation of gold-plated copper moulds at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple recorded his arrest in two separate cases, pertaining to the theft of gold from the door frames and the misappropriation of gold from the 'Dwarapalaka' idols.

According to the remand report, Mr. Kumar, despite being fully aware that the copper panels were covered in gold, conspired to create false records describing them as copper sheets.

The report further states that he failed to ensure the presence of the Thiruvabharanam Commissioner, as required, during the dismantling of the gold panels. He is also accused of issuing a misleading recommendation that the panels be handed over to Unnikrishnan Potti for renovation work.

The report also alleged that the *mahazar* prepared under Mr. Kumar's supervision included names of individuals who were not present at the site. The SIT is expected to file a custody petition seeking further interrogation on Monday.

'Permanent solution on the cards for Nallamada Drain'

Floodwaters from Bapatla, Palnadu and surrounding regions converge into the Nallamada Drain, which has a capacity of 22,000 cusec but received nearly 42,000 cusec, says Pemmasani

Sambasiva Rao M.
GUNTUR



Union Minister of State Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar inspecting flood-affected regions in Prathipadu Assembly Constituency on Saturday.

The government is determined to find a permanent solution to the recurring flood problems caused by the Nallamada Drain and Guntur Channel, in the erstwhile Guntur district, Union Minister of State for Rural Development Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar said. During his visit to the cyclone-affected villages of Returu and Appapuram in Kakumanu mandal on Saturday, he inspected submerged fields and interacted with local farmers along with MLA B. Ramanjaneyulu. Mr. Pemmasani said the region faces two major issues, including, expansion of the Guntur Channel and flood management of the Nallamada Drain. "Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has already identified these as priority issues and allocated funds in the State budget for modernisation and expansion of the Guntur Channel. Work will begin soon," he said.

Explaining the gravity of the drain issue, he noted that floodwaters from Bapatla, Palnadu and surrounding regions converge into the Nallamada Drain, which has a capacity of 22,000 cusecs but received nearly 42,000 cusecs during the recent storm. "The only solution is to expand the canal and clear the blocked bridges," he added.

The Minister acknowledged that due to the State's current financial constraints, all works cannot be completed within a single year. Land acquisition of some 450 acres is needed, including 120 acres of government land and over 300 acres of private land. "With rising land costs, we will review the project once again and work towards a permanent solution. The issue will be brought to the notice of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, and we will seek allocations in the upcoming budget," Mr. Pemmasani assured. He also said efforts are under way to remove the silt accumulated in the Nallamada Drain to improve water flow and prevent future flooding.

BC hostel inmate goes missing at sea

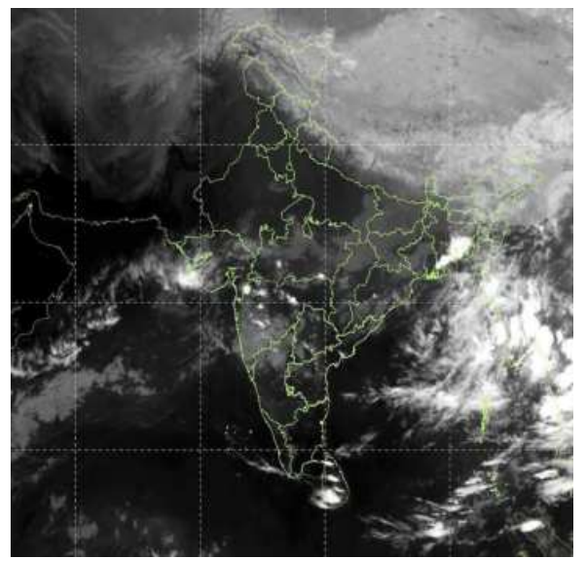
The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Minister for BC Welfare S. Savitha on Saturday expressed shock over a BC hostel student going missing at Muthyalammapalem Beach in Paravada mandal of Anakapalli district. The Minister directed the Collector and the District BC Welfare Officer to conduct an extensive search.

According to a statement, the missing student, Surreddy Bhanu Prasad, a 10th class student from Thotavanipalem in Ravikamat, was staying at the Thana BC Hostel in Paravada mandal. After returning to the hostel on Friday following the cyclone holidays, Bhanu Prasad, along with his hostel mates M. Chandu (Class 10) and S. Ramachandra (Class 9), went to Thana High School on Saturday. However, instead of attending school, the three, accompanied by N. Siddu, a former BC hostel student, went to Muthyalammapalem Beach. Even while they were preparing to take a bath, local fishermen warned them about the rough sea. But, the four boys entered the water where strong waves pulled them in.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty winds very likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Gujarat. Thunderstorm with lightning very likely at isolated places over Madhya Pradesh.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.5	25.7	Kozhikode	—	33.8	24.0
Ahmedabad	—	26.8	23.1	Kurnool	—	33.7	25.4
Aizawl	—	30.1	20.3	Lucknow	—	30.0	21.9
Allahabad	2.0	28.0	21.2	Madurai	—	37.4	23.6
Bengaluru	—	30.1	19.2	Mangaluru	3.6	30.0	22.9
Bhopal	—	20.2	—	Mumbai	8.0	31.8	25.5
Bhubaneswar	—	32.6	25.0	Mysuru	—	—	16.0
Chandigarh	—	—	—	New Delhi	—	31.1	17.7
Chennai	—	34.1	26.0	Patna	2.4	23.8	22.1
Coimbatore	—	33.0	21.0	Port Blair	0.7	28.8	24.2
Dehradun	—	—	—	Puducherry	—	35.4	24.6
Gangtok	27.0	15.5	13.4	Pune	1.5	27.2	21.1
Goa	—	—	—	Raipur	1.2	28.8	23.9
Guwahati	1.0	25.3	22.0	Ranchi	3.0	26.8	21.0
Hubballi	—	28.0	19.0	Shillong	1.9	22.4	15.7
Hyderabad	—	31.6	21.2	Shimla	—	23.5	12.4
Imphal	—	28.6	18.2	Srinagar	—	22.8	3.6
Jaipur	—	—	21.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.0	24.3
Kochi	—	31.4	24.2	Tiruchi	—	35.1	24.4
Kohima	1.5	24.7	17.4	Vijayawada	—	34.0	24.4
Kolkata	—	31.4	26.8	Visakhapatnam	—	32.9	23.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.18	..32	.28	37	81	
Bengaluru	..—	..25	109	60	85	
Chennai	5	6	.33	56	...138	
Delhi	.13	..44	.48	...358	...276	
Hyderabad	.15	..14	.28	41	...101	
Kolkata	8	..66	.28	27	33	
Lucknow	.10	8	.38	96	65	
Mumbai	2	..18	.35	52	77	
Pune	..—	..21	.22	78	90	
Visakhapatnam	.14	..53	.17	75	...112	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Rohtak, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 389 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

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

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

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

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

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

Plan to make Hyderabad a creative hub: Sridhar Babu

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The 8th edition of IndiaJoy 2025, a two-day event dedicated to media and entertainment, began in Hyderabad on Saturday with Minister for IT and Industries D. Sridhar Babu reaffirming the State government's commitment to growth of the sector and Union Information and Broadcasting Secretary Sanjay Jaju announcing plans for a regional centre of the Indian Institute of Creativity and Technology (IICT) in city.

The government is working to position Hyderabad not just as an IT capital but also as India's creativity hub, the Minister said, inviting animation studios, gaming developers and creative entrepreneurs to partner with the government.

INBRIEF



Suspended MLA's presence at ASHA rally sparks controversy

Palakkad MLA Rahul Mamkootathil, who was suspended from the Congress recently following allegations of sexual misconduct, made his presence at the conclusion of the sit-in by Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) in front of the Kerala Secretariat on Saturday, sparking political theatre. Mr. Mamkootathil arrived early at the venue and said the cause of the ASHAs was close to his heart. He left before Congress leader V.D. Satheesan arrived at the venue. Mr. Satheesan told the ASHAs that the UDF would redress their grievances when voted to power.

Gastrointestinal diseases rising in South India: experts

Gastrointestinal diseases are rising in South India, particularly among the younger population, experts warned at the international conference and live workshop YGCON-2025 organised by Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad on Saturday. Gastrointestinal diseases are conditions that affect the digestive tract, which includes the oesophagus, stomach, small and large intestines, rectum and anus. Senior gastroenterologist Dr. Ravi Shankar said: "Gastrointestinal disease is one of the fastest-growing health problems, and the trend is particularly alarming among the youth.

HYDRAA pulls down 5-storey structure on government land

In a major operation against illegal structures, the Hyderabad Disaster Response & Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has pulled down a five-storey structure raised on government land in Miyapur. The builder, Bhanu Constructions, had raised the structure on land under the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA). Based on a complaint from HMDA, HYDRAA confirmed the encroachment and demolished the part built on government land.

Festive rhythm



Cultural showcase: Artistes perform on the Vidhana Soudha premises in Bengaluru during the Karnataka foundation day (Rajyotsava Day) celebrations on Saturday. PTI

State govt. preparing Kannada for AI era, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



Siddaramaiah

The Karnataka government is committed to preparing Kannada for the challenges of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) era to ensure that technological advances do not lead to job losses in the State, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Speaking on Saturday at the 70th Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "We are committed to preparing Kannada for the new technological challenge so that our people are not left behind in the AI revolution".

He said the government was working on a policy to elevate Kannada to global standards. As part of the initiative, 800 Kannada medium and 100 Urdu medium schools would be developed as Karnataka Public Schools with upgraded infrastructure.

Pillai wins Kerala's highest literary prize

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



K. G. Sankara Pillai

Renowned poet K.G. Sankara Pillai has won the Ezhuthachhan Puraskaram for the year 2025. Kerala's Minister for Culture Saji Cherian made the announcement here on Saturday.

Instituted by the Kerala government, the Ezhuthachhan prize honours eminent literary figures who have made outstanding contributions to the growth of Malayalam language and literature.

The jury headed by writer and last year's winner N.S. Madhavan described Prof. Pillai as an eminently gifted poet who enriched Malayalam literature.

Writer K.R. Meera and K.M. Anil were the other members of the jury.

Prof. Pillai's poetry represents the exhilarating pace of modern Malayalam poetry and its distinct sensibility. Poetic excellence remains the hallmark of his works even when they react strongly to contemporary issues, the panel observed.

Man 'locked' in Telangana hospital mortuary, probe on

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana Health Department has ordered an inquiry following reports that a man was locked inside the mortuary of the Mahabubabad Government General Hospital (GGH) on Wednesday night and walked out the next morning.

Hospital authorities have dismissed these reports, stating that survival inside a freezer in mortuary is medically impossible.

Denies rumours

According to hospital superintendent Dr. B. Srinivas Rao, the incident occurred on October 30, when a 45-year-old man, identified as Vendi Raju, collapsed near the hospital's mortuary compound during heavy rain.

A three-member committee has been constituted to investigate the incident

The hospital and the mortuary are located on opposite sides of the road, he clarified.

"Raju, a former truck driver and now a destitute from Jayaram village of Gudur mandal, fell in front of the mortuary gate. Some bystanders noticed him and helped move him to a nearby bench in the open area beside the mortuary," Dr. Srinivas Rao pointed out.

He denied the rumours circulating online, adding that the man was never taken inside the mortuary. First aid was provided to him there, after which he was shifted to the hospital for further treatment, Dr. Srinivas Rao said.

Survival impossible

"If anyone is kept inside a mortuary, overnight survival will not be possible in such extreme low temperatures," he said.

Telangana Director of Medical Education (DME) Dr. A. Narendra Kumar ordered an inquiry into the matter.

A three-member committee comprising medical experts has been constituted to investigate the incident.

Karnataka to use secondary data for social survey

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

With over four lakh persons abstaining from the Social and Educational Survey that concluded on Friday, the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes will use secondary data available to understand the employment, education, and economic condition of those who who boycotted the survey.

"We have secondary data of people with us on government employment, admission to higher education and on those who have gone abroad. We will use that for analysis," commission chairman Madhusudan Naik said.

From Page One

9 killed, 15 injured in A.P. temple stampede

A police officer said temples maintained by the State's Endowments Department inform the police about possible rush of devotees on special days following which personnel are deployed. The officer said the temple did not have CCTV cameras that could have helped investigators ascertain the actual cause of the stampede. The police had not filed a case till evening.

District Collector Swapnil Dinakar Pundarkar said a three-member panel will probe the incident and submit a report. All the deceased have been identified and their bodies are being handed over after postmortem.

The deceased are E. Chinnamai of Tekkali, R Vijaya (48) of Tekkali, M. Neelamma (60) of Dukkavanipeta, D. Rajeshwari (60) of Bellipatia, Chinni Yashodamma (56) of Nandogama, Rupa G of Mandasa, L. Nikhil (13) of Sompet mandal, D. Amulamma of Palasa, and B. Brinda (62) of Mandasa.

'Households piling on debt faster than assets'

The financial assets added by Indian households each year stood at 12% of India's GDP in 2019-20, which declined to 10.8% by 2024-25. This figure has remained largely stable at this level in the post-pandemic period.

Financial liabilities of Indian households, on the other hand, made up 3.9% of GDP in 2019, which increased to 4.7% in 2024-25. Here, however, the situation has improved recently, with this proportion having hit a post-pandemic peak of 6.2% in 2023-24 before declining in 2024-25.

The data also show the changing nature of the way in which households are saving and investing money. For example, bank deposits have remained the main destination for household savings, but mutual funds have seen their share grow.

Deposits in commercial banks made up 32% of total household financial assets added in 2019-20, which grew marginally to 33.3% by 2024-25. In absolute terms, the quantum of household deposits added in 2019-20 stood at ₹7.7 lakh crore, which grew to ₹11.8 lakh crore by 2024-25.

Investments in mutual funds, however, saw their share in the total household financial assets added jump from 2.6% in 2019-20 to 13.1% by 2024-25. New mutual fund investments jumped 655% in 2024-25 to ₹4.7 lakh crore from ₹61,686 crore in 2019-20. The increasing share of mutual funds in fresh asset creation came at the expense of investments in currency, which saw their share fall from 11.7% to 5.9% between 2019-20 and 2024-25.

Other destinations of savings and investment saw their shares remain largely the same between 2019-20 and 2024-25.

Kerala declares itself free of extreme poverty

He said that the process of identifying the extremely poor families began within two months of that decision, with active public participation, including local body representatives, Kudumbashree workers, volunteers and officials.

The families identified through data collection at the local body level were scrutinised and recommended by ward committees. This was subjected to another check and a draft list was prepared. This list was presented to the grama sabhas and from it, 1,03,099 individuals from 64,006 families were identified as extremely poor. Considering food, health, housing and income as the critical factors for identifying the extremely poor, micro plans were prepared for each family.

In the first phase of the project, essential documents were provided to 21,263 people, who were struggling without even the basic documents. Regular supply of food has now been ensured through Kudumbashree for 20,648 extremely poor families. Health services, access to medicines, vaccinations, palliative care and organ transplants have been ensured, he said.

Houses were provided under the LIFE mission for 4,677 families, while 2,713 families were provided land and houses. Livelihood support was provided to 4,394 families. A total of 35,041 families were made part of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

A scheme to provide special attention to 5,583 children through the Education Department and free travel for educational purposes was implemented. Scholarships were provided to 331 students. A total of 28 single-member families were shifted to safe shelter homes.

"The process of eradicating extreme poverty is a continuation of the steps taken earlier for the universal public distribution system and for the eradication of landlessness and homelessness. Kerala has made remarkable progress in the Sustainable Development Index envisioned by the UN by eradicating extreme poverty. Our State is a laboratory for many welfare activities. In terms of extreme poverty alleviation too, we can hope that our experiments will become a model that other States in the country can benefit from," he said.

Mr. Vijayan said that the government has spent over ₹1,000 crore for the implementation of the scheme.

Steps should be taken to ensure that none of those who have been freed do not fall back into extreme poverty. For this, proper checks need to be carried out from time to time.

Removal of border fences: BJP MP sparks row in Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Amid ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in West Bengal, remarks by BJP MP Jagannath Sarkar on removing border fences and becoming one with Bangladesh has sparked a fresh controversy.

In a video that has gone viral on social media, the Ranaghat MP can be heard saying that if the BJP wins the elections, then there will be no border fence with Bangladesh. "We promise that if we win elections this time, the barbed wire fence separating us from Bangladesh will no longer remain. We were one (in the past) and in future (both the nations) will become one," Mr. Sarkar is heard saying in the video.

The Trinamool Congress leadership has said that if the BJP truly believes in the nation's integrity, then the party should take action against the MP.

He made the remarks while addressing a group of party workers on October 30. The majority of the electorate from the constituency are Matuas, a sect of Dalit Hindus who have migrated from Bangladesh.

Mamata to lead protest in Kolkata against SIR on Nov. 4

Trinamool Congress sends complaint to West Bengal CEO's office alleging that the BJP's Suvendu Adhikari has issued threats to BLOs with imprisonment if they do not comply with his instructions

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will hit the streets in Kolkata on November 4 to protest against the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The Trinamool Congress chairperson will also be joined by party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee in a protest rally from Red Road to Jorasanko on November 4.

While the Trinamool Congress leadership has softened its stand from not allowing SIR in the State to not letting any legitimate voter be struck off the electoral rolls, the protest rally is being considered as an attempt to keep the pressure on the Election Commission, which is conducting SIR in 12 States, including West Bengal.

The rally will coincide with the day when the door-to-door enumeration for the SIR will start. Under the SIR, house-to-house enumeration will take place for a month from November 4 to December 4.


The Trinamool Congress leadership has tried to draw a parallel between the SIR and the National Register of Citizens. ANI

The Trinamool leadership has tried to draw a parallel between SIR and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and said that some people committed suicide because of it.

Complaint sent

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress has also sent a complaint to the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, alleging that Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari has issued threats to Booth Level Officers (BLOs).

Senior TMC leader and West Bengal Minister Aroop Biswas, in a letter to the CEO on Friday, alleged that Mr. Adhikari, during a recent press interaction, had openly threatened BLOs with imprisonment if they did not comply with his instruction.

In the letter, Mr. Biswas demanded that the CEO direct the police to register an FIR against Mr. Adhikari for criminal intimidation. Speaking to presspersons a few days ago, the BJP leader had made reference to Bihar, saying that 54 CEOs who did not follow the guidelines of the Commission have been put behind bars.

'Nothing illegal'

Mr. Adhikari defended the charges against him and said that he said nothing illegal and he is willing to repeat the remarks again. The BJP leader said that BLOs have to work independently and not in favour of any political party.

Meanwhile, West Bengal BJP President Samik Bhattacharya said that the party believes that illegal voters should be "detected and deleted" during the SIR. Mr. Bhattacharya said that the Trinamool Congress does not want any deletions from electoral rolls, including that of dead voters.

Bengal CPI(M) deploys 'red volunteers' to assist electors

Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] has enlisted 'red volunteers', a collective of Left-inclined activists, to assist electors in participating in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of West Bengal's voters' lists, State Secretary Mohammed Salim told *The Hindu*.

Red volunteers rose to prominence during the COVID-19 pandemic and cyclone Amphan, which ravaged parts of the State in 2021. "CPI(M) has activated red volunteers, party workers, as well as student and youth wing volunteers to reach out to the public and assist them with queries surrounding enumeration forms, verification documents, etc, for SIR," Mr. Salim said. He said that these volunteers will work in addition to the party-appointed booth-level agents who will help booth-level officers carry out the door-to-door enumeration and verification process.

He added that after the draft roll is published, the volunteers will also help voters raise claims and objections if necessary.

CBI arrests 'key member' of cybercrime syndicate

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a key cybercrime accused, who was part of a syndicate that targeted Japanese citizens through "tech support scams". The action has been taken as part of the ongoing 'Operation Chakra-V'. The CBI has identified the accused as Dwibendu Moharana, who was intercepted at Bhubaneswar airport on his return to India on Thursday.

Probe revealed that Mr. Moharana operated the illegal call centre involved in sophisticated social engineering and deception, the CBI said. His associates impersonated support personnel from multinational companies, and made their Japanese victims pay up under false pretences, the agency said.

India's exit from Tajikistan airbase a setback to strategic diplomacy, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday described India's withdrawal from the Ayni airbase in Tajikistan as "yet another setback" to the country's strategic diplomacy, calling it a blow to New Delhi's regional influence.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said India had set up the Ayni airbase in the early 2000s and expanded its infrastructure substantially over the years. "Given its extraordinary location, India had major plans for expanding its presence at Ayni," he said.

Mr. Ramesh noted that India was asked four years ago to scale down its presence and has now fully withdrawn. "It appears that India has finally shut down the base which was its only overseas military facility. This is, without doubt, yet another setback for our strategic diplomacy," he remarked.


Jairam Ramesh noted that India was asked four years ago to scale down its presence.

He also noted that the Ayni base, located about 10 km from Dushanbe, is near a museum that houses the 1,500-year-old Buddha of Nirvana – "one of the most remarkable exhibits" of the region.

India's presence at the Soviet-era Ayni base ended following the expiry of a bilateral agreement with Tajikistan, officials said.

Agreement lapsed

The pact, signed for the development and joint operation of the base, lapsed around four years ago.

India had upgraded the base by strengthening its runway, fuel depots, and air traffic control systems, and had at one stage deployed Su-30 MKI fighter jets and helicopters there. The facility was last used in 2021 to evacuate Indian nationals from Afghanistan after the Taliban's takeover.

The closure marks the end of India's only overseas military outpost – once seen as a key node in its Central Asian strategy.

(With PTI inputs)

'Congress tried to ban RSS, but people have accepted us'

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Congress has tried to ban the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh many times in the past but people of India have accepted it, RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale said on Saturday.

He was reacting to Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's statement at an event held to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on Friday that he favoured a ban on the Sangh and likened its ideology to "poison".

Stating that Mr. Kharge should learn from history and past experiences, Mr. Hosabale said, "They have tried to ban us many times. He should learn from earlier experiences. One of their tall leaders tried to impose a ban on the RSS thrice. What happened to it? The court and the people both gave their verdict and the Sangh is moving ahead."


Dattatreya Hosabale

He said those seeking a ban on RSS must give a valid reason for it. "Ban cannot be done just because someone wishes so. You want to ban the Sangh, which works for nation building...," he said, while speaking to presspersons after the annual executive body meeting of the RSS held at Jabalpur.

IIT-Kanpur tried cloud seeding despite 'no clouds' alert

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Despite inputs from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) that clouds on October 28 in Delhi would be insufficient to coax artificial rain, researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur went ahead with their plan of flying their Cessna plane and firing 10 kg of a concoction of silver iodide, common salt and rock salt into the clouds to tear them. Twice. And failed both times.

That Tuesday – with Delhi's air quality predictably 'poor' – it was the first time the capital had experimented with cloud-seeding since 1972 and for the first time ever, with the express plan of improving air quality.

Cloud seeding, or spraying fine chemical aerosols into rain clouds to induce rain, has been a subject of investigation in India for decades with the acknowledged authorities on the subject – the IITM, Pune – having conducted careful experiments on the effectiveness of cloud seeding to enhance monsoon rain since 2009.

"We shared information with them (IIT-Kanpur) on the cloud situation but didn't give any specific input on whether they should go ahead with cloud seeding," a senior scientist with the Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) told *The Hindu*. "We didn't give any advice because the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, has conducted several cloud seeding experiments over the years and there is still no concrete evidence that this works reliably. We didn't give any recommendation but shared our input regarding clouds, which was that there were no clouds."

M. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, confirmed to *The Hindu* that cloud inputs were "shared", but he added that it was generic information.


A Cessna plane cloud seeding over New Delhi in an attempt to combat air pollution in the capital on Tuesday. AP

Manindra Agrawal, Director, IIT-Kanpur, and the public-facing official of the institute's programme, said that while his team had interacted with "IITM and IMD" previously, their feedback had been "negative" and that "it (cloud-seeding for winter pollution) wouldn't work."

"But it does work," Mr. Agrawal told *The Hindu*. "It may not have worked in India but it has in China and the United Arab Emirates. The decision to go ahead with the trial despite the IMD's forecast for unfavourable clouds was deliberate," said Mr. Agrawal, because the team wanted to test the efficacy of their "proprietary solution," which was "20% silver iodide, rock salt and common salt," with the flares manufactured at Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu. "We were aware that there was less than 15% moisture (in the clouds), which is too little for seeding. However, we needed data to find out the potency of our indigenously made salt mixture."

The implicit rule of cloud seeding is that it can only help in adding more water to clouds with minimum quantities of water vapour, called 'warm clouds.'

But if clouds already have water vapour, they would rain anyway. So what's the gain from seeding?

The IITM-CAIPEX (Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement Experiment) was designed to answer just that. Just as medical researchers test new drugs in randomised clinical trials, by having a group of participants receive a drug and another, only believing they have ingested a drug and then evaluating if the actual recipients had improved health outcomes, the CAIPEX researchers flared tubes of chemical powder attached to planes' wings to the base of selected warm clouds over Solapur, Maharashtra – a rain-and-water deficit region. They chose precisely 276 warm clouds – and flared 151, with the rest – 125 – left unseeded.

The researchers were able to send aircraft – each sortie cost ₹15 lakh – to the intended clouds to be seeded. It turned out that half the seeded and nearly 70% of unseeded clouds 'dissipated' without giving any rain. About 40% of the seeded clouds gave rainfall and 27% unseeded clouds gave rainfall.

Overall, seeded clouds gave an average 46% more rain at the seeded locations relative to the unseeded ones. Over a 100 sq.km. area downwind, there was 18% more rain in the seeded clouds versus the unseeded. Warm-cloud seeding was appropriate for enhancing only monsoon rainfall.

BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION

CPI(M) releases manifesto for Assembly polls

The Communist Party of India-Marxist on Saturday released its election manifesto and accused the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in Bihar of a "negative campaign" while hitting out at Opposition leaders out of "desperation".

"The NDA has been running a negative campaign while pointing fingers at the Opposition leaders, which is perhaps inevitable for them since they have nothing to showcase by way of achievements of the last two decades during which they have been in power in the State," claimed senior CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat on issuing the manifesto.

The CPI(M) is contesting in four Assembly seats in Bihar this time. In the 2020 Assembly polls, it had contested on four seats as well winning two of them.



CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat releases the party's manifesto in Patna on Saturday. ANI

Entire country watching Bihar, says Gehlot

The entire country is watching the Bihar election as it has been "worried" after all non-NDA parties were wiped out in last year's Haryana and Maharashtra Assembly polls, Congress leader Ashok Gehlot said on Saturday.

"It's an interesting election there, and it's the people's wish that the *Mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) forms the government, and the entire country is watching what happens in Bihar," the former Rajasthan Chief Minister told reporters in Jaipur.

"Where is democracy going? If this NDA continues its activities, the country will face a grave danger. Whether democracy will survive or not, or whether it will remain a mere name, is a different matter," the Congress veteran, who is also the party's observer for Bihar, said. PTI



RJD objects to money being deposited into women's accounts... they're asking to stop the distribution of ₹2 lakh to help women start businesses

SAMRAT CHAUDHARY
Bihar Deputy CM

Law and order collapsed in RJD regime: Nadda

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Saturday urged voters in Bihar not to vote for the RJD as its leaders Lalu Prasad, Rabri Devi, Tejashwi Yadav and Misa Bharti are all out on bail in various cases.

Addressing election rallies in Siwan and Muzaffarpur, he said law and order had collapsed during RJD rule. PTI



All new industries have gone to Gujarat... The youth in Bihar are now seeking change, and the INDIA bloc will form the government

GHULAM AHMAD MIR
AICC general secretary



JD(U) candidate Anant Singh and RJD strongman Suraj Bhan Singh. FILE PHOTO/AMARNATH TEWARY

'Chhote Sarkar', 'Dada' locked in tense rivalry in Mokama

Amarnath Tewary
MOKAMA

Comparisons are unfair, but they often get blurred in Mokama Assembly constituency, located just 95 km from Patna, as two of the most feared dons of Bihar's badlands contest against each other representing opposing blocs -- the National Democratic Alliance and *Mahagatbandhan*. "It's a clash of personalities rather than parties," claimed Vinay Singh, 38, a businessman in the constituency.

The heated rivalry came to the fore on October 30, when 1990s-era strongman and Jan Suraaj Party leader Dularchand Yadav, a close aide of Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad, was shot dead in a *taal* (wetland). It is alleged that supporters of Janata Dal (United) candidate and *bahubali* Anant Singh, 58, popularly known as "*Chhote Sarkar*" (Small government), are behind the murder. However, Mr. Anant Singh himself has blamed his rival, Suraj Bhan Singh, another strongman known as "*Dada*" (elder brother). Mr. Suraj Bhan's wife and RJD leader Veena Devi is the *Mahagatbandhan* candidate for the seat.

Dominant force

Mr. Anant Singh and his family have been the dominant force in Mokama for the past 35 years, though in 2000, Mr. Suraj Bhan had defeated Dilip Singh, Mr. Anant Singh's elder brother, as an Independent.

When asked if his wife would win, Mr. Suraj Bhan, seated in front of a luxury car, spoke humbly like a seasoned politician. "It's all in the hands of the people of Mokama...but I do not fear anyone...there is no bigger *bahubali* than people of the constituency," said the RJD leader. His wife and candidate, Ms. Devi, though, is nowhere to be seen.

Mr. Anant Singh had already hit the campaign trail. A publicity van carrying a cutout of the garlanded politician amid pictures of other NDA leaders such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has been doing the rounds.

ADR data on criminal cases

According to a report released by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), 32% candidates in the upcoming Bihar Assembly election have declared criminal cases against them while 27% face serious criminal charges.

Situated on the banks of the Ganga, Mokama is known for its vast tracts of *taal* and *diara* (riverine land), where farmers grow lentil and other seasonal crops. Agriculture and cattle-rearing are mainstays of Mokama's economy. Mokama has 2.89 lakh voters dominated by the upper caste Bhumihar community (around 85,000 voters), to which both Mr. Anant Singh and Mr. Suraj Bhan Singh belong, followed by the Yadavs (about 40,000 voters). Voters of the Kurmi caste, classified as Other Backward Class, and Dhanuk, Paswan, Sahani castes (Extremely Backward Classes) account for 95,000 voters.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission (EC) on Saturday ordered the transfer of Patna Superintendent of Police (Rural) and disciplinary action against and transfer of three other local government officers following political violence in Mokama.

On October 30, a Jan Suraaj Party supporter, Dular Chand Yadav, was killed during firing between the two sides while campaigning in Mokama for the Assembly election leading to tension in the area.

(With inputs from Sreeparna Chakrabarty)

In race for seats, richest and poorest contenders are part of grand alliance

CPI(ML) candidate Qayamuddin Ansari, contesting in Ara, says it hardly matters how much he has in his bank account as he relies on support from local people; on the other hand, Ran Kaushal Pratap Singh, a builder and VIP's nominee from Lauriya segment, has declared assets worth ₹373 crore

IN FOCUS

Amarnath Tewary
ARA





Qayamuddin Ansari of the CPI(ML) and, right, Ran Kaushal Pratap Singh of the VIP. AMARNATH TEWARY, RAN KAUSHAL PRATAP SINGH//FACEBOOK

Both the poorest and richest candidates contesting in Ara (Bhojpur district) and Lauriya (West Champaran) seats, respectively, for the Assembly polls are from the Opposition *Mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) bloc and are going to vie for a place in the 243-member Assembly. The constituencies will go to polls in separate phases on November 6 and 11.

"It is not the money but the content which makes a poor man rich and discontent makes the rich man poor," said CPI(ML) candidate from Ara, Qayamuddin Ansari, while campaigning with a handful of men carrying red flags and flags of alliance parties while moving in congested lanes of Sheetal Tola under Shivganj area of Ara town. Folding his trousers, Mr. Ansari, 48, was briskly canvassing in the bylanes where knee-deep rainwater had clogged the area.

Canvassing by foot

"The campaign plan was fixed earlier. Rain cannot deter my campaign trail. I have to campaign on foot only as I have no car or other vehicle to travel," he said. When asked how much money he has in bank accounts, he quipped with a broad smile, "only ₹17,500".

One of his supporters carrying a red flag on his shoulder said: "He is the poorest candidate not only in Bihar but of the whole country". Mr. Ansari gently smiled again to the remark.

"A person is rich or poor by what he is, not by what he has", Mr. Ansari said, quoting Henry Ward Beecher who was an American clergyman and social reformer. Does that mean one can be poor financially but, a rich person otherwise? "Yes, with the kind of support from local people and my partymen, I feel like a rich person," he said emphatically. "What if I do not have money in my pocket or the bank account? It hardly matters to me". However, Subodh Kumar, 55, owner of an electronic shop near the congested Shivganj thoroughfare, said: "He is more popular among the lower strata of society, but the upper caste of the constituency is still enamoured with the BJP."

In the 2020 Assembly election, BJP candidate Amrendra Pratap Singh won the election, getting over 45% votes. Mr. Singh has been winning the Ara seat since 2005 but this time the party dropped him, fielding Sanjay Singh Tiger. The Jan Suraaj Party has put up Vijay Gupta as its candidate, a famous doctor of the town. "*Kya pade ho chakkar mein, koi nahi hai takkar mein* (for what you're mulling over, no one is in contest)," Ram Pravesh Shah, in his 60s and working in a garment shop in the area, said. For long, he has been casting his vote for the CPI(ML).

Mr. Ansari was the party's student wing leader in the 1990s and is currently State secretary of Insaf Manch, a platform to help persons falsely implicated, framed and incarcerated by the police and investigative agencies in terror cases. He has been contesting Assembly polls since the 2015 election but failed to register a win. In 2015 elections, Mr. Ansari had got 3.23% of votes and finished in third position. "This time, I am getting huge response from people who are in no confusion at all to vote [for me]," claimed Mr. Ansari. Asked why would people vote for him this time, he said: "I do not have land, vehicle, house or business. My wife works as an anganwadi worker and our family survives on her small income only," said Mr. Ansari who belongs to the Extremely Backward Class (EBC) weavers' community. According to his election affidavit, he has ₹20,000 in cash and ₹13,000 deposited in bank account. He has jewellery worth ₹59,500. He has total assets of ₹2.32 lakh and seven cases are registered against him in different police stations but convicted in none.

Under the Opposition alliance, the CPI(ML) is contesting in 20 seats and it has 12 sitting MLAs in the 243-member Assembly.

Crorepati contestant

On the other hand, the VIP candidate from Lauriya in West Champaran district, Ran Kaushal Pratap Singh alias Guddu Singh, a builder, is said to be the richest among all candidates for the Bihar polls as he has declared his assets to be worth ₹373 crore in his election affidavit.

Mr. Singh has non-agricultural assets worth ₹352 crore, shares and securities worth ₹5.51 crore and agricultural land worth ₹2.58 crore. His wife too has assets worth ₹131 crore and investments worth ₹6.59 crore. The family owns seven luxury vehicles and jewellery worth around 3.4 kg of gold.

Mr. Singh is pitted against three-time sitting MLA and Bhojpuri film singer Vinay Bihari, who had won the last two Assembly elections in 2015 and 2020 on BJP ticket. In the 2010 poll he had won as an Independent candidate.

On campaign trail, Shah and Nitish warn of return of 'jungle raj' if the RJD comes to power; Tejashwi pushes back

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA



Poll duty: Amit Shah and BJP candidate Maithili Thakur during a public rally at Alinagar in Darbhanga earlier in the week. ANI

Bihar Chief Minister says his government has worked to bring development for all sections of society

With the campaign peaking for the first phase of the Bihar Assembly election, due on November 6, Union Home Minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Amit Shah, and Chief Minister and Janata Dal-United (JD-U) supremo Nitish Kumar, both allies in the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), on Saturday warned of the return of 'jungle raj' if the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) came to power. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, the Opposition *Mahagatbandhan*'s chief ministerial face, hit back at the allegations.

Mr. Shah addressed two public meetings in Gopalganj and Samastipur districts, virtually from a hotel in Patna due to inclement weather, while Mr. Kumar reached the venues of public meetings by road, and released a video of over three minutes to the people of the State. "Being a Bihari was a matter of insult" but after coming to power in 2005, he had "served them with honesty and hard work", Mr. Kumar said in the video address.

"This election is an opportunity to decide who should be entrusted with the future of Bihar. On the one hand, there are those who ushered in 'jungle raj' in the State while, on the other, there is the duo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who have brought development into the State," Mr. Shah said in his video address to the people of Gopalganj, who gathered at the Minj ground in the town despite a steady drizzle.

Referring to the manifesto released by the NDA on October 31, Mr. Shah said, "It has placed the focus on the welfare of women and farmers." "I want to reiterate that there are two major things in the manifesto – Nitish Kumar *ji* and Prime Minister Narenda Modi have recently deposited ₹10,000 into the accounts of 'Jeevika Didis'. They will also send up to ₹2 lakh to all Jeevika Didis in different ways. Second, we provide ₹6,000 annually to the 27 lakh farmers of Bihar, and now will add ₹3,000 more to this, and give ₹9,000 to them."

Mr. Kumar stressed the improvements he had made in the sectors of education, health, roads, electricity, drinking water, agriculture, and opportunities for youth. "My dear brothers and sister, you have given me the opportunity to serve you since 2005. I want to tell you that the situation in which you got Bihar, at that time, was not conducive. Being a Bihari was a matter of insult. But since then (2005), I served you day and night with honesty and hard work. Being a Bihari is not a matter of insult but a matter of respect now."

"Whether you are a Hindu, Muslim, an upper caste, a Backward (Class), Dalit or Mahadalit, we have worked for everyone. I have not done anything for my family," Mr. Kumar said, in a veiled reference to RJD chief Lalu Prasad, who has declared his younger son, Mr. Tejashwi Yadav, as his political heir.

Mr. Tejashwi Yadav was also unable to fly on Saturday due to bad weather. In a phone message to the people of Sahebganj in Muzaffarpur, and other places, he urged them to "support the *Mahagatbandhan* candidates as I have promised jobs, and a corruption-free Bihar".

Earlier in the day, he hit out at Mr. Modi over a recent spate of killings in Bihar. "You talk of 'jungle raj', but what about the recent incidents of murders in the State, committed by criminals who are protected by those in power?"

Countdown to oust NDA from Bihar has begun, says Priyanka

Amit Bhelari
BEGUSARAI



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

Congress leader and Lok Sabha MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said the "countdown" to oust the Bharatiya Janata Party-Janata Dal (United) government from Bihar has begun. She said voters will teach the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) a lesson and accused it of practising "divisive politics".

Addressing her maiden election rally in the State, at the Bachwara Assembly constituency in Begusarai, Ms. Vadra said there is "no double-engine government in the State and everything is controlled from Delhi".

"Women in Bihar feel unsafe, they are scared to go out alone. Inflation in Bihar is excessively high; people are unable to buy anything. In Bihar, neither the public nor Nitish Kumar's voice is being heard. Bihar's government is being run from the Centre," she said.

Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ms. Vadra said people in Bihar are unable to fulfill their daily needs and yet Mr. Modi gives "long speeches".

She questioned the ₹10,000 financial assistance being given to 'jeevika workers' under the Chief Minister's employment scheme. "The NDA government has been in power for 20 years, so why weren't women given money earlier, why are they giving it now," she asked.

Ms. Vadra said that crime in Bihar is out of control. "Murders are happening openly, people are living in the shadow of fear.," she said.

Indirectly referring to the allegations of 'jungle raj' being raised by the BJP and the JD(U), Ms. Vadra said BJP leaders only talk about the past or the future, but never about the present.

"They don't talk about issues like inflation, unemployment, and migration. Industrialists are being handed over the land in Bihar at throwaway prices and people are getting nothing," she said.

INBRIEF



Lucknow declared UNESCO 'Creative City of Gastronomy'

Lucknow has officially been declared a UNESCO 'Creative City of Gastronomy' during the 43rd Session of the UNESCO General Conference, currently under way in Uzbekistan. The recognition celebrates the city's centuries-old Awadhi cuisine, living food traditions and inclusive cultural heritage. The government said it marks a milestone for the State, positioning it among the world's top gastronomic destinations and showing how food heritage can become a symbol of cultural diplomacy and sustainable tourism. Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people from around the world to visit the city.

Centre flayed for dissolving Panjab University senate

Opposition parties, including the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Congress, and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), on Saturday cornered the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Central government on its decision to dissolve the senate and the syndicate of the Panjab University. The move by the Centre trampled on Punjab's hard-earned autonomy, academic freedom, and Constitutional rights, State Education Minister and AAP leader Harjot Singh Bains said. The proposal was an "attempt to saffronise a historic institution like Panjab University", Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring said.

Foundation stone laid for semiconductor unit in Odisha

The foundation stone was laid for a silicon carbide semiconductor production plant approved under the India Semiconductor Mission here on Saturday. The project entails an investment of ₹2,067 crore. SiCSem Private Limited, a subsidiary of Archean Chemical Industries Limited, will set up the facility. The integrated facility, expected to be operational by 2027-28, will have the capacity to process 60,000 SiC (silicon carbide) wafers annually, and package approximately 96 million units, according to the company. The project is expected to create over 1,000 direct jobs, and several indirect employment opportunities.

BJP MP Tigga accuses Bengal official of bias in flood relief

A video of Bharatiya Janata Party's Alipurduar MP Manoj Tigga went viral on social media on Saturday, where he was seen misbehaving with the Madarihat Block Development Officer (BDO) over the distribution of flood relief materials. As controversy erupted, Mr. Tigga said that biased flood relief by the BDO and the mistreatment of the opposition triggered his reactions. In the viral video, Mr. Tigga is seen banging the BDO Amit Kumar Chourasia's table and screaming at the government official and accusing him of playing favouritism with the ruling Trinamool Congress leaders and supporters. They are depriving the poor flood-affected people, he added.

SUDOKU

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Bastar rising beyond its scars



Vishnu Deo Sai
Chhattisgarh
Chief Minister

Few regions in India have suffered as much pain as Bastar, and few today show as much promise. For decades, this tribal heartland of Chhattisgarh lived under the shadow of violence and isolation. Today, the conversation is changing. Farmers can reach markets, children attend school without fear, and families access welfare benefits that once seemed out of reach.

This change has been made possible by joint efforts. The Centre, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has extended full support to end Maoist violence. Bastar's developmental revival is both a State and national achievement.

The return of peace was the first condition for change. Roads that once carried fear now carry buses to markets. Police camps, earlier seen as outposts of authority, are turning into spaces where health camps, sports events, and cultural programmes take place. It is no longer unusual to see children playing football alongside jawans, or villagers gathering for ration distribution. Such human connections have broken down old walls of mistrust and weakened the influence of Maoists.

But peace is not just the absence of conflict; it is also the presence of opportunity. People measure change in terms of whether their children can study, whether their mothers can receive medical and nutritional care, and whether their own labour finds dignity. In Bastar, these aspirations are beginning to find answers.

For years, the lack of schools denied tribal children the chance to imagine futures beyond survival. Not anymore. Anganwadi centres are running again, providing food and care. Girls are studying in Eklavya Model Schools and hostels. Scholarships are opening doors to colleges. Skill training in ITIs and centres across the region is preparing young men and women for dignified work. When I meet students in Dantewada or Narayanpur in Bastar, their confidence speaks louder than any report. They no longer dream of leaving Bastar – they dream of shaping it.

> Peace and development are reaching Chhattisgarh's tribal heartland, which faced Maoist violence and isolation for decades

Women are at the centre of this new Bastar. Self-help groups are selling tendu leaves, tamarind, and other forest produce at fair prices. Community '*haats*' or markets are alive again, linking artisans and buyers. Small businesses in food processing, tailoring, and crafts are being run with quiet determination.

Healthcare access

Healthcare was once the greatest gap. Villagers often walked for days to reach a hospital. Today, sub-health centres and mobile units are reaching deep into the forest. Poshan Vatikas in Dantewada and Bijapur are spreading awareness about healthy diets. Telemedicine is linking tribal families to doctors miles away.

Electricity is illuminating lives in places where darkness once symbolised fear. On January 26, 2025, Republic Day, Bijapur's Chilkapalli village got electricity for the first time. In March 2025, villages like Temenar and Pusukonta were connected, followed by Handawada in Abujhmad in April.

Access to water and connectivity has been another turning point. Jal Jeevan Mission has brought tap water to villages even in the remotest parts like Abujhmad. Roads are steadily improving, but it is digital access that has transformed the younger generation.

For the first time, the Tricolour was hoisted in remote villages – a historic milestone of integration and pride.

Behind every statistic is a life. In Kondagaon, young entrepreneur Ragini Jaiswal runs a nutrition unit, ensuring meals for women and children. In Narayanpur, tribal girls trained in tailoring are supplying uniforms to schools. These are not isolated cases but part of a larger wave of self-reliance. Bastar is not waiting for outsiders to define its future; its people are leading from within. With growing stability, the region is also signalling its readiness for responsible economic investment that complements local strengths.

As Chief Minister, I see it as my responsibility to ensure that the State's role is to support and empower, while people themselves carry the dream forward. Our target of eliminating Maoist violence by March 2026 will not be achieved solely through security operations, but by expanding opportunities and welfare.

As Chhattisgarh completes 25 years, Bastar too is stepping into a new chapter. Its story – from conflict to confidence, from fear to dignity – is proof that democracy, when combined with peace and inclusive development, can heal even the deepest scars. For our State, it is the lifting of a long shadow. For the nation, it is an assurance that one of its most fragile regions is turning into a centre of strength. Bastar's peace is not only our State's achievement – it is India's gain and the success of our democracy.

Eliminating Maoism made the impossible possible: PM

Inaugurating several development projects and a tribal museum in Chhattisgarh, Modi says the number of districts affected by Maoism in the country has fallen from 125 to three in past 11 years

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 'Chhattisgarh Rajat Mahotsav', organised to mark the 25th anniversary celebration of the formation of Chhattisgarh, in Nava Raipur on Saturday. PMO

Highlighting that the number of districts affected by Maoism in the country had come down from 125 to three in the past 11 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said elimination of Maoist terrorism had made the impossible possible.

Mr. Modi was addressing a gathering at the Chhattisgarh Rajat Mahotsav, an event marking 25 years of formation of the State of Chhattisgarh. He was on a visit to the State during which he took part in various events, including the inauguration of the new Chhattisgarh Legislative Building and a tribal museum, and the foundation stone laying for development projects worth over ₹14,260 crore.

During his address, the Prime Minister asserted that the day was not far when Chhattisgarh and the entire nation would be completely free from Maoist terrorism. Without naming anyone, he attacked his opponents and their political plank for the problem.

'Crocodile tears'

"Whatever you have endured for 50-55 years due to Naxalism is painful. Today, people who pretend to uphold the Constitution and shed crocodile tears in the name of social justice, committed decades of injustice against you for their own political gain," he said.

Mr. Modi added that due to Maoist terrorism, tribal regions in Chhattisgarh were deprived of roads for a long time. "Children lacked access to schools, the sick were denied hospitals, and people were bombed. Doctors and teachers were killed," he said.

On the recent gains made by the Centre in the conflict zone of Bastar, Mr. Modi said many individuals in Chhattisgarh who had once taken the path of violence were now surrendering rapidly. "Just a few days ago, more than 20 Naxalites in Kanker returned to the mainstream, and earlier, on October 17 in Bastar, over 200 Naxalites surrendered. In recent months, many associated with Maoist terror across the country have laid down arms," he said.

Mr. Modi urged everyone to imagine how far Chhattisgarh had progressed over the past 25 years despite the challenge of Naxalism, "and how much faster the pace will be once this challenge is fully overcome".

India had no role in stopping Nepali woman's travel: MHA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ministry says it was the airline's decision, considering her visa validity, to stop her journey to Berlin

Days after a public health professional from Nepal alleged on social media that she was stopped and deported from Delhi airport by Indian officials while on the way to Germany from Kathmandu, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in a statement on Saturday that "Indian immigration authorities have no role to play in this entire episode". The MHA added that "the incident has been wrongly portrayed as bias/discrimination against Nepali citizens".

Earlier this week, the Nepalese citizen, Shambhawi Adhikari, shared on Facebook that she was stopped at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport while she was transiting to Berlin to attend the World Health Summit.

"I hold a Nepali passport. I was doubted. Because I was from a small country, I was seen as a potential risk, not as a youth delegate," she said.

The MHA said that the said passenger arrived from Kathmandu by Air India. "She was stopped while boarding the connecting flight of Qatar Airways. It was the airlines which decided not to let her undertake her onward travel to Germany considering her visa validity and flew her back to Kathmandu. This is usually undertaken in accordance with the destination country rules/requirements. She then rescheduled her travel dates and later travelled taking another route from Kathmandu," the MHA said.

Transit passengers

It added that international transit passengers are not required to approach Indian immigration for their onward journey and this is a matter between the airlines and the passenger with absolutely no role of Indian immigration authorities.

"India values its strong relationship with Nepal and no Indian authority has any bias or discrimination against citizens of Nepal," the MHA said.

Rajnath stresses on open, rules-based Indo-Pacific region

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI



Rajnath Singh

India's emphasis on rule of law and freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific is not against any country, but to safeguard interests of all stakeholders, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday amid mounting global concerns over China's aggressive military posturing in the region.

In an address at a conclave of Defence Ministers of ASEAN member states and the bloc's dialogue partners in Kuala Lumpur, Mr. Singh said India believes that the Indo-Pacific should remain open, inclusive, and free from any form of "coercion".

He also pitched for an approach of "collective security" to ensure sovereignty of every nation in the region. He said the ADMM-Plus (a platform comprising 11-nation ASEAN and its eight dialogue partners) can be that bridge to connect strategic dialogue to practical outcomes and take the region forward towards peace and shared prosperity.

"India views its role in this framework through the lens of a spirit of partnership and cooperation," he said.

As Presidential estates welcome visitors, citizen engagement soars

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI



The number of visitors to the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi registered a significant rise from 31,230 in 2022 to 1,44,406 in 2023. FILE PHOTO

To maximise access and engagement with the public, the President's Estate expanded from a single location in Delhi with the opening of its estates in Hyderabad, Shimla, and Dehradun to the public. This resulted in a surge in visitors, pushing up the number of physical visitors from approximately seven lakh before the COVID-19 pandemic to over 20.5 lakh in 2024, data shared with *The Hindu* show.

The total citizen engagement (physical and digital) reached over 49 lakh visitors in 2024, signifying a 600% increase, validating President Droupadi Murmu's vision to turn Rashtrapati Bhavan into '*Rashtra ka bhavan*' (the nation's building), an official at the Office of the President of India said.

The number of visitors to the main building of the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi also registered a significant rise, following the opening of public access to it, the data show, with visitors increasing from 31,230 in 2022 to 1,44,406 in 2023, and 2,01,000 in 2024.

"This positive trend continued into 2025, with over 2,00,000 citizens already visiting in the first 10 months," the official said.

An enhanced viewing schedule for the Rashtrapati Bhavan's main building was officially announced on May 16, 2023, opening it for public viewing for six days a week, from Tuesday to Sunday, beginning June 1, 2023, increasing capacity by 200%.

Rashtrapati Nilayam (Hyderabad), and Rashtrapati Nivas (Shimla), were opened to the public for the first time in March 2023, and Rashtrapati Niketan (Dehradun) was opened to the public in June 2025.

"At each estate, new attractions and thematic experiences have been added to increase capacity, and create diverse avenues for citizens' participation," the official said. With enhanced accessibility, revamped ceremonies, including the Change of Guard, visitors can engage with the historical, and institutional importance of the republic's highest office, the official added.

INBRIEF



City Union Bank secures $50 million commitment from IFC

Private sector bank City Union Bank has secured $50 million commitment from International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group. The financing is aimed at supporting MSMEs in transitioning to energy-efficient and cost-effective solutions. "We are now stepping towards green financing to support our country in achieving sustainable growth and low-carbon emission," said Kamakodi N., MD and CEO, CUB.

Pine Labs to unveil IPO on Nov. 7 to garner ₹2,080 crore

Fintech firm Pine Labs is gearing up to unveil its initial public offering (IPO) on November 7, aiming to raise ₹2,080 crore through fresh issue of shares. The company's maiden public offering would conclude on November 11. Bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on November 6, according to the red herring prospectus (RHP). Apart from the fresh issue, there would be an Offer for Sale (OFS) of up to 8.23 crore equity shares. PTI

₹2,000 notes worth ₹5,817 cr. still in circulation: RBI data

High-value ₹2,000 notes worth ₹5,817 crore are still in circulation, as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data. The RBI announced withdrawal of ₹2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation on May 19, 2023. ₹2,000 banknotes are still legal tender. It said, "98.37% of ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, has since been returned". The facility for exchange of ₹2,000 notes has been available at RBI's 19 issue offices since May 19, 2023, the RBI added. PTI

Australian mining companies 'prefer India over China'

Aim of visit is to boost trade and investment between Australia's First Nations' people and India's mining and renewable energy markets.

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI



Eyeing India: Indian firms have come from the U.K. system and there is no corruption, says the delegation. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India is the preferred business destination compared with China as the firms here are more transparent, honest, cost-effective and work in a legal framework similar for both the countries on account of British history, said the representative of a business delegation on mining equipment from Western Australia, a global leader in mining.

Clayton Franklin, founder and chief engineer of EPCA, is a part of Australia's first-ever 'First Nations Business Mission to India'. First nations mean the businesses owned by the aboriginals of the country.

This mission includes the owners of eight Australian mining equipment, technology and services companies (METS) from Western Australia, who are on a week-long visit to Mumbai, New Delhi and Kolkata. The aim is to strengthen trade and investment opportunities between Australia's First Nations people and India's mining and renewable energy markets.

"We can work together with India," Mr. Franklin said. "When we go to China, we see China is getting more expensive. We also see we get somewhat lied to. They are not completely honest with us. They don't abide by patent laws, IP. When we deal with an Indian firm, we find they have come out from the U.K. system. The laws are very common. There is no language barrier. We converse and get things done. A lot of them run similar to a western company. There is no corruption that I have seen. We can do business very easily," he said.

Zero emission

His firm, which provides solutions for zero-emission in mining equipment conversions worldwide, sees opportunity in retro-fitting India's 100-tonne electric trucks used for mining.

Chris Schmid, MD, Woollahra Group, which makes and distributes cleaning and hygiene products, sees India as an opportunity to reduce not just the logistic and inventory costs by 75%, but also the carbon footprint.

"China has been an institutionalised avenue for imports for western Australia for the last 20 years. But the supply chain is for four months. If we have to import, the investment in terms of stock requirement is four months. So, we are outlaying four months of capital investment for China. India has the capability to provide an alternative so we can cut supply-chain investment from four to one month. We share the Indian Ocean. I am excited about seeing what we can source from India and bring to western Australia, which is the largest resource in mining sector in the world," he said.

GST mop up rises at slower pace of 4.6% in October to ₹1.96 lakh cr.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Festive buying spree unleashed by lower tax rates pushed gross GST collection to about ₹1.96 lakh crore in October, registering a 4.6% year-on-year growth – the slowest rate so far this fiscal.

The slowest pace of revenue growth in October comes after Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates on 375 items, from kitchen staples to automobiles, were slashed with effect from September 22 – the first day of *Navratri*.

According to the government data released on Saturday, gross GST mop-up in October was about ₹1.96 lakh crore, 4.6% higher over ₹1.87 lakh crore collections in October 2024.

The gross domestic revenue, an indication of local sales, grew 2% to ₹1.45 lakh crore, while tax from imports surged about 13% to ₹50,884 crore in October. The rate of growth in gross GST collections in year-on-year terms in October at 4.6% is, however, lower than about 9% average growth in GST mop-up so far this fiscal.

EY India Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said GST collections reflected a muted momentum in tax mop up primarily due to rate rationalisation and deferred consumer spending ahead of the festive season. This anticipated lag is likely to be compensated by more robust numbers in November on seasonal buoyancy.

Record auto sales on festivals, GST rate cut

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI



Tata Motors recorded a strong 27% growth, selling 61,134 units up from 48,131.

Driven by festive demand and a boost from the recent GST rate cut, India's auto industry witnessed record-breaking monthly sales, with Tata Motors overtaking Mahindra & Mahindra in overall volumes.

However, SUVs continued to dominate buyer preferences across brands.

Maruti Suzuki posted a robust 10.5% year-on-year growth, achieving it's highest-ever domestic sales at 1,80,675 units.

Compact segment that includes Baleno, Celerio, Dzire rose to 76,143 units, up from 65,948. SUVs such as Brezza, Ertiga, Grand Vitara climbed 9.8% to 77,571 units, compared with 70,644 last year.

Small cars dip

However, sales of small cars such as Alto and S-Presso declined to 9,067 units, down from 10,687 in October 2024 – a decline of 15%. Tata Motors recorded a strong 27% growth, selling 61,134 units, up from 48,131. SUVs were the standout performers, contributing 47,000 units – a record 77% share of monthly sales.

Kia India also saw impressive gains, with a 30% year-on-year growth and 29,556 units sold. The Sonet led the charge, accounting for 12,745 units.

Toyota reported sales of 42,892 units, a significant jump from 30,845 in the same period last year.

'Small, low-risk business to get GST registration in 3 days'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Small and low-risk businesses will get GST registration within three working days as the GST department rolls out a simplified GST registration scheme for small and medium businesses from November 1.

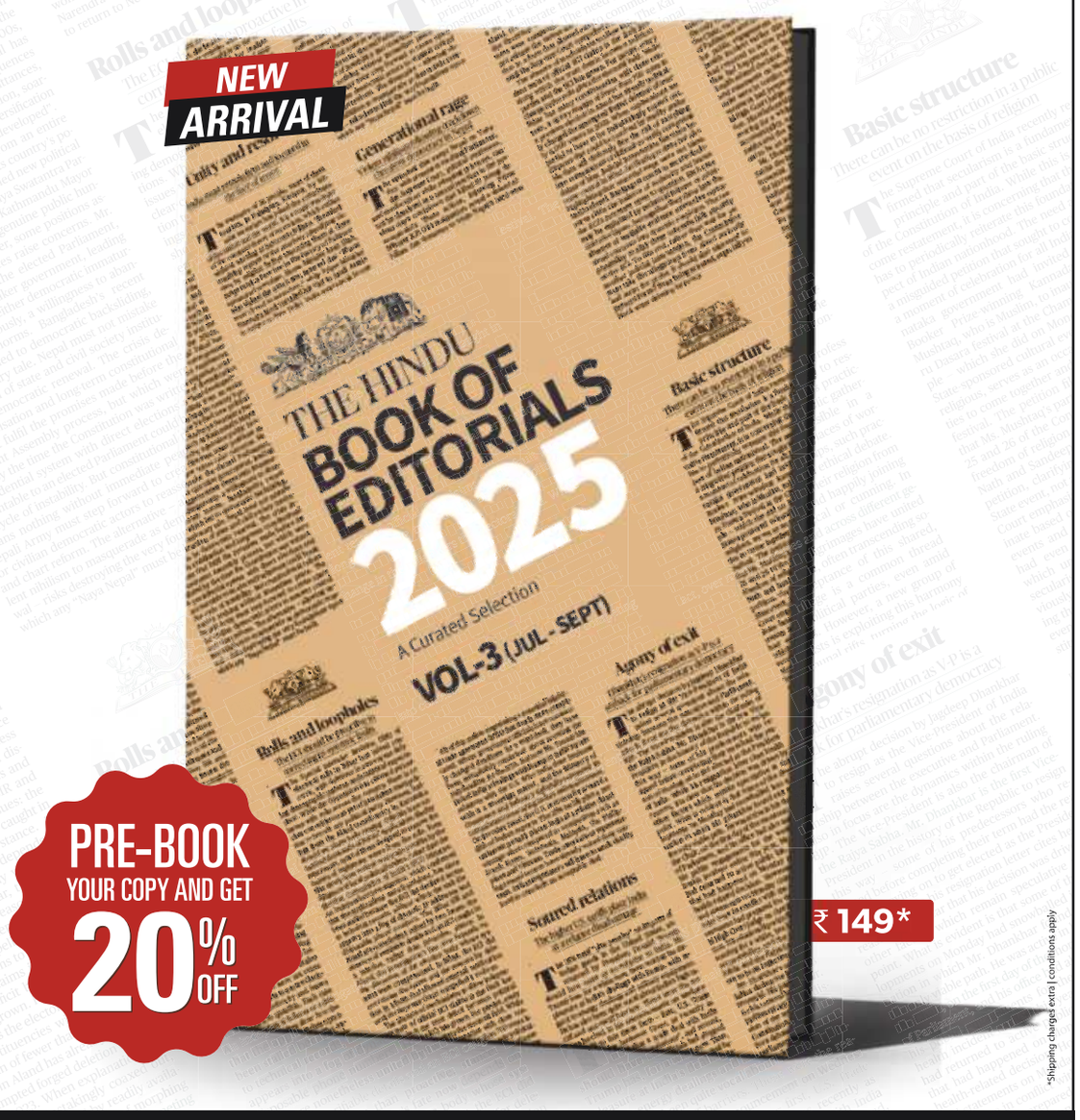
The GST Council had, at its September 3 meeting, approved the simplified registration scheme.

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

The Hindu Book of Editorials captures recent happenings in a set format, with the editorials being grouped under different sectors and viewpoints. The curated material is presented in calendrical progression, to provide a contextual review of the months that passed by.

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Artificial Intelligence readiness in manufacturing takes centre stage at The Hindu–IBM panel discussion

The Hindu Bureau

The Hindu, in association with IBM, hosted AI@Work, a panel discussion on the theme 'Are You AI Ready? Building the digital foundation of next-generation manufacturing'.

The session brought together industry leaders to reflect on what it meant for Indian manufacturing to embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how organisations can prepare for a technology-driven future.

The panel featured Sanjay Sinha, executive vice president & chief information officer at Coromandel International Limited,; Vijay Ananth, chief operating officer and chief information security officer, Data Patterns India Limited; Biswajit Bhattacharya, partner & automotive industry leader for India, IBM; Xavier Sebastian, president, Corporate Strategy, TAFE Limited; and Rajesh Malhotra, technical sales leader, Data and AI, IBM India & South Asia.

The discussion was moderated by Nagaraj Nagabushanam, Head - Data and Analytics, Designated AI officer, *The Hindu*.

Defining AI readiness

Opening the discussion, Mr. Ananth emphasised that AI readiness in manufacturing required more than just automation.

"Traditionally, it was digitisation first, then automation. When you say AI-ready, it calls for processes to be clearly defined with inputs and outputs, the right mechanisms to capture data and the ability to add smartness to decision-making," he explained.

THE HINDU GROUP presents AI@WORK SHAPING THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS WITH AI in association with IBM

Caution was sounded against rushing into tech adoption without enabling ecosystem

He stressed on the importance of three elements: infrastructure to capture data, awareness among people and a mindset shift towards embracing technology.

At Data Patterns, he said, the approach had been to educate resources, build robust IT back-end systems to handle large volumes of process and machine data, and execute use cases that yield tangible outcomes.

Trust building crucial

For Coromandel International, AI readiness had to be defined against the backdrop of decades-old practices. Mr. Sinha highlighted that in such organisations, trust-building was crucial. "The people have been working in a certain way and know the plant inside out. The readiness is for them to understand that AI is a friend," he said.

At Coromandel, AI had been tied directly to plant availability, throughput and quality.

IoT sensors were deployed to predict failures of critical machines, while financial officers were made stakeholders to quantify benefits in rupee terms, giving teams measurable outcomes.

Predictive models for process quality and investments in plant instrumentation, data platforms, and integration with cloud-based models were also central. Mr. Sinha underlined the success lay in the democratisation of AI, where plant experts guided technologists on parameters and outcomes.

Leadership awareness

From a strategic perspective, Xavier Sebastian of TAFE stressed that the readiness was not only about technology but also about leadership awareness across the hierarchy.

"Ideas are best when the problem comes from the line and they try and solve it. The art of the possible with technology must be known bottom to top," he added. He cautioned against rushing into technology adoption without preparing the enabling ecosystem. Legacy policies, governance structures and organisational rhythms often belong to a pre-AI era, he noted, and companies need to rethink roles, create space for data scientists, and ensure data policies, confidentiality frameworks, and cloud strategies are aligned to the new reality.

Measurable impact

Mr. Malhotra drew attention to the fact that many firms stumble not on awareness but on sequencing. Organisations often invest in infrastructure, then jump to pilots and production without preparing the intermediate layers.

"Being AI ready is about sequencing – ensuring the organisational strategy, data strategy, infrastructure and the actual AI lifecycle from experimentation to deployment are aligned," he said. He emphaised successful AI adoption rests on four enablers: governance, responsible and trustworthy AI, data culture and scalable infrastructure. "Without a data culture and the right governance, projects may start but they don't last long."

Stuck at pilots

The panelists agreed that many companies in India remain stuck at the pilot stage. Biswa Bhattacharya noted that while use cases are plentiful, the challenge is in "institutionalising AI across the organisation."

He underscored the need for clarity of business outcomes and added AI projects succeed only when they are measured against customer value, operational gains or financial metrics. This highlights Mr. Sinha's earlier point that finance teams must quantify benefits in rupee terms to sustain momentum.

Panellists also shared experiences. At Coromandel International, AI campaigns targeted influential farmers. Combining past sales data, farm-level records and marketing outreach, it achieved sharper farmer segmentation and ownership of tracking outcomes. Scan QR code to see full video on The Hindu YouTube channel

Strange spider web 'decor' revealed to boost prey detection

The Hindu Bureau

A new study in *PLoS One* has revealed that the mysterious silk decorations in some spider webs may be sophisticated tuning devices that enhance the spider's ability to locate its next meal by controlling how vibrations travel through the web.

For centuries, the thick, zigzag patterns of silk, known as stabilimenta, found in the webs of common garden spiders and other species, have been a matter of debate. Some scientists proposed that they act as a visual lure, reflecting UV light to attract unsuspecting insects. Others suggested they serve to warn larger animals like birds from accidentally destroying the web or perhaps as camouflage to conceal the spider lying in wait.

The evidence for these ideas has often been contradictory, and the fact that spiders don't always build stabilimenta has only deepened the mystery.

The authors of the new study, from Denmark, Italy, Sweden, and the U.K., identified a crucial gap: spiders are masters at sensing vibrations, yet scientists hadn't explored how the stabilimenta might affect how vibrations travel through the web.

'Negligible effect'

The researchers first observed and categorised the diverse range of stabilimenta shapes built by the wasp spider (*Argiope bruennichi*). Then they used this real-world data to create sophisticated computational models of spider webs, simulating prey getting trapped at various points and analysing how the resulting vibrations travelled to the centre.

The simulation revealed that for vibrations traveling directly towards the spider along the web's 'spokes' or moving perpendicular to the web plane, the stabilimenta had a negligible effect on signal travel time. But for vibrations that moved sideways along the web's threads, they made a big difference. In webs with a stabilimentum, these vibrations were able to reach many more output points at the web's centre. This suggested the 'decoration' enhanced the spider's ability to quickly locate its prey.

Per the study, the finding has many implications for biology and for engineering.

Among biologicalists, the newly understood role of stabilimenta could help explain the complex balance spiders need to strike between the need to detect prey and the risk of being detected by predators.

Engineers could add simple geometric features to control the flow of wave energy in materials of the future.

Imagine structures that can dampen unwanted noise, highly sensitive acoustic sensors that can pinpoint a sound's origin, and advanced protective gear that efficiently guide the force of an impact away from the body.

Scientists detect brain response to rhythm in preterm babies

Researchers using near-infrared brain imaging found that rhythmic sounds activate both auditory and motor regions in premature infants, indicating that rhythm processing begins before birth and helps wire early pathways for learning

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

Let the beat drop

Rhythmic sounds activate more of the brain than expected in preterm babies



Researchers used functional near-infrared spectroscopy to record brain activity in premature infants as they slept. WALEJ (CC BY-SA)

- Scientists studying premature infants found that rhythmic sounds activate both hearing and movement areas in their brains
- This suggests the brain begins linking sound and motion weeks before birth, earlier than previously confirmed
- Using fNIRS imaging, researchers observed stronger brain responses to regular beats than irregular sounds
- Exposure to rhythmic sounds may help wire the foetal brain, strengthening timing and coordination networks early on
- Experts say rhythm perception likely arises from self-organising neural oscillations connecting hearing and motor systems
- The findings imply rhythm is a fundamental building block for learning and communication, forming even before birth

Scientists have long wondered when the sense of rhythm first takes shape in the developing brain. It's been a difficult question to answer because studying this in foetuses is almost impossible. But when instead scientists turned to premature newborns, whose brains are at roughly the same stage as foetuses in the final weeks of gestation, they found a surprise.

According to a new study in *iScience*, when these preterm infants hear rhythmic sounds, their brains light up not only in areas that process hearing but also in regions involved in movement, hinting that the connection between sound and motion begins earlier than anyone had confirmed before.

"Auditory rhythm processing begins very early in development," the study's corresponding author Sahar Moghimi, a researcher at the University of Picardy Jules Verne in France, said. "Even before the third trimester, the auditory system becomes functional and starts encoding external sounds."

The researchers used a noninvasive imaging method called functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) to record brain activity in premature infants while they slept. The babies were around 36 weeks of gestational age.

They were exposed to sequences of rhythmic and irregular sounds. The team found that rhythmic sounds activated the brain's hearing area as well as those areas that plan movement.

"The brain is already responding to rhythm, much before birth – the same ability that later helps shape language and social communication," Dr. Moghimi said.

Rhythmic sounds also activated more of the brain than expected. The areas that plan and control movement responded more strongly to regular beats, suggesting the brain had already begun linking sound and movement internally and was preparing for the synchrony that researchers know emerges months later.

Even without the beats, a foetus in a womb is already immersed in rhythm: from the steady pulse of the mother's heartbeat to the cadence of her voice. The study's authors reasoned that this exposure may be helping wire the foetus's auditory system and build the brain's sense of timing.

"Exposure to auditory rhythms may be important for the development of other brain regions beyond hearing areas," Dr. Moghimi said.

"The observation is truly exciting," said Simone Dalla Bella, who studies audition and motor abilities at the University of Montreal in Canada. He said research has already shown that newborns only weeks old can detect complex rhythmic patterns and that infants a few months later are able to sense the differences between beats such as a march or a waltz when gently moved to music.

What makes the new study distinctive, he continued, is that it captures this coordination before birth, when the motor system is only beginning to mature. He added that the work reinforced the idea in rhythm research that the motor system isn't just something that moves after we learn to hear but an active partner in shaping perception from the beginning.

Edward Large, who studies auditory neuroscience at the University of Connecticut in the US, said the findings strengthen evidence that the brain's rhythm circuits are active long before voluntary movement appears. However, he also said the imaging method used in the study, fNIRS, is too slow to track the rapid brain waves that underlie rhythm perception.

Even so, he added, the results fit with a growing view that rhythm perception arises from self-organising neural oscillations linking hearing and movement areas, a kind of built-in resonance that may help the brain learn and coordinate from its earliest stages.

"Rhythmic sounds may help stimulate both hearing and motor regions, supporting early synaptic growth in the developing brain," Surendra Singh Bisht, who heads paediatrics and neonatology at the Swami Dayanand Hospital, New Delhi, said.

He explained that in foetuses and newborns, smooth, symmetrical general movements are among the most reliable signs of healthy brain connections. Infants with smoother movements tend to have better neural coordination and are less likely to develop cerebral palsy later in life. The findings don't mean preterm infants can recognise a tune or pulse, only that their brains are already preparing to do so. To Dr. Moghimi, even this early sensitivity underlines rhythm's role as a foundation for learning.

"The presence of elaborated neural capacities for processing rhythm so early in life highlights its importance as a building block for learning from regularities in the world," she said.

In that sense, rhythm may be the brain's first music – an internal pattern that helps the mind make sense of the world before life has even begun.

Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and science communicator from New Delhi

Plant-based foods reduce the burden of cancer, diabetes



SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

A report in July 2024 by V. Viallon and coauthors (*Scientific Reports* 14, 16330) discussed the use of a healthy lifestyle index (HLI) to investigate specific disease outcomes. The authors studied how individual lifestyles were associated with disease outcomes. They used data from the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC) and the risk of diseases like type 2 diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disorders, causing premature death. Some of these lifestyles also involved unhealthy practices like smoking, excess alcohol consumption, dietary habits, adiposity (excess fat in the body), and excessive sleep.

In the same vein, a paper by Reynaldo Cordova of Spain and coauthors from Denmark, South Korea, Northern Ireland-U.K., and Denmark, titled 'Plant-based dietary patterns and age-specific risk of multimorbidity of cancer and cardiometabolic diseases: a prospective analysis' appeared in the August 2025 issue of *The Lancet – Healthy Longevity*. The term 'multimorbidity' refers to the presence of two or more long-term (chronic) health conditions in a single person.

The researchers examined data of about 2.3 lakh individuals with such multimorbid cancer from the EPIC data bank and 1.81 lakh individuals from the UK Biobank. Based on analysing this data, they pointed out the crucial role and mechanism of insulin resistance in metabolic disease. Upon comparing specific cohorts of people aged 35-70 and/or with characteristics such as certain dietary habits, the researchers concluded that a healthy plant-based diet might reduce the burden of multimorbidity of cancer and cardiometabolic diseases.



About 35% Indians are vegetarians; they use foodgrains and many vegetables in their daily food. DAN GOLD/UNSPLASH

The study also reported evidence of how plant-based diets are also environmentally more sustainable than diets with a higher proportion of animal products (including meat, fish, and eggs).

The researchers were able to associate a higher adherence to a healthy plant-based diet with a lower risk of cancer and cardiovascular diseases (including hypertension, stroke, heart attack, and type 2 diabetes).

The use of tobacco products also leads to cancer. The much-lauded Mediterranean diet is cited to be very good, although the use of fish, chicken, and red wine is allowed in the Mediterranean region. Note that vegetarian or vegan diets, which exclude any animal-based diets, also have lower greenhouse gas emissions. While vegetarians use milk and occasionally some eggs, vegans strictly avoid even milk, which is an animal product.

Situation in India

Turning to India, about 35% of the people are vegetarians; they use foodgrains and many vegetables in their daily food, as well as milk; some of them use eggs as well. About 10% are vegans, who don't even use milk.

The presence of two or more long-term (chronic) health conditions in an individual is worrisome. It is estimated that 16.4% of the urban population is diabetic, while 8% of rural people are pre-diabetic. About 26% of urban Indian men and women are insulin-resistant with metabolic disorders. Unfortunately, about 29% of them smoke bidis, cigarettes, and hookah, and the tobacco in them causes cancer. The rural population doesn't only smoke: many of its members also chew betel nuts, an excess of which can lead to oral cancer. Those over 60 years of age account for 13% of people with diabetes and further suffer from age-related disorders such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

It is high time that our medical community, society, political leaders, and State and Central governments take note of this alarming situation and find ways to overcome it.

SNAPSHOTS



Humans threaten Kilimanjaro more than climate

A new study on Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro has found that the biggest threat to its biodiversity isn't climate change but adverse human activity. After analysing 100+ years of data, researchers found that the expanding human population on the lower slopes turned savannahs into farms and towns, resulting in a staggering 75% loss of native plant species since 1911. The study suggested creating protected nature reserves and widening traditional, multi-layered agroforestry systems could protect the remaining ecosystems.



Discarded cigarette butts can foster superbugs

Discarded cigarette butts are breeding grounds for drug-resistant bacteria, per new research. Cigarette filters in urban parks were found to contain more potential pathogens and antibiotic resistance genes compared to soil or plant litter. The plastic filters are perfect homes for microbes from smokers' mouths and the environment, and the toxic environment on the butt helps select for the toughest, most-resistant bacteria. These bacteria can easily share their resistance genes with other bacteria, making them harder to kill.



'Activated' gold nanoparticles may fight obesity

Scientists have found that when gold nanoparticles are injected into fat tissue and jolted with ultrasound, gentle heat from the particles helps convert energy-storing white fat into energy-burning brown fat. The particles also released nitric oxide gas, which reduced harmful inflammation and acted like enzymes to clean up damaging molecules and reduce stress in fat cells. In mice, this reduced belly fat by 60% and relieved type 2 diabetes and high cholesterol.

Question Corner

Swept along

Why can't we feel the earth moving?

We don't feel the earth moving even though it's spinning on its axis and racing around the Sun because everything around us is moving with it at the same constant speed. The earth rotates once every 24 hours, which means that at the equator you're actually moving at about 1,600 km/hr. It also travels around the sun at about 1,07,000 km/hr. But since this motion is smooth and constant, there's no change in speed or direction that our bodies can sense.

Our inner ears and bodies detect motion only when there's acceleration, such as when a car starts, stops or turns. When a car moves steadily on a smooth highway, you can't feel the motion unless you look outside. The same idea applies to the earth's movement. We move with the planet, the air, the oceans, and everything else on it. We also can't see the motion directly because distant stars and the sun appear fixed from our perspective. It's only through scientific observation, like watching the stars rise and set or measuring time differences, that we know the earth is in motion.

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

How do scam hubs in Southeast Asia operate?

What are scam centres and how do they function? What is 'pig butchering'? How has Myanmar's civil war contributed to the mushrooming of these centres? What is the role of Cambodia's Huione Group in enabling such scam centres? Why does India face a dual impact?

Srinivasan Ramani

The story so far:

About 500 Indian citizens who recently fled the KK Park cyber crime hub in Myawaddy township, near the Thailand border in south-eastern Myanmar, are set to be repatriated by the Indian government. This incident, along with numerous similar cases, highlights how the global scam centre crisis has reached alarming proportions in Southeast Asia.

What is KK Park?

KK Park is one of the most notorious "scam cities" on the Myanmar-Thailand border – a massive, purpose-built compound in the Myawaddy township in Karen State, controlled by a junta-allied Border Guard Force (BGF) led by warlord Saw Chit Thu, who has close personal ties to Myanmar's junta chief, Min Aung Hlaing. The U.S. Treasury sanctioned Saw Chit Thu earlier this year for his deep involvement in criminal operations, citing forced labour and links to the scam compounds.

Following reports of widespread Starlink usage at these compounds, the Myanmar junta conducted a "raid" into the KK Park compound and confiscated 30 Starlink devices. However, *The Irrawaddy* reported that democracy activists described the "raid" as a staged public relations stunt. According to sources cited by the outlet, senior criminal staff were warned to move from the area, and the BGF began transporting Chinese nationals out of KK Park as early as the evening before the raid. This media-friendly operation coincided with a U.S. Congressional investigation into the use of Starlink at scam hubs, besides U.S. President Donald Trump's attendance at the ASEAN summit in Malaysia last week. The "raid" did cause panic, enabling thousands of low-level workers to flee. *The Irrawaddy* reported that thousands queued at border gates hoping to cross into Thailand, with locals saying BGF had coordinated with the regime on the operation.

What is the scam centre business model?

The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) calls these "compound crime" facilities industrial, jail-like complexes where thousands are trafficked and forced to commit cybercrimes. Traffickers post fake job advertisements for high-paying IT and marketing roles. Victims from India, China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Africa, and Latin America are flown to regional hubs like Bangkok, then trafficked overland and forced across borders into Myanmar or Cambodia. Once inside compounds secured by high walls and armed guards, victims' passports are confiscated. They're told they've been "sold" and must work to pay off their "debt," enduring 12-hour workdays running online scams. Those who refuse face torture – beatings, electric shocks, starvation, and solitary confinement.

The Indian Embassy in Myanmar reported that over 1,600 nationals have been repatriated from scam centres since July 2022



Fleeing tyranny: People from different countries who were working in the KK Park compound in Myanmar, travel in a boat to cross over to Thailand, as seen from Mae Sot District, Tak Province area on October 24. AFP

One of the most infamous scams run by such compounds is "pig butchering" (*shā zhū pán*), a combined investment and romance scam. Scammers build trust over many days, often faking romantic relationships, then convince victims to invest in fraudulent cryptocurrency platforms. After showing fake initial profits and luring larger investments, they "butcher" victims by disappearing with everything. Other scams include impersonation (posing as police or bank agents) and extortion through blackmail. While initially targeting Chinese citizens, victims now span over 110 countries across the U.S., Europe, and Asia, including India. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates these scams generate billions of dollars annually.

What role has Myanmar played?

The UNODC states that "industrial scale cyber-enabled fraud and scam centres... have converged [in] inaccessible and autonomous non-state armed group-controlled territories, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), and other vulnerable border areas." Myanmar exemplifies this, with the GI-TOC identifying a profound lack of rule of law enabling "failed state" conditions.

In the mid-2000s, Myanmar's military implemented the Border Guard Force scheme, allowing ethnic militias in Kokang (on the Chinese border) and Karen State (on the Thai border) to retain arms and autonomy in exchange for alliance with the junta. Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing, who led the 2021 coup, created this system and has been photographed conferring ranks on BGF leaders, including Saw Chit Thu, who are known scam kingpins. The 2021 coup and civil war gave BGF partners carte blanche to expand illicit empires that could be "taxed" to fund the junta's war.

Moreover, Chinese citizens were the primary victims until 2024, making this a domestic political issue. The 2023 film *No More Bets* and the trafficking of Chinese actor Wang Xing amplified public attention. Frustrated by the junta's inaction, China gave tacit support to Operation 1027 in late 2023 – a massive offensive by the "Three Brotherhood Alliance" of ethnic armed groups against the junta to close BGF-run centres. The operation caused major territorial losses for the junta in Shan State, and Myanmar handed over 41,000 criminal suspects to China by the end of the year. However, the crackdown merely displaced operations south toward the Thai border (and to Mandalay and Yangon), with scammers pivoting from Chinese victims to other nationalities.

Which other countries host these centres?

Cambodia is a major hub, with large-scale centres in Sihanoukville, Bavet, and O'Smach, mostly in repurposed casinos or "special economic zones." The UNODC, *Bloomberg*, and blockchain firm Elliptic identify Cambodia's Huione Group as a "critical node" and the "world's largest criminal marketplace" financially enabling these operations. Through its "Huione Guarantee" subsidiary on Telegram, it allowed scammers to sell stolen data, malicious software, and money laundering services, and advertised "detention equipment" like electric batons for torturing workers. While Huione Pay is the "legitimate" public arm, U.S. sources told *Bloomberg* the company ran "Huione International Pay," brokering deals between scammers and money "mules." Elliptic identified over $91 billion in cryptocurrency received by Huione-linked entities in five years. Despite U.S. Treasury blacklisting in May 2025 and Telegram channel shutdowns, Huione adapted by rebranding, launching its own "USDH" stablecoin, and acquiring stakes in other criminal marketplaces.

How have Indians been affected?

India faces dual impacts – as a source of trafficking victims and as a target demographic. The Indian Air Force airlifted 283 citizens in March 2025 from Thailand who had been lured with fake job offers. The Indian Embassy in Myanmar reported over 1,600 nationals repatriated from scam hubs since July 2022. The 500 who fled KK Park are part of this pattern.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar stated, "We share the concern about cyber scam centres in the region which has also entrapped our nationals." Indians have become a key demographic for pig butchering and impersonation frauds, making this both a consular crisis and a domestic security concern.

Scam centres across borders

These centres are 'compound crime' facilities — industrial, jail-like complexes where thousands are trafficked and forced to commit cybercrimes



How is Australia setting standards on training AI?

What did Australia's Productivity Commission, a government-backed independent agency, propose with respect to training AI systems with copyrighted content? How have authors, artists, trade unions, and media organisations responded to the proposal? What is the Copyright and AI Reference Group?

John Xavier

The story so far:

On October 27, Attorney General of Australia Michelle Rowland unequivocally rejected proposals by the country's own think-tank that sought to grant technology companies unchecked rights to mine copyrighted content for training AI. This decision marks a critical moment in the ongoing global debate between AI firms and copyright holders. Australia's stance will have an impact on how tech giants mine data to train AI systems in the country.

What is at the heart of the issue?

At the heart of this controversy is the question of whether AI firms should be allowed to use copyrighted material, like books, music, artworks, and journalistic content, to train their AI systems without obtaining explicit permission from the creators.

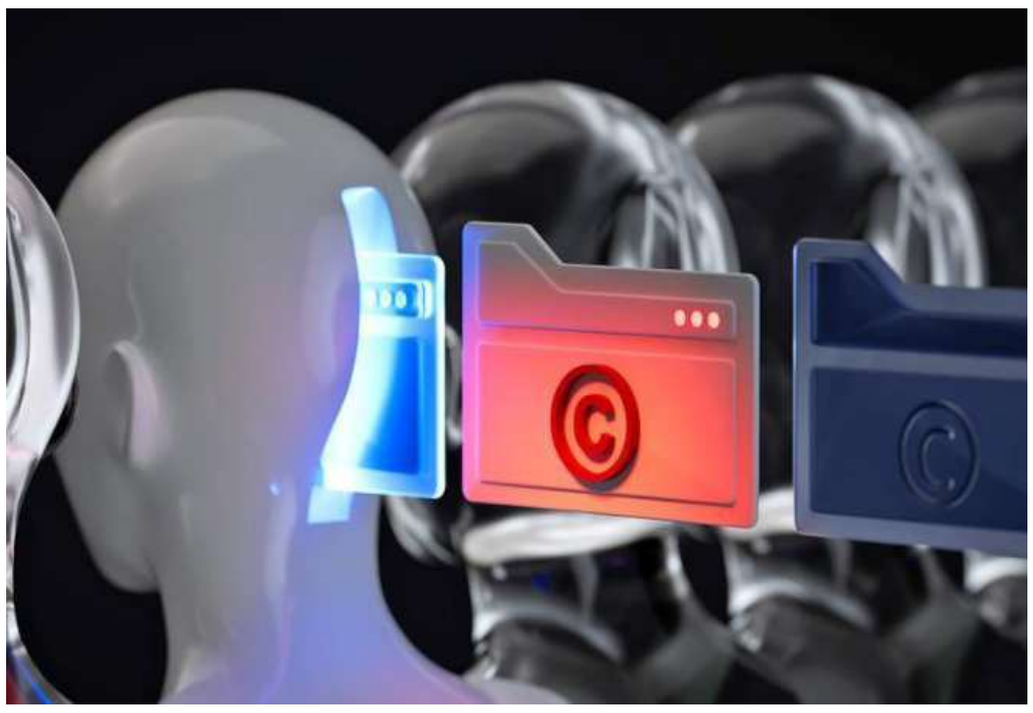
The issue came to a head after the Productivity Commission, a government-backed independent agency, which takes inputs from industry bodies and big tech firms, suggested an exemption to existing copyright laws to mine text and data. In its report titled 'Harnessing Data and Digital Technology', the commission advocated for open access to vast troves of text data and voluntary industry standards in terms of guardrails. The commission argued that easing restrictions could unlock billions of dollars in foreign investment and bolster Australia's economy.

This prompted immediate and vocal opposition. Authors, artists, trade unions, and media organisations called the proposal a way to get access to original content without paying for it. The commission's interim report, published in August, further stoked anger by revealing it had not consulted with creatives nor modelled the real impact on Australia's artistic economy before recommending the change.

How is the government responding?

In response to criticism from creatives, Attorney General Rowland said that "Australian creatives are not only world class, but they are also the lifeblood of Australian culture, and we must ensure the right legal protections are in place." She emphasised that technology's advancement must not come at the expense of those who generate the culture AI seeks to emulate or understand. Recognising the economic potential of AI, Ms. Rowland still asserted, "Australian creatives must benefit from these opportunities too." To chart a way forward, the government has convened a Copyright and AI Reference Group (CAIRG) to consider alternatives. These include the possibility of a new paid licensing framework under the Copyright Act, which replaces the current voluntary system, and fairly compensates creators when their works are used for AI training. The aim is to establish a regime that balances technology-driven innovation with real value exchange so creators can decide how their works are used, and receive payment for the intellectual property.

'Artists deserve the right to decide how their work is used and to share in the value it creates'



GETTY IMAGES

How has the creative industry responded?

The decision represents more than a win for artists and media agencies as many see it as step in the right direction. Industry bodies see it as an important step in the right direction. For instance, Annabelle Herd, CEO of Australian Recording Industry Association, said in a LinkedIn post that the decision to "rule out a text and data mining exception for AI training of music and other copyright material is a critical step in the right direction. It is a win for creativity and Australian culture and First Nations culture, but it's also a win for common sense." She noted that the current copyright licensing structures are the foundation of the creator and digital economies and that IP laws drive innovation.

"Artists deserve the right to decide how their work is used and to share in the value it creates. Protecting that agency is how we safeguard Australia's creative sovereignty and keep our culture strong," she asserted. Media executives have widely endorsed the move, underscoring the need to let creators have control over their content. Some see Australia's position in the broader AI debate as a defender of creator rights in an era of technological upheaval, while other view this as a signal to other democracies grappling with the same issues. Australia's decision comes at a time when, around the world, tech companies are seeking to negotiate or sidestep copyright laws in pursuit of data to power ever larger, smarter AI models.

Yet the backlash from cultural and media groups highlights a growing unease with the notion that transformative technology should override established rights and undermine creative economies.

Why does this matter now?

As AI becomes increasingly capable of generating content, reproducing styles, and even mimicking unique voices, the line between inspiration and appropriation blurs.

Creators, authors and media organisations fear loss of agency, financial harm, and the cultural dilution that comes with unchecked content mining.

In addition, smaller players and independent artists, those with the least number of resources, are the most exposed to this AI onslaught. For such groups, meaningful copyright protection is synonymous with survival, creative integrity, and fair market participation.

Australia's ruling is significant not simply for its immediate legal consequences, but for its deeper message that technological advancement must coexist with respect for creators, for culture, and for the economic infrastructure that sustains both.

The government's next steps on potentially replacing voluntary licensing with a mandatory, paid system could set the standard for ethical AI development, championing genuine value exchange and fostering trust between innovators and the creative sector.

As other democracies wrestle with the question of who benefits from the AI revolution, Australia's stance should remind them that innovation need not come at the cost of fairness, culture, and human creativity. Australia's position signals that technology works best when it amplifies human creativity rather than exploit it.

Between funds and ideology

PM SHRI

Kerala signed up for the Union government's flagship school education scheme after three years of resistance only to pause the agreement amid strong opposition from a coalition partner of the ruling Left Democratic Front

R.K. Roshni

Kerala made headlines recently when it became a signatory to the Union government's flagship PM SHRI (Prime Minister's Schools for Rising India) scheme after three years of holding out, only to press the pause button after the Communist Party of India (CPI) that is a coalition partner in the Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in the State refused to go along with the decision alleging a lack of consensus.

The scheme was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on National Teachers' Day in 2022.

On September 7, 2022, the Union Cabinet approved the Centrally sponsored scheme, which seeks to develop over 14,500 existing schools, including Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs), across the country as model institutions that showcase the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The PM SHRI schools are envisioned to meet the "demands of the 21st century," notes the scheme's 'Framework on school transformation'. With upgraded infrastructure and innovative pedagogy and technology, the schools are meant to create "well-rounded individuals equipped with key 21st century skills". According to the Union Ministry of Education, the objective of PM SHRI is to ready schools in which "every student feels welcomed and cared for, where a safe and stimulating learning environment exists, where a wide range of learning experiences are offered, and where good physical infrastructure and resources conducive to learning are available to all students."

The scheme is designed to benefit more than 18 lakh students directly. Mentoring of schools in the vicinity of PM SHRI schools is expected to benefit many more students. The total outlay of the project is ₹27,360 crore (Central share of ₹18,128 crore and State/UT share of ₹9,232 crore in 60:40 pattern), spread over a period of five years till March 2027. The Union government will provide 90% of the funding for northeastern and Himalayan States and the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, and 100% for UTs that do not have legislature. According to the PM SHRI dashboard, 13,070 schools have been selected for the scheme nationwide. Of them, 1,533 are KVs and JNVs.



Only existing elementary and secondary/senior secondary schools managed by the Union/State/UT/local self-governments and having Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) code are selected for the scheme.

The selection is done in three stages. First, States or UTs sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Union government agreeing to implement the provisions of NEP 2020 in "entirety". Then, schools that meet the minimum benchmark (on the basis of UDISE+ data) are shortlisted.

In the third stage, the shortlisted schools compete to fulfil certain criteria based on the challenge formula. Their claims are verified by States or UTs through physical inspection and a list of schools is recommended to the Union Ministry of Education. A maximum of two schools – one elementary and one secondary/senior secondary – are selected from every block or urban local body. An expert committee recommends the final list of schools selected for PM SHRI in each State or UT.

The MoU for the PM SHRI scheme clearly states that PM SHRI has to be prefixed to name of selected schools. "No change shall be undertaken thereafter, by the States/UTs/KVS/NVS for these schools, as these schools are to be developed as PM SHRI Schools for providing quality education," it says.

Key features

Pedagogy in PM SHRI schools will be more experiential, holistic, integrated, learner-centred, and flexible, according to the guiding framework. The curriculum can follow the National Curriculum Framework/State Curriculum Framework developed in accordance with the new curricular and pedagogical structure of the NEP.

The schools will use mother tongue/local or regional language for teaching and learning, particularly in the early years.

Student registry to track enrolment and learning progress; STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) education; sports and arts for every student; ICT facility, smart classrooms and digital libraries, science labs, and vocational labs; and early childhood care and education; competency-based learning and improvement in learning outcomes of each student are some of the significant aspects of PM SHRI schools.

A 'School Quality Assessment Framework' that measures the performance of these schools is another key component. The assessment framework will produce comprehensive reports to aid improvement in educational standards. 'Traditions and practices and Indian knowledge systems' are part of curriculum in these schools. The framework, it is mentioned, is not prescriptive but suggestive in nature.

Row over PM SHRI

Though PM SHRI was launched in 2022, States such as Delhi, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala refused to come on board for reasons ranging from political opposition to the NEP and objection to adding the PM SHRI prefix to schools' name to prioritising their own projects.

Punjab signed the MoU in 2022 but withdrew from it a year later. As in the case of Kerala, withholding of funds under another Centrally sponsored education scheme Samagra Shiksha by the Union government saw the Punjab government ultimately reconsider the decision in 2024. Other States too gradually gave in, with lack of critical funding threatening to derail education schemes.

Apart from Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu (all three States ruled by Opposition parties) remain the only States yet to sign up for the scheme. West Bengal's contention pertains to funding and branding. It asks why the scheme should be named PM SHRI if States have to bear 40% of the cost and have to take over the schools after five years. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the point of conflict is the three-language formula of the NEP. This translates to 'imposition of Hindi' for the ruling government. Tamil Nadu has chosen to seek legal redress for release of nearly ₹2,200 crore from the Union government.

Kerala, too, opposed PM SHRI on the grounds it showcases the NEP which, it says, is being imposed by the Union government as part of a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) agenda that will lead to 'communalisation of education' and promote unscientific thinking. The State had once agreed to implement the PM SHRI scheme in 2024, but refrained from signing the MoU.

More than a year later, a decision to throw in the towel was made after the Union government insisted on signing the pact as a precondition for release of pending Samagra Shiksha funds (to the tune of ₹1,158.13 crore).

Kerala tried to defend the move saying there will be no compromise on its educational policy and values. The government's attempts to walk the tightrope of prioritising the State's needs while staying true to the ideological opposition to the NEP though ran into a wall of CPI objections, leading to the freeze on the implementation of the scheme. A cabinet subcommittee, which has been formed to scrutinise the MoU, will now take a call on the issue.

THE GIST

- Apart from Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu (all three States ruled by Opposition parties) remain the only States yet to sign up for the scheme
- West Bengal's contention pertains to funding and branding. It asks why name the scheme PM SHRI if States have to bear 40% of the cost and have to take over the schools after five years
- Tamil Nadu's point of conflict is the three-language formula of the NEP
- Kerala opposed PM SHRI on the grounds it showcases the NEP which, it says, is being imposed by the Union government as part of an RSS agenda

Naxalbari to Vidhan Sabha

CPI(ML)-Liberation

The former Naxalite outfit's strategic shift to electoral politics yielded a credible 2020 Bihar performance and made it a key, ideologically driven partner in the INDIA bloc

Srinivasan Ramani

In the 2020 Bihar assembly elections, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation won 12 seats from just 19 contests – a 63% strike rate, among the highest for any party in Bihar, and a sharp increase of nine from its 2015 tally.



The party's victories were concentrated in its traditional strongholds of south Bihar, particularly the Bhojpuri-speaking region. Here, the CPI(ML)-Liberation's origins trace to the fierce agrarian struggles of the 1970s. As documented by scholar Bela Bhatia in the *EPW* article, 'The Naxalite Movement in Central Bihar', the party's roots lie in Bhojpur district struggles led by figures like Jagdish Mahato, who had established contacts with Naxalite leaders in West Bengal. From this crucible, ML-Liberation emerged as a distinct group among fragmented Naxalite factions. By 1995-96, its influence was significant, with Ms. Bhatia noting a presence in 11 districts of south-west Bihar, besides several others in what would become Jharkhand.

The party's strengthening marked a deliberate departure from the original Naxalite legacy of Charu Mazumdar and his associates. The pivotal shift began in 1978 under former general secretary Vinod Mishra, when a "rectification campaign" was launched. This was followed in 1979 by the decision to take part in open "mass activities" through dedicated "mass organisations".

Under Mishra's leadership, the party formed the Indian People's Front (IPF) and Bihar Pradesh Kisan Sabha to intervene in democratic and peasant struggles. By 1982, it had decided to contest elections on 'tactical grounds'. By 1990, it began functioning openly as a communist party. In 1994, the IPF was disbanded, allowing the party to contest under its own banner. The CPI(ML)-Liberation was recognised by the Election Commission and began contesting elections by 1996. Since 1998, it has been led by general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya (in picture).

Durable base

The party's growth in Bihar coincided with the turn to mass politics in the mid-1990s and its increased relevance in student politics in North India. Chandrasekhar Prasad, a former student leader from the All India Students Association (AISA) – ML-Liberation's student outfit – and a two-time president of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union, was assassinated in 1997. He was killed by criminals associated with the then-RJD strongman Mohammad Shahabuddin. Chandrasekhar's death led to strong student protests across the country but also demonstrated the party's commitment to building a presence in Bihar's political landscape.

Ideological differences persisted for years between the CPI(ML)-Liberation and mainstream left parties like the CPI and CPI (M). The party was also involved in clashes with the more doctrinaire and violent Maoist Communist Centre (MCC), which later merged into the CPI (Maoist). However, as it embraced mass fronts and mainstream politics, its strategic focus shifted. During the BJP's political hegemony, it identified the threat from the BJP as the principal reason for forming united fronts against 'fascism'. This realignment led to the CPI(ML)-Liberation joining the INDIA bloc in 2023.

While ideological differences with the CPI and CPI(M) persist, they are less pronounced, suggesting alignment with the mainstream Indian Left.

In Bihar, the CPI(ML)-L has offered the strongest ideological critique of the NDA. It has organised mass agitations related to land redistribution and the indebtedness of the poor. This has helped it retain its support. Unlike the caste identity-based support of the RJD, the CPI(ML)-Liberation maintains a base that transcends narrow ethnic markers. It draws broad support from the poor, including EBCs and Dalits, in its strongholds. This makes it a vital component of the Mahagatbandhan (MGB) in Bihar where the RJD offers a high floor in terms of support but a limited ceiling because of its limitations as a party representing Yadavs and Muslims and other parties lack strong organisations in the State. A strong performance by the CPI(ML)-Liberation in the Bihar elections will not only help the MGB in a tight contest, but will serve as a reinforcement of the party's evolution into a durable mass-based political force.

Scholar of the east

Francesca Orsini

The deportation of the literary historian, known for her seminal works on Hindi and Urdu, over 'violation' of visa rules came both as surprise and shock for many

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

'A literary historian working primarily with Hindi and Urdu materials' is how Francesca Orsini describes herself in her official profile on the website of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the University of London.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



This benign description though overlooks the seminal nature of her work for Hindi language and in particular on the making of the Hindi public sphere in the early 20th century, say fellow academics. When the Italian scholar was denied entry into India and deported for violating visa rules from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, there were both surprise and shock in literary circles.

For they feel Ms. Orsini is not known to make political statements and nor is there any known controversy attached to her works.

Her range of work includes studies of Hindi periodicals, oral traditions like Bhojpuri songs and '*katha*', and cultural and social dimensions of 'Hinglish', Hindi-English language mixing in media and everyday life.

After a BA in Hindi from Venice University in Italy, she studied in Delhi at the Central Institute of Hindi and Jawaharlal Nehru University before going to SOAS for her doctorate for which she worked on the Hindi literary sphere of the 1920s and 1930s.

She then found her interest in book history and worked on commercial publishing in Hindi and Urdu in the 19th century, which interestingly saw a proliferation of "oral-literate" genres printed in both Hindi and Urdu scripts just as modern rigid language ideologies consolidated.

Back at SOAS after teaching for several years at Cambridge, Ms. Orsini ran a research project on 'North Indian Literary Culture and History' that sought to rethink the history of early modern north Indian literature from a sustained multilingual perspective.

The scholar, currently professor emerita at SOAS, is now finishing a book on the multilingual literary history of Awadh from the 15th century to the early 20th century. She is also a fellow of the British Academy and a member of the Steering Committee of the British Comparative Literature Association and of the Institute of World Literature. In 2013-14, she was a Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University, and has also had visiting positions at Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Noted works

She is the author of *The Hindi Public Sphere* (2002) and *Print and Pleasure* (2009), and editor of *Love in South Asia: A Cultural History* (2006) and *Before the Divide: Hindi and Urdu Literary Cultures* (2010). Her edited volume on Hinglish (with Ravikant) has recently appeared with Orient Black Swan, New Delhi (2022).

"One could disagree with her views but cannot take way the academic value of her work. Blocking her entry is a loss for academia more than for her. Of particular interest has been her work in exploring the evolution of her work in how Hindi and Urdu evolved into distinct languages from the same roots," Purushottam Agrawal, a noted writer and literary critic, told *The Hindu*.

Ms. Orsini had a valid five-year tourist e-visa when she was deported. She arrived in India via Hong Kong, prior to which she attended a conference in China. She last visited India in October 2024. Although Ms. Orsini had a tourist visa, she was "regularly violating" visa conditions. This is a standard global practice that if a person is found violating visa conditions, he/she can be blacklisted, the government said.

According to an official, the Italian national, while on a tourism e-visa in 2024, spoke at a university, and conducted research, which was considered a violation of the terms of her visa.

A section of political leadership and academia though feels that the move was reflective of the government's growing "intolerance" towards the understanding of India's composite cultural heritage as evidenced by Ms. Orsini in her work on the origin and development of Hindi and Urdu cultures.

"The decision to bar her [Orsini] from the country is not a matter of immigration formality but a symptom of the Modi government's hostility towards independent, serious-thinking, professional scholarship," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh wrote in a post on X.

KYIV

Ukraine says it hit key fuel pipeline supplying Russia's military forces

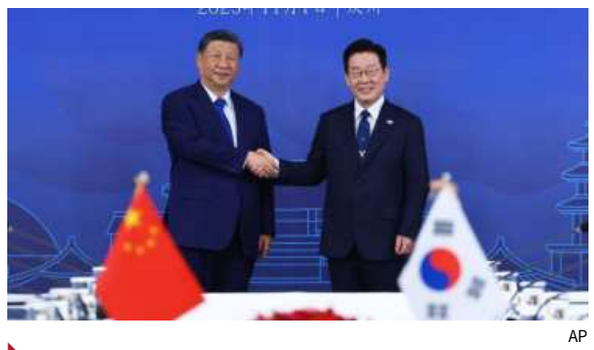


AP

Ukrainian forces hit an important fuel pipeline in the Moscow region that supplies the Russian army, Ukraine's military intelligence said on Saturday, a claim that came amid a sustained Russian campaign of massive drone and missile attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure. AP

GYEONGJU

S. Korea rekindles fraught ties with China, hosts Xi as APEC wraps up



AP

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung hosted Xi Jinping for their first meeting on Saturday as the Chinese leader took centre stage and reforged old ties at the APEC summit from which U.S. leader Donald Trump was absent. Mr. Lee also pitched China as a partner in Seoul's efforts to rekindle frayed ties with North Korea. AFP

NEW YORK

American Hindu group asks V.P. Vance to 'engage with Hinduism'



AFP

As U.S. Vice President J.D Vance continues to face criticism over his comments on his inter-faith marriage with Second Lady Usha Vance, the Hindu American Foundation (HAF) has said that as a Christian public figure, it is "reasonable" for him to acknowledge the positive impact of Hinduism and "engage with Hinduism." PTI

KAMPALA

Tanzanian President Hassan 'wins' disputed poll marred by violence



REUTERS

Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan "won" the country's disputed election with more than 97% of the vote, according to official results announced on Saturday, in a rare landslide victory in the region. The October 29 election was marred by violence as demonstrators took to the streets to protest the poll. AP

Canada PM apologises to Trump over anti-tariff ad

Agence France-Presse
GYEONGJU

Canadian premier Mark Carney on Saturday confirmed from the APEC summit that he had apologised to Donald Trump over an anti-tariff ad campaign that prompted the U.S. president to raise tariffs on Canada. Mr. Trump flatly rejected any resumption of trade negotiations even after Mr. Carney said sorry for the ad.

Mr. Carney also called his talks with China's leader Xi Jinping a "turning point" in restoring their battered ties, adding he raised tricky topics with Beijing. Mr. Carney and Mr. Xi on Friday held the first formal talks since 2017, as both manage Mr. Trump's trade onslaught.

U.S. can help allies counter 'aggressive' China: Hegseth

U.S. willing to share tech with ASEAN nations to counter China; Beijing says South China Sea patrol by Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and the U.S undermines the region's peace and stability

Reuters
KUALA LUMPUR

Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth on Saturday took aim at Beijing over an increase in "destabilising actions" in the South China Sea and committed to support Southeast Asian countries with technology to help them respond jointly to Chinese threats.

On a second day in Kuala Lumpur packed with meetings that included multilateral talks with allies Australia, Japan and the Philippines, Mr. Hegseth proposed to ASEAN Defence Ministers the building of shared maritime domain awareness and said China had shown a lack of respect and threatened their territorial sovereignty.

"You live it on the threats we all face from China's aggression and course of actions in the South China Sea and elsewhere," he said. "We need to develop our joint capabilities to respond".

"No one can innovate and scale like the United States of America, and we're eager to share those capabilities with allies and partners," Mr. Hegseth added.



Pacific strategy: U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth at the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur. REUTERS

Sovereignty claims

Mr. Hegseth's remarks came a day after the armed forces of Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and the U.S. held a drill in the South China Sea, a patrol that a Chinese military spokesperson said "seriously undermined peace and stability".

Beijing claims sovereignty over almost the entire South China Sea via a line on its maps that overlaps with parts of the exclusive economic zones of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Since crackdown, close to 40,000 Afghan refugees left Balochistan province of Pak.

Press Trust of India
KARACHI

More than two years after Pakistan started a crackdown against Afghan nationals, nearly 40,000 of them have left Balochistan capital Quetta, a top provincial official has said.

Since October 2023, when Pakistan asked all the foreign nationals, including Afghan illegal immigrants, to leave voluntarily or face deportation, the deadline has been extended multiple times.

Pakistan hosts over 1.7 million registered Afghan refugees, with many more living without documentation. The government recently launched yet another repatriation drive, citing security and economic concerns, prompting thousands of Afghans to return to their home country.



Afghans who fled their homes following border clashes wait for transportation in Chaman

The authorities have fastened the deportation measures by ordering the closure of around 54 Afghan refugee camps across the country.

Quetta Commissioner Mir Ullah Badhani said that most of the Afghans who have returned home were living in the Afghan Basti (town) on the Eastern bypass of Quetta for the last 35-40 years.

According to the Commissioner, refugees crossing over to Afghanistan via the Chaman border have slowed down due to the recent conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan. "So far close to 40,000 Afghans had crossed over via the Chaman border."

Since the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979, Pakistan has hosted millions of refugees, but initiated a crackdown on them since 2023. After the Taliban came into power in 2021, another 7,00,000 Afghans moved to Pakistan.

With Maduro in his sights, Trump is building up troops in the Caribbean

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny



© GRAPHIC NEWS

On August 7, U.S. Attorney-General Pam Bondi announced that the Trump administration had doubled the existing bounty on Nicolas Maduro, the left-wing President of Venezuela, to $50 million for information leading to his capture. The administration has accused Mr. Maduro of being "one of the largest narco-traffickers in the world". According to Washington, he heads Cartel de los Soles, a Venezuela-based drug cartel that has been designated as a global terrorist organisation by the U.S. Ms. Bondi further claimed that Mr. Maduro has links with Tren de Aragua and Sinaloa Cartel, both criminal organisations designated as terror groups by Washington.

On September 2, President Donald Trump announced an air strike on an alleged drug smuggling boat in the Caribbean. Ever since, the U.S. has carried out a series of strikes in the Caribbean and Pacific waters on boats which the Trump administration claimed was carrying drugs, killing at least 57 people. The U.S. is also building up troops in the region.

It has deployed some 10,000 troops to the Caribbean, including two Jima Amphibious Ready Groups with over 4,500 Marines and Sailors, three guided missile destroyers, an attack submarine, a special operations ship, a guided missile cruiser and reconnaissance aircraft.

Late last month, the Pentagon rerouted *USS Gerald Ford*, the Navy's most modern aircraft carrier, to the region, with about 5,000 personnel aboard. The U.S. has also deployed at least 10 F-35 fighter jets and three MQ-9 Reaper drones to Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory in the Caribbean located less than 1,000 km off the Venezuelan coast. In October, the U.S. military flew a pair of supersonic B-1 Lancer bombers, which can carry more bombs than any other planes in the U.S. fleet, up to the coast of Venezuela.

The target

The troop buildup, along with the strikes on boats off Venezuela's coast, makes it clear who the target is – the Maduro regime.

Venezuela has long been used as a transit route by drug traffickers from Colombia, source of most of the world's cocaine. Venezuelan military officers were accused of involvement with cartels even before the Chavistas (followers of former President Hugo Chavez) came to power in 1999. The cartels have deep influence in Venezuela, Colombia and other Latin American countries. But Cartel de los Soles, which Mr. Trump says is headed by Mr. Maduro, is not a "hierarchical, ideologically driven drug trafficking organisation", according to a Crisis Group report. It is a "profit-based system of generalised corruption involving high-ranking military figures", it adds.

The Trump administration has not provided any evidence to substantiate its claim that Mr. Maduro heads the cartel or his government is directly involved in drug production and trafficking. Earlier this year, U.S. media had reported that a U.S. intelligence memo had concluded that there was no evidence linking Mr. Maduro to Tren de Aragua, the criminal syndicate. Nonetheless, the administration seems determined to turn up the heat on the Venezuelan leader, whose regime maintains deep ties with Russia, China and Iran. Mr. Trump recently announced that he had authorised a covert CIA operation inside Venezuela.

The method

During Mr. Trump's first administration, the U.S. formally charged Mr. Maduro and his top aides for their alleged involvement in drug trafficking. But this time, the Trump administration is taking the anti-Maduro campaign to the military level. The Trump White House wants to focus more on America's backyard where they have recently stepped up political and economic campaigns against left-wing governments, and provided generous economic assistance to Javier Milei's far-right libertarian government in Argentina. Trump officials also believe Mr. Maduro is far weaker today than five-six years ago.

Accused of rigging the July 2024 election to retain power, he faces a reinvigorated right-wing opposition led by María Corina Machado – this year's Nobel Peace Prize laureate – who has openly endorsed Mr. Trump's Venezuela policy of sanctions and threats. Several close allies of Mr. Trump have already called on Mr. Maduro to quit and flee the country.

As of now, despite the $50-million bounty and the U.S. military pressure campaign, Mr. Maduro continues to hold his administration together. The military still backs him, and he has claimed to have raised militia to "defend" Venezuela. What will Mr. Trump do next?

There are speculations that the U.S. would strike Venezuela's military infrastructure in the name of expanding its war on drugs but aimed at weakening the regime further. Mr. Trump said on October 30 that he was not considering strikes on Venezuelan soil. But for Mr. Trump, inconsistency is a weapon rather than a liability.

In June, he had said the U.S. was "fairly close to a pretty good agreement with Iran" over its nuclear programme, and warned Israel not to blow it up. Within a day, Israel bombed Iran, and a few days later Mr. Trump joined the war.



ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

'Women's cricket has progressed, we will see more improvements'



PTI

The last time we reached the ODI World Cup final (2017), we saw a big change in India when we came back. Women's cricket has progressed, and we see a lot of girls on the ground now. I'm sure if we win this final, we will see many more changes and cricket will see more improvements — Harmanpreet Kaur, India skipper.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

'Happy that the pressure is there for cricket and tickets too'



X@BCCIWOMEN

Harmanpreet Kaur welcomed the headache of dealing with ticket requests. "Us reaching the final is great for the fans who've backed the side for so long. You know how it is (the demand) for tickets (in India). Days when small things like this bring pressure are very rare. Happy that the pressure is there for cricket and tickets too!"

HIGH PRAISE

Kapp is two players in one, says South Africa captain Wolvaardt



AFP

SA captain Laura Wolvaardt hailed the impact Marizanne Kapp has on the team. "Marizanne is one of the hardest workers on the side. She doesn't need to do half that work because she's so talented. She is two players in one. She could probably play for any side in the world, as a batter or just a bowler. We're so lucky to have her."

THE BIG ONE

Will it be third time lucky for South Africa in ICC finals?



PTI

South Africa, which will play in its first ODI World Cup final, had made it to the finals of the last two T20 World Cups but lost both. "The first time you're in those finals, it feels like a really big, fast-paced event... we know we need to slow it down and take a big breath. Hopefully, we will be able to do it," said skipper Wolvaardt.

Proteas stand between Women in Blue and glory

The home team is high on confidence having dethroned Australia in a record chase; first-time finalist South Africa needs to produce something extraordinary to silence Harmanpreet & Co.

ODI WORLD CUP

Lavanya L
NAVI MUMBAI

As nations, there are several parallels one can draw between India and South Africa. Both were European colonies that fought for their freedom, and both had remarkable social movements that changed the face of their cultural fabric. Both are diverse countries with similar economic backbones in industry and agriculture, and both share a passion for cricket.

Come Sunday, both nations will find themselves intertwined once more, in a clash for ultimate One-Day glory. This time, in the final of the Women's World Cup at the D.Y. Patil Stadium here.

This is new territory for the Proteas, who have made the semifinals thrice (2000, 2017 and 2022). India, though, has fallen short of a coronation twice (2005 and 2017).

Captains Harmanpreet Kaur and Laura Wolvaardt concurred on entering this game with no baggage. India lost to South Africa courtesy of a blitz from Nadine de Klerk in the league stage. That game and the loss to England later exposed the home side's inability to close out matches, even from winning positions.

But the taming of mighty Australia was a shot in the arm for the Women in Blue. Not only did the batting order persevere, not falling to the usual pattern of collapses the team is infamous for, but its bowling too was impressive, propped up by the audacious zeal of youngsters like Kranti Gaud and Sree Charani.

South Africa also brushed aside how losses bookended its league stage run with a dominant all-round thrashing of long-time bully England in the semifinal in Guwahati, orchestrated by Wolvaardt and Marizanne Kapp.

India holds the aces in the summit clash with a batting order that looks terrifying in home conditions. Even though Smriti Mandhana – the side's most prolific scorer in the format this year – has blown hot and cold this tournament, perseverance from the middle and lower-order has kept it going. Jemimah Rodrigues and Harmanpreet being among the runs further plump up India's case. Renuka Thakur's steady presence offers balance to the raw, growing pace of Kranti.

If the semifinal played here is anything to go by – even after the three big losses, the team didn't shake even once. We just keep reminding ourselves that this is a long process

HARMANPREET

Every cricket game starts at zero. We can't bring any history into the game. Knockout cricket is completely different from league cricket

WOLVAARDT

even though the final is being played on the strip used for the league fixture between India and New Zealand – bowlers might not get much from the surface, with life getting harder when dew sets in. Tight lines and near-perfect fielding will be the immediate mandate.

The Proteas look to Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits for stability. After the 2022 World Cup, the duo has the most runs for an opening pair, having amassed 1,858. The middle-order featuring the likes of Anneke Bosch, Annerie Dercksen, and Sinalo Jafta, however, has not had a great run with the bat, even struggling to rotate strike.

De Klerk and Chloe Tryon's spunk in the death helped the Proteas ace a few tense chases. Against an Indian side that is riding high and a potential date with destiny while being propped up by a passionate home crowd, it will take something special from the Proteas to make history.

The teams (from): India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-capt.), Shafali Verma, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh, Uma Chetry, Renuka Singh Thakur, Deepti Sharma, Sneh Rana, Sree Charani, Radha Yadav, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Gaud.

South Africa: Laura Wolvaardt (Capt.), Ayabonga Khaka, Chloe Tryon, Nadine de Klerk, Marizanne Kapp, Tazmin Brits, Sinalo Jafta, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Annerie Dercksen, Anneke Bosch, Masabata Klaas, Sune Luus, Karabo Meso, Tumi Sekhukhune, Nondumiso Shangase.



The coveted one: Harmanpreet and Wolvaardt will be eager to lay their hands on the trophy. PTI

THE JOURNEY TO THE FINAL

INDIA	SOUTH AFRICA
Beat Sri Lanka by 59 runs (DLS method)	Lost to England by 10 wickets
Beat Pakistan by 88 runs	Beat New Zealand by six wickets
Lost to South Africa by three wickets	Beat India by three wickets
Lost to Australia by three wickets	Beat Bangladesh by three wickets
Lost to England by four runs	Beat Sri Lanka by 10 wickets (DLS method)
Beat New Zealand by 53 runs (DLS method)	Beat Pakistan by 150 runs (DLS method)
No Result vs Bangladesh	Lost to Australia by seven wickets
Beat Australia by five wickets in semifinal	Beat England by 125 runs in semifinal

SPEARHEADING THE CAMPAIGN

	Runs	Wickets
India	Smriti - 389 (8 innings)	Deepti - 17 (8)
	Pratika* - 308 (6)	Shree Charani - 13 (8)
	Jemimah - 268 (6)	Kranti - 9 (7)
South Africa	Wolvaardt - 470 (8)	Kapp - 12 (8)
	Brits - 212 (8)	Mlaba - 12 (8)
	Kapp - 204 (7)	De Klerk - 8 (6)

* Out injured

KEY NOTES

- India will figure in its third final after 2005 and 2017. South Africa will be playing its first.
- South Africa has defeated India in the last three World Cup contests
- The first final in the competition's history not featuring Australia or England

BATTLES WITHIN THE BATTLE

Kapp vs Harmanpreet: The South African has dismissed the India skipper four times while conceding **67 runs off 80 balls.**

Mlaba vs Smriti: The Proteas left-arm tweaker has sent back the India opener thrice while giving away **67 runs (81b).**

Deepti vs Wolvaardt: The India spinner has scalped the South Africa captain thrice **(95 runs off 173 balls).**

The winning team will be richer by

$4.48 million

The 2023 Men's ODI World Cup champion (Australia) had taken home

$4 million

Compiled by Anirudh Velamuri

Hopefully, it will be a special day for us: Harmanpreet

Lavanya L
NAVI MUMBAI

Harmanpreet Kaur likes to keep things light in training a day before a game. It was no different on the eve of the ODI World Cup final against South Africa here on Saturday.

One of the broadcast personnel tailing the team's training asked the Indian captain, "Not batting today?"

"*Kal karungi* (I will, tomorrow)," came a confident, calm reply.

The 36-year-old, who played a pivotal role in India making the final in the 2017 edition, has now led India to the summit clash of a home World Cup in her first 50-over showpiece as skipper.

Over the years, her angry-young-woman avatar has become a common sight; it even drives her like it did for her iconic 171 not out in the semifinal against Australia in Derby eight years ago. India knocked out the same side this time around, too, with Harmanpreet contributing 89 to pull off the highest run chase in women's ODIs. But it's the raw emotion and unending tears that caught everyone's attention.

"I'm a very emotional person, and I cry a lot, often the first to, in defeat and victory. As a player, these moments are important. To beat a team like Australia, which is a big team and has always done well on the world stage, is not easy mentally. Overcoming that hurdle was very special for all of us. I always tell my team that you don't need to control your emotions. If you feel like crying, cry."

"We know how it feels to lose, but we are really looking forward to seeing how it feels to win. Hopefully, tomorrow (Sunday) will be special for us."



Swing factor: India will be looking at Renuka to provide the early breakthroughs. PTI

Home crowd pressure could work in favour of SA: Wolvaardt

Lavanya L
NAVI MUMBAI

A vocal crowd of more than 35,000 drowned Australia out of the semifinal of the Women's ODI World Cup 2025 at the D.Y. Patil Stadium a few days ago. Expect nothing different on Sunday when South Africa walks into the venue for the first time in its campaign, in the final against the home team.

"How do you plan to silence the crowd?" a reporter sincerely asked skipper Laura Wolvaardt.

With the sheepiest of chuckles, she shot back: "Hopefully, we win!"

"The whole crowd is behind India, probably a sold-out stadium. It definitely puts a lot of pressure on them as they're sort of expected to win. I think it plays in our favour a bit," she said ahead of the summit clash.

Any South African one meets sees the similarities between India and the Proteas, being at the cusp of history. But quickly, a line comes, "South Africa needs it more."

"(A World Cup win) will be really special for the women's game back home. We recently got domestic contracts introduced. I can only imagine what something like a World Cup trophy will do back home. Just the number of girls who will be able to see it on TV, and hear that we're a World Cup-winning nation..."

Today's match

FINAL

INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA

Navi Mumbai, 3 p.m. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD in ODIs

Played: 34

India 20 | South Africa 13 | NR 1

IN WORLD CUPS

Played: 6

India 3 | South Africa 3

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

Indian batters hope to bounce back in tormentor Hazlewood's absence



Swashbuckler: Abhishek will have a big role to play for India at the top of the order. AFP

INDIA IN AUSTRALIA

Press Trust of India
HOBART

The Indian batters will breathe a little easier in the absence of Josh Hazlewood as they look to put up an improved performance, but the baffling omission of left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh continues to raise eyebrows ahead of the third T20 International against Australia on Sunday. Hazlewood's pinpoint accuracy when it comes to hitting the right length, coupled with disconcerting bounce that he generates around the corridor of uncertainty did become a bit of a nightmare for the Indian batters in the second T20I, which the home side won with ease to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

With the Ashes starting at the end of this month, Hazlewood has been given a break to rejuvenate before the five-Test series. He won't be part of the remainder of the series.

And Hazlewood's absence would also mean that the Indian batters will feel a bit more assured while facing the likes of Xavier Bartlett, Nathan Ellis or Sean Abbott.

Both skipper Suryakumar Yadav and his deputy Shubman Gill have had problems negotiating deliveries with extra bounce and good degree of seam movement.

Suryakumar and Gill would like to revisit their playbook in the rain-hit opener at Canberra in which they looked in ominous touch.

Small boundaries

The Ninja Stadium in Hobart is one ground where the side boundaries are smaller in size and hence the length would be paramount considering anything short would be flying over cover, point, square leg or mid-wicket on either side of the fence.

The Indian team management's obsession with batting depth has been a topic of discussion on this tour. On a pitch with extra bounce at the MCG, India went in with three spinners and once again Arshdeep didn't find place in the playing XI despite being the only Indian bowler with over 100 T20I wickets.

The teams (from):

Australia: Mitchell Marsh (Capt.), Sean Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Mahli Beardman, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Glenn Maxwell, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Mitchell Owen, Josh Philippe, Tanveer Sangha, Matthew Short, and Marcus Stoinis.

India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Shubman Gill (Vice-capt.), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Sanju Samson (wk), Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Harshit Rana, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakaravarthy, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Arshdeep Singh, Rinku Singh, Washington Sundar.

Match starts at 1.45 p.m. IST.

Birrell makes a sensational comeback, faces Tjen in final

The former fights back from 0-5 in the decider to defeat Garland in a gruelling semifinal while the fourth-seeded Indonesian prevails in a marathon against Tararudee, winning both tie-breakers

TENNIS

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI



Grit and determination: Birrell won a semifinal that lasted three hours and 24 minutes. R. RAVINDRAN

Australia's Kimberly Birrell, seeded seven, rose from the ashes to defeat Joanna Garland of Taiwan 6-7(2), 6-3, 7-5 in three hours and 24 minutes in the second semifinal of the WTA 250 Chennai Open tennis tournament at the SDAT-Nungambakkam Stadium here on Saturday.

Birrell fought back from 0-5 down in the decider to make a spectacular comeback and reach her second WTA 250 final.

Serving for the match at 5-3, Garland couldn't convert five matchpoints as the Australian won the game as Garland took a medical timeout. Birrell won the decisive 12th game at love on her serve.

In the other semifinal, Janice Tjen, the fourth seed from Indonesia, won a hard-fought battle 7-6(6), 7-6(5) in two hours and 24 minutes against Lanlana Tararudee of Thailand to make it to her second WTA 250 summit clash.

After both held their serves, the first set went to a tiebreaker. With her trademark forehand down-the-line and crosscourt winners, Tararudee took a 4-2 lead. But, at 4-3, the Thai served a crucial double fault, and Tjen became more consistent in her groundstrokes as she pocketed the first set.

Tararudee raced to a 5-2 lead in the second, looking to take the contest to the decider.

Tjen, however, broke Tararudee's serve in the eighth and 10th games. In the second set tiebreaker, Tjen closed out the contest on her second match point when Tararudee's backhand return went long.

The results (semifinals):

Janice Tjen (Ina) bt Lanlana Tararudee (Tha) 7-6(6), 7-6(5).

Kimberly Birrell (Aus) bt Joanna Garland (Tpe) 6-7(2), 6-3, 7-5.

Rohan Bopanna calls time on a stellar career

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Two-time Grand Slam champion Rohan Bopanna, among India's most accomplished tennis players, announced his retirement on Saturday.

"After 20 unforgettable years on tour however, it's time... I'm officially hanging up my racquet," Bopanna stated on his social media accounts.

Bopanna, 45, achieved great heights as a doubles player. He rose to the world No. 1 spot in doubles last year, becoming the fourth Indian after Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and Sania Mirza to reach the summit.

Apart from a booming serve, the Kodava counts longevity as a major asset. After capturing the 2024 Australian Open men's doubles title alongside Matthew Ebden, Bopanna became the oldest first-time world number one.

In 2017, Bopanna won his first Grand Slam title, playing with Canadian Gabriela Dabrowski in the French Open mixed doubles. In all, Bopanna boasts of 26 titles on the ATP Tour, including six Masters 1000 wins. Having made his Davis Cup debut in 2002, Bopanna often juggled singles and doubles duties for the nation. Among his highlights include a five-set win over then Japan's teen talent Kei Nishikori in the first rubber of a 2008 Asia-Oceania Group I Davis Cup tie. In 2010, Bopanna outclassed Brazil's top-100 player Ricardo Mello in the fifth rubber to carry India into the World Group for the first time since 1998.



Bopanna. FILE PHOTO: AP

Bopanna boasts of 26 titles on the ATP Tour, including six Masters 1000 wins

Having made his Davis Cup debut in 2002, Bopanna often juggled singles and doubles duties for the nation

Purav Raja, who partnered Bopanna on many occasions on the tour and in the Davis Cup, spoke glowingly on his stellar career.

"Rohan gave all Indian doubles players hope that they too can achieve success. Four persons – Paes, Bhupathi, Rohan and Sania – gave us hope. We started to believe that we could be top-40 in the world. Now we see Yuki (Bhambri) close to getting into the top-20. That is all because of what the seniors like Rohan have done. Success breeds success," Raja said.

International Tennis Hall of Fame inductee Vijay Amritraj paid tribute to a "fantastic career".

"Rohan's commitment to the sport, discipline on court, huge serve, and ability to play alongside an incredible number of partners is a remarkable achievement," said Amritraj.

"I congratulate Rohan on a fantastic career. I truly hope that he will stay involved with the sport, and encourage and train future champions to play for India in both the Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup."

Arsenal maintains its grip at the top

Agencies
LONDON

Arsenal maintained its grip at the top of the Premier League with a 2-0 win over Burnley while Manchester United was held to a 2-2 draw at Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

The results: Premier League: Crystal Palace 2 (Mateta 30, Collins 51-og) bt Brentford 0; Nottingham Forest 2 (Gibbs-White 48, Savona 50) drew with Manchester United 2 (Casemiro 34, Diallo 81); Burnley 0 lost to Arsenal 2 (Gyokeres 14, Rice 35); Brighton 3 (Welbeck 11, Gomez 64, 70) bt Leeds United 0; Fulham 3 (Sessegnon 9, Wilson 62, Mosquera 75-og) bt Wolves 0.

Bundesliga: Union Berlin 0 drew with SC Freiburg 0; St. Pauli 0 lost to Borussia M'Gladbach 4 (Tabakovic 15, 40, Machino 75, Fraulo 80); Heidenheim 1 (Zivzivadze 32) drew with Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Kristensen 55); Leipzig 3 (Chabot 45-og, Diomande 53, Romulo 90+1) bt Stuttgart 1 (Tomas 65); Mainz 1 (Widmer 36) drew with Werder Bremen 1 (Stage 86).

Serie A: Udinese 1 (Zaniolo 40) bt Atalanta 0.

LaLiga: Villarreal 4 (Moreno 22, Moleiro 56, Comesana 58, Perez 65) bt Rayo Vallecano 0

On Friday: LaLiga: Getafe 2 (Martin 72, Mayoral 86) bt Girona 1 (Stuani 90+4-pen).

Bundesliga: Augsburg 0 lost to Dortmund 1 (Guirassy 37).

Pranav, Pranesh begin well; Divya loses first game

CHESS WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ARPORA (GOA)



Greek puzzle: Divya couldn't find a way past Kourkoulos-Arditis in the opening game. FIDE

The big stars will descend on this North Goan village only a couple of days later, but the opening day of the chess World Cup didn't suffer from lack of excitement nevertheless. And in action were some big players from the past and a few for the future.

There was, of course, a lot of focus on the lone female player in the field of 206. Divya Deshmukh, however, didn't have a particularly great day.

The surprise winner of the women's World Cup was given a wild entry for this event, but she lost her opening game to Stamatis Kourkoulos-Arditis of Greece. She has a chance to bounce back though, but it may not be easy: she has to win with black pieces in the second game on Sunday, and then the tiebreaker. The 19-year-old from Nagpur wasn't the only Indian who had a difficult first day.

Neelash Saha, Aronyak Ghosh, Himal Gusain and G.B. Harshavardhan all lost. Raunak Sadhwani, Leon Mendonca, S.L. Narayanan, Karthik Venkataraman and Diptayan Ghosh had to settle for draws against lower-rated rivals.

There were wins for their fellow Indians V. Pranav, M. Pranesh, Surya Shekhar Ganguly and Pa. Iniyan. They only need a draw in the second game to move into the second round.

Among the day's notable winners were Vasyl Ivanchuk of Ukraine, and Michael Adams of England, who were ranked No. 2 and 4 in the world previously.

The two Turkish prodigies Yagiz Erdogmus and Ediz Gurel both won their games, while the 12-year-old Argentine Faustino Oro held the higher-rated Ante Brkic of Croatia to a draw.

Important results (first round): Nagi Abugenda (Lba) lost to Yagiz Erdogmus (Tur); Alrehaili Ahmed Abdullah (KSA) lost to Michael Adams (Eng); V. Pranav bt Ala Eddine Boulrens (Alg).

Raunak Sadhwani drew with Daniel Barrish (SA); Jaloliddin Ilkhomi (Tjk) lost to Shamsiddin Vokhidov (Uzb); M. Pranesh bt Satbek Akhmedinov (Kaz); Leon Mendonca drew with Wang Shixu (Chn); Steven Rojas (Per) drew with S.L. Narayanan; Divya Deshmukh lost to Kourkoulos-Arditis (Gre); Pa. Iniyan bt Dylan Isidro Berdayes Ason (Cub); Georg Meier (Uru) bt Neelash Saha; G.B. Harshavardhan lost to Mustafa Yilmaz (Tur); Kazybek Nogerbek (Kaz) drew with R. Raja Rithvik.

Peng Xiongjian (Chn) drew with Diptayan Ghosh; Surya Shekhar Ganguly bt Ahmad Ahmadzada (Aze); Max Warmerdam (Ned) drew with M.R. Lalith Babu; Roberto García Pantoja (Cub) drew with Karthik Venkataraman.

Swiatek and Rybakina in cruise mode

Agence France-Presse
RIYADH

Iga Swiatek made a smooth start to her WTA Finals campaign, handing Madison Keys a 6-1, 6-2 defeat on day one of the season-ending championships on Saturday. The Polish second seed claimed a Tour-leading 62nd victory of the year and improved to 7-2 against Keys.

Elena Rybakina raced to a 6-3, 6-1 win against fourth seed Amanda Anisimova in just 57 minutes.

Babar powers Pakistan to series win

Agencies
LAHORE

Babar Azam starred with a fine 68 as Pakistan beat South Africa by four wickets in the third T20I to clinch the series 2-1 here on Saturday.

The scores: SA 139/9 in 20 overs (Hendricks 34, Bosch 30 n.o., Afridi 3/26) lost to Pakistan 140/6 in 19 overs (Babar 68, Salman Agha 33). **Toss:** Pakistan.

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
(वि. अ. आयोग अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय घोषित)
(Declared as Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
अंतरिक्ष विभाग, भारत सरकार के तहत स्वायत संस्थान
(An Autonomous Institute under Department of Space, Govt. of India)
वलियमला, तिरुवनंतपुरम 695 547, केरल
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डीन (शैक्षिकी) / Dean (Academics)

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CHERUTHURUTHY, THRISSUR, KERALA-679 531. Ph (O): 04884-261700/2543
E-mail: nrip-cheruthuruthy@gov.in, nrip.cheruthuruthy@gmail.com

ऑनलाइन साक्षात्कार/ ONLINE-INTERVIEW

फा.सं: 2/1/2024- राआपंअसं/स्था./project staff दिनांक: 30 OCT 2025

संस्थान आईएमआर परियोजना के लिए ऑनलाइन साक्षात्कार के माध्यम से संविदा के आधार पर एक **वरिष्ठ अनुसंधान अध्येता (जैव-रसायन विज्ञान)** की नियुक्ति करना चाहता है। अधिक जानकारी के लिए, सीसीआरएएस की वेबसाइट **www.ccras.nic.in** का अवलोकन करें।

The Institute intends to engage one **Senior Research Fellow (Bio-Chemistry),** on contractual basis through online-Interview for IMR project. For details, visit CCRAS website **www.ccras.nic.in**

(Sd/-)
डॉ. संजीव कुमार, सहायक निदेशक प्रभारी

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WBHIDCO
West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
HIDCO BHABAN, Premises No. 35-1111, Biswa Bangla Sarani, 3rd Rotary, New Town, Kolkata-700156
Memo No. C–290(1)/ HIDCO/Admn-4243/2024 Date 30.10.2025
Abridged Notice for e-Auction
E-AUCTION FOR ALLOTMENT OF 2.04 ACRES (8268.22 Sq. Mtr) OF LAND WITH BUILDING IN PLOT NO. DF / 183 ,184 ,185 IN ACTION AREA ID OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA ON FREEHOLD BASIS FOR "INSTITUTIONAL / EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE. 2nd CALL
[e-Auction ID: 2025_WB_4912] dtd. 30.07.2025

PLOT NO.	PLOT SIZE	E-AUCTION DATE	LAST DATE OF APPLICATION
PLOT NO. DF/183, 184, 185 IN ACTION AREA ID OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	2.04 Acres	08.12.2025	01.12.2025 upto 14:00 hrs.

For details, please visit https://eauction.gov.in or www.wbhidcoltd.com
ICA- T21937(4)/2025 Contact no :- 2324-6032/6037/6038

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Addl. Director General of Police,
Operations (OCTOPUS & GreyHounds), Telangana, Hyderabad.
Rc. No. OCTOPU-SSEC/STRE/IETS/1/2025-S SECTION Date: 31-10-2025
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION
e-Procurement
e-Tender is invited from the Manufacturers and Tender Specific Authorized Dealers/Distributors for the supply of following item to the Police Department, OCTOPUS, Telangana, Hyderabad.

Sl. No.	Group	Item Code	Tender Number	Name of the Article to be Supplied	Approx. Qty Required
1.	Operational & Training Equipment	OSE/01	RC. No. OCTOPU-SSEC/ STRE/IETS/1/2025	Supply Bullet Resistant Jackets	100 nos.
2.		OSE/02	Rc. No. OCTOPU-SSEC/ STRE/IETS/2/2025	Supply Bullet Resistant Helmets	100 nos.

The tender system is **THREE-BID SYSTEM** i.e. **"Pre-qualification bid", "Technical bid"** and **"Commercial / Financial Bid".** Tender schedule form and conditions of contract can be obtained from **04-11-2025/10:30 hours** to **24-11-2025/14:30 hours** from e-Procurement portal **(www.tender.telangana.gov.in).** Bidders have to send a Demand Draft for Rs. 200/- (Rupees two hundred only) towards e-tender processing charges in favour of the Administrative Officer, OCTOPUS, Telangana, Hyderabad and submit the e-Tenders before **24-11-2025/17:00 hours.**
Sd/- Addl. Director General of Police,
Operations (OCTOPUS & GreyHounds),
Telangana, Hyderabad.
DIPR R.O.No.10105-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 01.11.2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
West Bengal Society for Biotechnology
Vigyan Chetana Bhavan
26/B - DD Block, Sector I, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700064
No.1337/ STBT-14011/1/2019 Dated:31.10.2025
Applications are invited for the position of
Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of the Kolkata Biotech Park
(Extension of Last Date)
West Bengal Society for Biotechnology under the Department of Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Government of West Bengal invites application from suitable candidates for the position of **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Kolkata Biotech Park.**
Details of job description, eligibility and application format are available on the website **dstbt.bangla.gov.in**. Applications to be submitted **online** through **dstbt.bangla.gov.in with all supporting documents before the last date28.11.2025.**
For more details please contact office of DSTBT, GoWB.
Sd/-
Special Secretary, DSTBT
ICA-N548(1)/2025

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान बेंगलूर
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
BANGALORE
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS
NIT NO: NIIMB/UG/EPCMII/2025-26/001
IIMB invites pre-qualification applications from eligible contractors for the construction of Phase-I Sustainable Undergraduate Campus on EPC Mode II at Survey No.47, Mahanthalingapura village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal taluk, Bengaluru.
For details, please visit: https://www.iimb.ac.in/index.php/tender_notices or https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app
Project Manager

Email ID :sebhl.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
Phone No. 01482-240512
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत भीलवाड़ा
क्रमांक : टीएस/एफ.81/2025-26/डी-2849 दिनांक :- 25.10.2025
अल्पकालीन ई-टेण्डरिंग निविदा सूचना संख्या : 06/2025-2026
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से बजट घोषणा 2025-26 योजनान्तर्गत प्रति विधानसभा क्षेत्र राशि 10 करोड़ नॉन पैथेक्ल मिसिंग लिंक व डीएमएफटी योजना के अन्तर्गत सड़क एवं भवन निर्माण कार्य सड़क निर्माण कार्यों मय पांच वर्ष की मरम्मत एवं संधारण की अवधि के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राजस्थान सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग / रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से कार्यों हेतु ई-टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 3 पैकेज / कार्य जिनकी कुल लागत 313.50 लाख है दिनांक 04.11.2025 तक प्राप्त की जावेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट http://.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
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CIN-U35990TN2021GOI145504

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Applications are invited from individuals for the following positions on FIXED TERM/TENURE CONTRACT BASIS to work in Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi, Chennai-54, a unit of AVNL. Engagement is based on selection through short listing and interview.

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1.	Deputy General Manager [ERP Project Manager] (Contract)	01 [UR]	Rs.80,000/- + IDA	Engagement on Full Time on Fixed Term Contract basis.
2.	Manager [Infra Project Manager] (Contract)	01 [UR]	Rs. 60,000/- + IDA	
3.	Manager [System Administrator] (Contract)	01 [UR]	Rs. 60,000/- + IDA	
4.	Manager [Database Administrator] (Contract)	01 [UR]	Rs. 60,000/- + IDA	
5.	Manager [Data Center & Disaster Recovery Administrator] (Contract)	01 [UR]	Rs. 60,000/- + IDA	
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Chennai
HR Division, HVF- Unit of AVNL
Email: hvf@ord.gov.in
Tele: 044-26843443/3445

INBRIEF



Hyderabad eases past Punjab, wins Vinoo Mankad Trophy

Hyderabad defeated Punjab by five wickets at Rajkot to emerge the Vinoo Mankad Trophy 2025 champion.

The scores: Punjab 111 in 28.2 overs (Yashveer 3/22) lost to Hyderabad 112/5 in 29.3 overs (R. Alankrith 58 n.o., Ishan Sood 5/18).

Rathika makes the semifinals of North Coast Open squash

India's Rathika Suthanthira Seelan moved into the women's semifinals of the North Coast Open squash, a $6,000 PSA Challenger event in Coffs Harbour, Australia. She defeated third seed Bobo Lam of Hong Kong 11-13, 11-4, 14-12, 12-10 in the quarterfinals on Friday and will next meet Egyptian second seed Lojayn Gohary.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: Star Sports Khel & JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Australia vs India: 3rd T20I, Star Sports 2 & JioHotstar, 1.45 p.m.
Women's ODI WC final: India vs South Africa, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3 p.m.
Chess: World Cup, FIDE YouTube Channel, 3 p.m.
Tennis: WTA Chennai Open, Eurosport, 4 p.m.
Tennis: Paris Masters, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 4.30 & 6.30 p.m.
Zimbabwe vs Afghanistan: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 5 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 & 10.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m.

Pant finds form, keeps India-A in the hunt

The skipper leads the fightback after South Africa-A reduces the home team to 32 for three in pursuit of 275; Kotian and Kamboj share seven wickets to bundle out the visiting side for 199

INDIA-A VS SA-A

Tarun Shastry
BENGALURU



Weathering the storm: Pant was back to his flamboyant ways as he came to India-A's rescue. K. MURALI KUMAR

India-A captain Rishabh Pant produced a stunning display of batting on a sporting wicket, scoring an unbeaten 64 (81b, 8x4, 2x6), to bail the side out of trouble and keep it in the hunt for a win, on the penultimate day of the first 'Test' against South Africa-A at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Grounds here on Saturday.

Chasing 275 for victory after South Africa-A was bowled out for 199 in the second innings, India-A was in a spot of bother as pacers Tshepo Moreki and Okuhle Cele scalped three wickets in quick succession. Openers B. Sai Sudharsan and Ayush Mhatre struggled at the crease, with the latter dragging one onto his stumps in the third over.

Devdutt Padikkal followed soon, chopping on, leaving the hosts reeling at 19 for two at tea. After the break, Sai Sudharsan was trapped in front by Moreki, and India-A slipped to 32 for three.

This brought Pant to the middle. From the outset, he showcased an array of powerful drives down the ground, ferocious pulls, and hit towering sixes off off-spinner Prenelan Subrayen, while also punishing the pacers. At the other end, Rajat Patidar provided stability with a calm approach, as the duo steadily wrested the momentum back in the side's favour.

However, just before close of play, Patidar attempted a ramp shot off a short delivery and only managed a faint edge to the 'keeper, ending their 87-run third-wicket stand as India-A finished the day at 119 for four, requiring 156 more to secure a win.

Earlier, medium-pacer Gurnoor Brar provided an early breakthrough for the home team, dismissing opener Jordan Hermann. Zubayr Hamza counter-attacked, smashing five fours off Brar in the 16th over, but left-arm spinner Manav Suthar broke the 54-run second-wicket partnership, castling Hamza.

Off-spinner Tanush Kotian then removed the opener Lesogo Senokwane and Rubin Hermann in quick succession. While pacer Anshul Kamboj accounted for Tiaan Van Vuuren and Rivaldo Moonsamy, reducing the visitors at 135 for seven.

However, a 42-run eighth-wicket partnership between Subrayen and Moreki took the side's lead past 250, before Kotian dismissed both batters, and Brar wrapped up the innings by sending back Cele.

The scores: South Africa-A 309 & 199 in 48.1 overs (Tanush Kotian 4/26) vs India-A 234 & 119/4 in 39 overs (Rishabh Pant 64 batting).



Close shave: Tickner (left) walks with Foulkes after seeing their side over the line. AFP

Tickner and Foulkes hold their nerve as NZ sweeps series

Agence France-Presse
WELLINGTON

Blair Tickner and Zakary Foulkes made decisive contributions with bat and ball to secure a tense two-wicket win for New Zealand over England on Saturday and a clean sweep of the three-match ODI series.

The two tail-enders put on an unbroken stand of 30 for the ninth wicket to lift the home side to 226 for eight in the 45th over after England had once again struggled with the bat to be dismissed for 222.

Seamers Tickner and Foulkes took six wickets between them after England collapsed to 44 for five, the visitors' top-order failing once again.

The dismal form of Test batsmen Ben Duckett and Joe Root will be of concern less than three weeks from the start of the Ashes Test series in Australia.

England's top four made a total of 84 runs across the three matches, the fewest by any team in a comparable men's ODI series or tournament.

Captain Harry Brook said his players never adjusted to the movement extracted by New Zealand's pace bowlers in seam-friendly conditions.

"We didn't quite get big enough scores to be able to defend them and give the bowlers the best chance to win us the game," Brook said.

The scores: England 222 in 40.2 overs (Overton 68, Buttler 38, Tickner 4/64, Duffy 3/56) lost to New Zealand 226/8 in 44.4 overs (Ravindra 46, Mitchell 44). **Toss:** New Zealand. **PoM:** Blair Tickner; **PoS:** Mitchell.

Galahad claims the Rajyotsava Trophy

BENGALURU: S. Attaollahi trained Galahad (Antony up) won the Rajyotsava Trophy (1,400m), the chief event of the opening days races held here on Saturday (Nov 1).

The winner is owned by Mr. Tagber Singh Brar rep. Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, Mr. S.R. Sanas & Mr. Inderraj Anand. Jockey Suraj won three races on the day.

THE RESULTS

1. INAUGURATION PLATE (1,400M): FEELING GOOD (Aleemuddin) 1, Honeypot (Vivek) 2, Southernaristocrat (Hindu S) 3 and Lorven's Glory (Angad) 4. Not run: Forever Royal. 7-1/4, 1 and 3/4. 1m 26.72s. Rs. 13 (w), 10, 26 and 11 (p), SHP: 79, THP: 28, FP: 131, Q: 99, Trinella: 345/121, Exacta: 2,057/1,234.
Favourite: Feeling Good.
Owners: Mr. H.K. Lakshman Gowda & Mr. Rakesh Kumar. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

2. KENTUCKY PLATE (1,200M): CASHABLE (Suraj) 1, Solara (G. Vivek) 2, Rocking Star (Aleemuddin) 3 and Zephyrine (Arvind K) 4. Not run: Mnemosyne. 1/2, 3-1/4 and 1-3/4. 1m 12.64s. Rs. 28 (w), 12, 10 and 33 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 102, FP: 61, Q: 23, Trinella: 442/394, Exacta: 1,003/244. Favourite: Solara.
Owner: Mr. Koushik Dutta. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

3. KUDREMUKH PLATE (1,400M): SUNSHINE (Pavan) 1, Final Call (Antony) 2, Larissa (G. Vivek) 3 and Night Raider (Arvind K) 4. 3-3/4, 3-1/2 and 1. 1m 24.57s. Rs. 13 (w), 10, 12 and 18 (p), SHP: 18, THP: 35, FP: 27, Q: 29, Trinella: 62/35, Exacta: 99/45. Favourite: Sunshine.
Owners: Mr. Saleem A. Jasdanwalla, Mr. Deepak S. Suryavanshi & Ms. Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

4. BELGAUM PLATE (1,200M): EXCELLENT LASS (Suraj) 1, Regal Reality (G. Vivek) 2, Stellantis (Shreyas S) 3 and Jersey King (Pavan) 4. Not run: Elfin Knight and Royal Deccan. 1-1/2, 1-1/4 and 2. 1m 11.44s. Rs. 17 (w), 13 and 11 (p), SHP: 20, THP: 37, FP: 24, Q: 14, Trinella: 96/50, Exacta: 100/26. Favourite: Excellent Lass.
Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Mr. Teja Gollapudi & M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep by Mr. Rajendran. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

5. RAJYOTSAVA TROPHY (1,400M): GALAHAD (Antony) 1, Imperial Blue (Arvind K) 2, Kalamitsi (G. Vivek) 3 and Iron Clad (Suraj) 4. 2-3/4, 1 and 1-3/4. 1m 23.76s. Rs. 23 (w), 12 and 13 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 33, FP: 66, Q: 31, Trinella: 229/187, Exacta: 270/62. Favourite: Imperial Blue.
Owners: Mr. Tegbir Singh Brar rep. Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, Mr. S.R. Sanas & Mr. Inderraj Anand. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

6. JAYANT SHAH MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400M): RIEKO (Suraj) 1, Alamgir (Arvind K) 2, Small Dreams (Aleemuddin) 3 and Flight Of Fancy (Antony) 4. 4-1/4, Lnk and 3/4. 1m 23.89s. Rs. 31 (w), 10, 20 and 22 (p), SHP: 66, THP: 56, FP: 261, Q: 133, Trinella: 2,039/769, Exacta: 4,135/1,181. Favourite: Elysium.
Owner: Mr. P. Arun Kumar. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

7. DUDHSAGAR FALLS PLATE (1,200M): SAPPORO (Pavan) 1, Amalure (Sai Kiran) 2, Magestic Persona (A. Ramu) 3 and Annabelle (Antony) 4. 1/2, 1-1/2 and Nose. 1m 13.18s. Rs. 19 (w), 14, 45 and 15 (p), SHP: 133, THP: 40, FP: 596, Q: 403, Trinella: 1,639/338, Exacta: 4,708/1,513. Favourite: Sapporo.
Owner: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.
Jackpot: Rs. 666 (659 tkts).
Runner-up: 94 (2,004 tkts).
Treble: (i): 52 (175 tkts); (ii): 251 (49 tkts).

Pradosh and Indrajith make it Tamil Nadu's day against Vidarbha

RANJI TROPHY

S. Dipak Ragav
COIMBATORE



Composed knock: Pradosh showed great discipline and waited for the deliveries on his pads to pick up boundaries. M. PERIASAMY

Pradosh Ranjan Paul, fresh from an unbeaten double century in the previous match, continued his good form, scoring a gritty 113 (275b, 13x4) to guide Tamil Nadu to 252 for four on day one of the third-round Ranji Trophy Elite Group-A clash against Vidarbha at the Sri Ramakrishna College ground on Saturday.

The left-hander was ably supported by B. Indrajith, who remained unbeaten on 94. The duo forged a 179-run alliance for the fourth wicket to keep the visitors at bay for almost the entirety of the last two sessions.

Pradosh, who walked in at the end of the first over, showed great discipline in eschewing extravagant drives through the off-side and waited for the deliveries on his pads and dispatched them to the fence with panache.

Earlier, electing to bat, the home team was reduced to 18 for two when it lost openers R. Vimal Khumar and S.R. Athish cheaply. Pradosh and C. Andre Siddarth rebuilt the innings with a patient 55-run stand for the third wicket.

Classical dismissal

But just 10 minutes before lunch, ambidextrous spinner Akshay Karnewar bowled Andre with a classical left-arm spinner delivery that spun enough to hit the top of off-stump.

Indrajith then joined forces with Pradosh and showcased his prowess against spin on a surface that offered turn to the tweakers. He used his feet brilliantly to step out and work Karnewar and left-arm spinner Parth Rekhade down the ground, unsettling them off their lengths.

The former TN skipper upped the scoring rate and got to his half-century by hitting Karnewar for consecutive fours through midwicket– a pull off the backfoot and then a drive against the spin after charging down the track.

In the final session, Pradosh raced to his century in style with three boundaries, two flicks off the pacers and then a drive off Karnewar - now bowling off-breaks - through mid-off, to take him past the three-figure mark.

The scores: Tamil Nadu – 1st innings: S.R. Athish c Bhoyar b Hinge 3, R. Vimal Khumar c Wadkar b Bhute 2, Pradosh Ranjan Paul lbw b Bhute 113, C. Andre Siddarth b Karnewar 33, B. Indrajith (batting) 94, M. Shahrukh Khan (batting) 0; Extras (lb-2, b-4, w-1): 7; Total (for four wkts. in 88 overs): 252.
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-18, 3-73, 4-252.
Vidarbha bowling: Bhute 17-4-43-2, Hinge 18-4-54-1, Lalit 15-4-37-0, Rekhade 21-0-49-0, Karnewar 16-0-55-1, Bhoyar 1-0-8-0.

RANJI SCORES - ROUND 3 (DAY ONE)

Elite: Group A: Cuttack: Andhra 222/3 in 68 overs (Abhishek Reddy 76, K.S. Bharat 93) vs. Odisha. **Toss:** Andhra.
Ranchi: Jharkhand 91/2 in 31 overs (Shikhar Mohan 42 batting) vs. Nagaland. **Toss:** Nagaland.
Vadodara: Baroda vs. Uttar Pradesh (no play).
Coimbatore: Tamil Nadu 252/4 in 88 overs (Pradosh Ranjan Paul 113, B. Indrajith 94 batting) vs. Vidarbha. **Toss:** TN.
Group B: Nashik: Maharashtra vs. Saurashtra (no play).
New Chandigarh: Punjab 215/5 in 87 overs (Uday Saharan 100 batting, Salil Arora 51 batting) vs. Goa. **Toss:** Punjab.
Indore: Madhya Pradesh 64/1 in 27 overs vs. Chandigarh. **Toss:** Chandigarh.
Thiruvananthapuram: Karnataka 319/3 in 90 overs (Krishnan Shrijith 65, Karun Nair 142 batting, R. Smaran 88 batting) vs. Kerala. **Toss:** Karnataka.
Group C: Agartala: Bengal 171/1 in 60 overs (Sudip Kumar Gharami 70 batting, Shakir Habib Gandhi 82 batting) vs. Tripura. **Toss:** Tripura.
Guwahati: Railways 39/0 in nine overs vs. Assam. **Toss:** Assam.
Ahmedabad: Gujarat vs. Haryana (no play).
Delhi: Uttarakhand 213/6 in 90 overs (J. Suchith 44 batting, Saurabh Rawat 52 batting, Vikas Yadav 4/46) vs. Services. **Toss:** Uttarakhand.
Group D: Raipur: Jammu & Kashmir 195/4 in 75 overs (Shubham Khajuria 78 batting, Paras Dogra 59) vs. Chhattisgarh. **Toss:** Chhattisgarh.
Delhi: Delhi 248/6 in 80 overs (Sanat Sangwan 99, Priyansh Arya 40, Sumit Mathur 49 batting) vs. Pondicherry. **Toss:** Pondicherry.
Jaipur: Mumbai 254 in 76.3 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 67, Musheer Khan 49, Kukna Ajay Singh 4/66) vs. Rajasthan 10/0 in four overs. **Toss:** Rajasthan.
Nadaun: Himachal Pradesh 293/7 in 90 overs (Akash Vasisht 114 batting) vs. Hyderabad. **Toss:** Himachal.
Plate: Patna: Bihar vs. Meghalaya (no play).
Ahmedabad: Manipur 245/1 in 60 overs (Karnajit Yumnam 121 batting, Ulenyai Khwairakpam 103) vs. Arunachal Pradesh. **Toss:** Arunachal.
Anand: Mizoram vs. Sikkim (no play).

Will 'protect' teen star Yamal: Flick

FOOTBALL

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said on Saturday that he will "protect" teenage star Lamine Yamal after recent criticism.

The 18-year-old winger struggled in the Clasico last weekend as champion Barcelona fell to a defeat that left it five points behind La Liga leader Real Madrid.

Yamal was also in the spotlight for comments before the game insinuating Madrid "steal (and) complain" which riled Los Blancos fans and a big part of the Spanish media.

"We speak with him... we are very honest together, he with me and I with him and this is the best way," Flick told a news conference ahead of Barcelona's match against Elche on Sunday in the La Liga.



Yamal. AFP

"I will always protect him and support him. He's a fantastic player, fantastic guy, he's very young and we will go on this way."

Yamal has been struggling with a groin injury for a few weeks and although he started the Clasico, he put in a subdued performance and still seems affected by the issue.

"Lamine is good. I just spoke with him and he's doing good," continued Flick.

Inter Kashi gets I-League trophy but loses Super Cup match

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
BAMBOLIM



Long wait is over: Inter Kashi finally lays its hands on the I-League trophy. X@INDIANFOOTBALL

Inter Kashi's wait for the I-League 2024-25 title ended after nearly seven months, when the All India Football Federation (AIFF) officially presented it the trophy, at the GMC Athletic Stadium here on Saturday.

Though the side lost in its final Super Cup match 2-0 to Jamshedpur FC, with goals from Raphael Messi Bouli and Manvir Singh, the Kashi camp was all smiles after the dead rubber.

The entire saga started in April when the AIFF declared Churchill Brothers champion, following Kashi's deduction of points regarding the registration of Manuel Barco.

However, the Court of Arbitration of Sport ruled in favour of Kashi, declaring it the I-League winner in July. By then, the AIFF had awarded the trophy to Churchill, one that the Goan club is yet to return.

As a result, a freshly crafted trophy was given to Kashi.

It is Kashi's maiden title, one that guarantees its spot in next season's Indian Super League.

Biggest day

"For everybody in the club today, it's probably the biggest day, even bigger than the day when we won the league, because it only shows, no matter what, in the end, truth prevails and the federation does what is right," Prithiijit Das, the president of Kashi, told *The Hindu*.

The other dead rubber of the day in the Super Cup, between FC Goa and NorthEast United at the PJN Stadium in Margao, proved to be anything but boring, with a rollercoaster of goals in a 2-1 victory for the Highlanders.

Chema Nunez opened the scoring for NorthEast United, converting from an Alaaeddine Ajaraie pass after the hour mark, but Goa restored parity within four minutes with a strike from Sahil Tavora.

However, Robin Yadav's header from an Andy Rodriguez cross in the 76th minute ensured NorthEast United had the last laugh.

The results: Inter Kashi 0 lost to Jamshedpur FC 2 (Messi Bouli 36, Manvir 81); FC Goa 1 (Tavora 72) lost to NorthEast United 2 (Nunez 68, Robin 76).

Former Tripura Ranji player dies in road accident

Press Trust of India
AGARTALA

Former Tripura all-rounder Rajesh Banik, who represented India in the under-19 World Cup, died in a road accident at Anandanagar in west Tripura, an official said on Saturday.

He was 40. Banik, who made his Ranji Trophy debut for Tripura in the 2002-03 season, served as a selector for the under-16 State team.



Time-tested recipes: A Kashmiri *waza* carefully gathers ingredients for the grand *wazwan*, soon to be served at a wedding celebration in Srinagar.



One at a time: In skilled hands, *shami kebabs*-to-be are carefully shaped to perfection for the wedding banquet.



Team work: In the outdoor kitchen, a chef pours water into a large vessel full of rice while his partner rinses it. The steamed rice will be served along with mutton dishes.



Soulful swirls: Rich and aromatic fragrance of the *gushtaba* fills the air from a gleaming copper *deeg* as a *waza* slowly stirs it to a simmer.

Feast of feasts

Wazwan, Kashmir's elaborate multi-course mutton feast, blends Central Asian heritage with culinary artistry; the dishes, prepared by master *wazas*, symbolise Kashmiri hospitality, tradition, and community during important occasions



Imran Nissar
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A multi-course traditional mutton feast, Wazwan is a symbol of hospitality, culture, and Kashmir's deep-rooted connections with Central Asia. The feast is traditionally prepared for weddings, festivals, and other grand occasions. The word *wazwan* is derived from two Persian terms – *waza*, meaning "cook," and *wan*, meaning "shop" or "place."

The *wazas*, or master chefs, have inherited their exceptional culinary skills through generations. They are in high demand during the wedding season, which begins in spring and continues until late autumn in Kashmir.

The preparation of *wazwan* is an elaborate process that begins long before the guests arrive. Under the supervision of the head chef, a team of cooks works together – often through the night – to create a variety of dishes, ranging from the basic course of seven to more than 36, depending on the host's means and the chef's creativity.

Lamb is the main ingredient in this feast, and its signature dishes include *rista* (soft meatballs in red gravy), *roganjosh* (spiced lamb curry), *gushtaba* (minced mutton balls in yoghurt sauce), and *tabakh maaz* (fried lamb ribs). Each dish is cooked in large copper utensils called *deeg* over firewood, which imparts a distinctive aroma.

The meat is traditionally pounded overnight on flat stones – a unique preparatory technique that enhances texture and flavour.

Guests are seated in groups of four around large copper plates called *tramis*, heaped with fragrant rice and topped with the array of delicacies.

Before and after the meal, the hosts offer a mobile basin called *tash naer* for guests to wash their hands – a ritual that embodies cleanliness and respect.

The way *wazwan* is prepared, served, and shared represents far more than a meal; it is a cherished expression of Kashmiri hospitality – a gesture of warmth, intimacy, and honour.



In seasoned hands: A *waza* deftly threads *seekh kebabs* onto a metal rod, before he grills them to juicy tenderness.



Traditional taste: Meatballs are prepared to go into the *Kashmiri Rista*, an essential dish of the *wazwan,* in Srinagar.



Labour of love: The open-air kitchen hums with activity as practised *wazas* meticulously cook the elaborate dishes of the *wazwan* for the wedding guests.



A smoky shimmer: The head chef pours sizzling hot oil onto chopped lamb ribs in the *tabakh maaz*.



Cauldrons of flavour: Steam hisses and curls over the *deegs* lined over the wood fire as a *waza* oversees the dishes.



Lavish hospitality: Guests are offered *tash naer* to wash their hands before the group meal. This ceremony is repeated when the *wazwan* ends as well.



Spirit of togetherness: The guests are seated in quartets around copper platters overflowing with fragrant rice and an assortment of delicacies. The tradition encourages friends and strangers to share a meal.