THURSDAY
November 6, 2025

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## Bihar Assembly polls Phase 1

The map shows the constituencies that will be voting in the first phase of the Bihar Assembly election today. Counting will take place on November 14

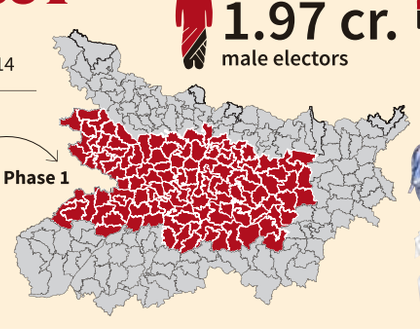


The first phase will decide the fate of **1,314** candidates across **18 districts**

**121** Assembly seats heading to the polls

According to the Election Commission, out of **3.75 crore** voters in these seats, more than **10 lakh** are "new electors"

Source: Election Commission of India




**1.97 cr.** male electors

**1.76 cr.** female electors



**Past results**

Across these constituencies in the 2020 Assembly election,

**63 seats** were secured by the Grand Alliance

**55 seats** were secured by the NDA

RELATED REPORT ON **PAGE 11**

DATA POINT

## *Can Cong. lose its 'weak link' tag in Bihar?*

*It had the lowest strike rate, vote share in 2020*

OPINION » PAGE 9



BRAZIL PRESIDENT WRITES

## COP30 and the moment of truth

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8




**Historic win:** New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani with his wife and parents after his speech in Brooklyn. GETTY IMAGES

# New York gets its first Mayor-elect of South Asian origin

**Anisha Dutta**
NEW YORK

Zohran Mamdani on Tuesday made history by becoming New York City's first Muslim and South Asian-origin Mayor-elect, and its youngest since 1917, topping off a stunning grassroots campaign led by the message of affordability and upending a political class dominated by wealthy donors.

In his victory speech before a jubilant crowd in Brooklyn, the 34-year-old declared: "We have toppled a political dynasty... tonight, New York has stepped from the old into the new." Quoting from Jawaharlal Nehru's "Tryst with Destiny" speech, Mr. Mamdani said: "Standing before you, I remember the words of Jawaharlal Nehru. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance."

He defeated both a Republican challenger, Curtis Sliwa, and former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, who was backed by a coalition of billionaires who spent millions to block Mr. Mamdani's rise.

**Highest turnout**

"New York, tonight you have delivered a mandate – for a new kind of politics, for a city we can afford, and for a government that delivers exactly that," Mr. Mamdani said. "Years from now, may our only regret be that this day took so long to come."

More than two million New Yorkers voted, the highest turnout for a mayoral contest in more than 50 years, according to the New York Board of Elections.

Mr. Mamdani won 50.4% of the votes, while Mr. Cuomo, running as independent, won 41.6%. Mr. Sliwa won 7.1%.

**Message to Trump**

During his speech, Mr. Mamdani addressed U.S. President Donald Trump, who had repeatedly threatened to cut federal funding to New York if he won. "If anyone can show a nation betrayed by Donald Trump how to defeat him, it is the city that gave rise to him," he said.

"So hear me, President Trump – since I know you're watching – I have four words for you: turn the volume up." He was later joined by his wife, Rama Duwaji; mother, filmmaker Mira Nair; and father, political theorist Mahmood Mamdani, before walking off the stage to a famous Bollywood track – "*Dhoom machale*" as the crowd erupted in uproar.

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DEMOCRATS SWEEP POLLS
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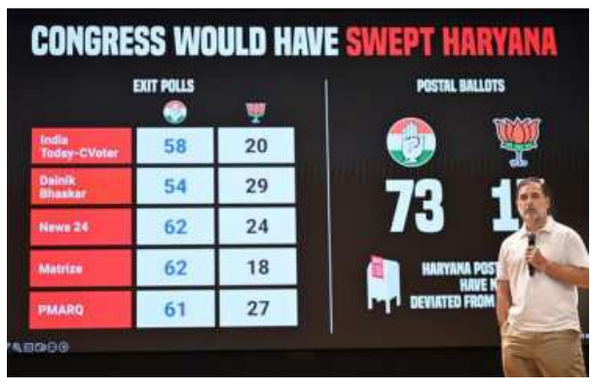
# Rahul alleges 'vote theft' took place in Haryana with EC help

In presentation titled 'H-files', Congress leader alleges there had been 25 lakh fake voters on electoral rolls ahead of polls, says a Brazilian model's photo was used for 22 names; he claims 'EC is in partnership with the BJP to destroy democracy'

**Sandeep Phukan**
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday made another major allegation of "vote theft", saying 25 lakh fake voters were added to the electoral rolls of Haryana ahead of the Assembly election in the State in 2024, which the Bharatiya Janata Party won.

Addressing his third press conference under the vote *chori* (theft) campaign, Mr. Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, shared the voters' list of the Rai Assembly constituency of Haryana which had the photograph of a Brazilian model 22 times under different names across 10 booths.




Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a press conference on vote theft allegation in New Delhi on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

While Mr. Gandhi called his presentation "H-files", his party colleagues referred to it as the much-anticipated "Hydrogen bomb". In his 80-minute presentation, he said there were 1,24,177 voters with fake photos in Haryana. "One in eight voters in Haryana are fake, and despite that, the Congress lost by a mere 22,779 votes, which was the difference in eight seats," he said.

The Congress leader alleged "Operation *Sarkar Chori* [government theft]" was launched in Haryana to prevent the Congress from coming to power despite all exit polls and opinion polls predicting a landslide win for the party. "The EC is in a partnership with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to destroy Indian democracy," he said. "If the voter list is a lie, then there is no democracy."

The BJP and EC officials rejected his claims.

With a day to go before the first phase of voting in the Bihar election, the Congress has now alleged that "vote theft" will be employed in the State as the system has been "industrialised".

"You can ask me why you didn't detect them in the voters' list of Bihar. That is because the voters' list comes to us in the last minute," Mr. Gandhi said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

## Claims are unfounded, says poll panel

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has dismissed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's claims as "unfounded", asking why the Congress did not report alleged multiple voting during the Haryana Assembly polls.

It added that the claims ironically support the special intensive revision of poll rolls. It noted that only 22 petitions were pending in the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 10

## NEARBY



### Bhuvaneswari gets two awards in London

**VIJAYAWADA**
Nara Bhuvaneswari, Managing Trustee of NTR Trust and MD of Heritage Foods, received Distinguished Fellowship-2025 Award and Golden Peacock Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance from the Institute of Directors, UK, in London, on Tuesday. » Page 6

### Rice card holders to get 1 kg wheat flour from Jan.

**VIJAYAWADA**
Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar has said that from January 1, 2026, those having rice cards will get one kg of wheat flour per family at ₹18. » Page 6

## Centre's governance guidelines for AI call for trust and safety

**Aroon Deep**
NEW DELHI

Advocating a hands-off approach to the regulation of artificial intelligence, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on Wednesday released the India AI Governance Guidelines.

The document is a significantly changed revision of a framework put out for consultation in January.

The report was drafted by a panel formed in July and headed by Balaraman Ravindran, the head of the Department of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. The broader group that worked on the previous framework was headed by Principal Scientific Adviser Ajay K. Sood.

The guidelines will "be a cornerstone in developing AI for India, and can be a role model for AI governance globally", Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary at the Ministry, said.

The report emphasises seven principles for AI: trust; people-centricity; "responsible innovation"; equity; accountability; understandability of LLMs; and "safety, resilience and sustainability." Mr. Ravindran stressed that the governance guidelines seek to signal India's largely hands-off approach to AI.

CONTINUED ON
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SHRADHANJALI



DOB:
03-MAY-1941

DOD:
05-NOV-2025

DR. CHALAMALASETTY SURENDRANATH

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF, WE ANNOUNCE THE SAD DEMISE OF A GREAT SOUL WHO PERMANENTLY SECURED A PLACE IN ALL OUR HEARTS.

WIFE:
CHALAMALASETTY VENKATALAKSMI

SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW:
CHALAMALASETTY SUNIL & HIMA BINDU
CHALAMALASETTY VENKATESH & ARCHANA
CHALAMALASETTY ANIL & SWATHI

GRANDSON'S & GRAND DAUGHTER:
VEDA, SUJAY TEJA,
SIDDA,
SURYANSH, ARYANSH

## SAEL to invest ₹22,000 crore in Andhra

**The Hindu Bureau**
VIJAYAWADA

SAEL Industries Limited is investing ₹22,000 crore in Andhra Pradesh across renewable energy, biomass, data centres and port development, with a potential to create 7,000 direct and 70,000 indirect jobs.

The company has commissioned facilities with the capacity of 600 MW in a record nine months, which underscores its execution capabilities as it scales up investments in Andhra Pradesh as part of an MoU signed earlier, said an official release.

DETAILED STORY ON
» PAGE 6

# Six passengers killed while crossing track at U.P. station

**Mayank Kumar**
LUCKNOW

Six passengers were killed at the Chunar railway station in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday when they were struck by a train while crossing the tracks after disembarking.

The group of women and girls, including two minors, had travelled to Chunar to take a dip in the Ganga on Kartik Purnima.

After alighting from the Gomo-Prayagraj Express on platform no. 4, they tried to cross the railway tracks from the wrong side around 9.30 a.m. when they were struck by another train passing through platform no. 3. "An investigation is under way to ascertain the cause of the accident," said Prashant Verma, Superintendent of Police (Railways).



The Railways has issued a safety advisory. FILE PHOTO

Following the accident, the track was cleared by 10 a.m., and normal train movement has resumed at Chunar, which is about 40 km from the Mirzapur district headquarters. A safety advisory has also been issued by the Railways.

**CM condoles deaths**

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief and directed officials to expedite relief measures.

"The loss of life in the unfortunate accident is extremely sad and heart-wrenching. My condolences are with the bereaved families. I pray to Lord Shri Ram to grant salvation to the departed souls, strength to the bereaved families to bear this immense loss and speedy recovery to the injured," the Chief Minister said.

## INBRIEF

### Tenant farmers fear being left out of crop enumeration

AP Tenant Farmers' Association demanded that the government allow an edit option in the crop enumeration so that the names of actual cultivators can be registered. Tenant farmers were being excluded from official crop records due to administrative negligence and "anti-farmer decisions" by the government, it said. As many tenant farmers have not received ID cards, their names are missing from the e-Crop records, while the names of non-cultivating landowners are being registered.

### CPI to organise social justice movements from Nov. 18

The CPI on Wednesday slammed State and Union governments, accusing them of pushing the people into distress through "autocratic and anti-people policies." Addressing the CPI State Council meeting here, they urged party cadre to build strong mass movements to end what they described as "misrule and corruption-driven governance." CPI State secretary G. Eswaraiah said from November 18, the CPI would intensify statewide movements focused on social justice, BC census implementation and people's rights.



### CII Young Indians apprise Lokesh of their initiatives

A delegation of CII Young Indians (Yi) met Minister Nara Lokesh at his residence on Wednesday. They apprised Mr. Lokesh of the Yi chapters' nation-building initiatives related to youth empowerment, educational institutions, entrepreneurs and rural communities aimed at fostering innovation, leadership and inclusive growth. The Yi congratulated Mr. Lokesh on successfully bringing Google's 1 - GW data centre project to 'Visakhapatnam, calling it a major milestone that underscores Andhra Pradesh's growing prominence as a global technology and investment hub. They invited Mr. Lokesh to deliver a keynote address at the Yi Annual National Conference scheduled to be held in New Delhi on December 19 and 20.

### NTR Collector visits Ratan Tata Innovation Hub

NTR District Collector G. Lakshmisha on Wednesday visited Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH-Vijayawada) and reviewed incubation and innovation programmes. The RTIH team apprised him of the recent launch of Future Founders (Pre-Incubation Programme) and Leader's Lens – a weekly interaction series held every Friday to engage leaders and innovators. They also briefed him of the upcoming launch of Spark (Exploration Programme) and Rise-Up MSME Programme, aimed at empowering early-stage entrepreneurs and local businesses.

## Minister wraps up Dubai visit

**The Hindu Bureau**
AMARAVATI

At BEEAH's Sharjah facility in Dubai, Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P. Narayana discussed advanced waste management and recovery models, inviting the firm to establish waste management plants here.

He concluded his three-day investment promotion tour in Dubai on Wednesday, according to a statement from his office. During the visit, he held meetings with representatives of leading companies, including Tecton Engineering and Construction LLC and Carbonatik. In Ajman, he met Mr. S. Lakshmanan, MD of Tecton Engineering, which has extensive experience in power, oil, gas and large-scale infrastructure projects. The Minister invited the firm to participate in construction projects in Amaravati.

# Karthika Pournami celebrated at Indrakeeladri

**G.V.R. Subba Rao**
VIJAYAWADA



**Divine glow:** Devotees lighting the lamps atop Indrakeeladri, abode of goddess Kanaka Durga, on the occassion of Karthika Pournami in Vijayawada on Wednesday. K.V.S. GIRI

Indrakeeladri hill, abode of goddess Kanaka Durga, glowed with divine radiance on Wednesday when thousands of devotees gathered to celebrate Karthika Pournami, one of the most spiritually significant events in the temple's annual calendar. The hill shimmered under the glow of countless lamps, creating a mesmerising sight of devotion and light.

The evening's highlight was the grand 'Lakh Deepotsavam', in which devotees lit over one lakh ghee lamps, symbolically dispelling darkness. The temple complex, including the main sanctum, Rajagopuram, Kanaka Durga Nagar, Mahamandapam and the Shiva temple precincts, was beautifully illuminated, transforming the entire hill into a spiritual beacon.

Following the Deepotsavam, priests performed the ancient 'Jwala Toranam' ritual at the Shiva temple – a traditional fire ceremony in which a large garland made of paddy sheaves is lit, symbolizing the burning away of sins, negativity and evil forces.

Sri Durga Malleswara Swamyvarla Devasthanam Trust Board chairperson Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi) and executive officer (E.O.) V.K. Seena Naik and others were present.

A special Anna Santarpana (community meal) was organised at the new Pooja Mantapam. Many devotees observing the Karthika Pournami fast concluded their penance after offering lamps to Sri Malleswara Swamy and partaking in the sacred Anna Prasadam. The entire festival concluded in an atmosphere of peace, devotion and divine grace.

## 'Koti Vattika Deepotsavam' at Dokiparru temple

**The Hindu Bureau**
VIJAYAWADA

'Koti Vattika Deepotsavam', the festival of one crore lamps, was organised at Sri Bhoo Sametha Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Dokiparru village in Krishna district on Wednesday.

Large numbers of devotees from the village and nearby regions took part, according to a press release. Temple trustees provided all required puja materials for free. The celebrations included Abhishekam, Archana, and various sacred rituals conducted in accordance with Vaikhanasa Bhagavata traditions by Vedic scholars, filling the atmosphere with spiritual fervour.

# Downpour catches city commuters unawares

Vijayawada records 40 mm rainfall in less than an hour; light to moderate showers are likely at a few places today and tomorrow in South Coastal and Rayalaseema regions, says IMD

**The Hindu Bureau**
VIJAYAWADA



Motorists navigating a waterlogged stretch on Mahatma Gandhi Road after a heavy rain lashed Vijayawada on Wednesday. K.V.S. GIRI

Motorists in the city had a tough time after a downpour brought 40 mm rainfall in less than an hour on Wednesday. The stretch on the Mahatma Gandhi Road between Auto Nagar and Patamata was filled with a sheet of water. As the morning was partly sunny, many commuters were caught unawares due to the sudden rain.

Many places in the central, Rayalaseema and south coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh received light to moderate showers on Wednesday under the influence of a low pressure running from southwest Bay of Bengal to north Kerala across Tamil Nadu at 5.8 km above the mean sea level.

As per the realtime rainfall data from the A.P. State Development and Planning Society (APSDPS), the day's maximum rainfall recorded between 8.30 a.m. and 4 p.m. was in B. Cherlopalli of Prakasam district that registered 65.5 mm rainfall.

It was followed by Gandlapenta of Sri Sathya Sai district (45 mm), Kandaleru Reservoir in SPSR Nellore district (40.5 mm), and Vijayawada East (39 mm). Other places in the districts of YSR Kadapa, West Godavari, Tirupati, Anantapur received light showers, below 35 mm.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Amaravati, while there may not be any rain activity in north-coastal Andhra Pradesh, people can expect light to moderate showers at a few places on November 6 and 7 in south-coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema. Thunderstorms and lightning are also likely in the two regions for the next two days.

**Return of dry weather**

From November 9, dry weather is likely to continue in North Coastal areas. In South Coastal parts and Rayalaseema, light showers are likely in one or two places until November 12.

The A.P. State Disaster Management Authority has cautioned people to not take shelter under trees as thunderstorms are likely in many places on November 6. Light to moderate rains are likely in the districts of Krishna, Prakasam, SPSR Nellore, Anantapur, Sri Sathya Sai, YSR Kadapa, Annamayya, Chittoor and Tirupati, according to a bulletin.

## 'Best teachers' to visit Singapore, study teaching methods

**The Hindu Bureau**
VIJAYAWADA

Minister for HRD Nara Lokesh on Wednesday directed officials to make arrangements to send 78 'Best Teacher Award' recipients to Singapore on November 27 on a study tour on advanced educational practices.

Speaking at a review meeting at his residence in Undavalli, he said teachers will visit leading schools in Singapore from November 27 to December 2 to study in detail the teaching methods, classroom environment and advanced technologies in use there. They must then prepare a report suggesting how such practices could be implemented to improve educational standards in Andhra Pradesh.

He asked the officials to organise student assemblies on November 26, coinciding with Constitution Day and to hold a statewide Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting on December 5, similar to last year's event, in a festive atmosphere with the participation of public representatives.

Mr. Lokesh pointed out that the LEAP app was designed to enable parents to regularly monitor their children's performance and called for wide publicity of this initiative.

## Handlooms exhibition inaugurated

**The Hindu Bureau**
VIJAYAWADA

Weavers and artisans from across the country have put up over 70 stalls at the auditorium of Sri Seshasai Kalyana Vedika near Bandar Road as part of 'Vasantham 2025', a handloom and handicrafts exhibition organised by Craft Council of A.P. The two-day event was inaugurated on Wednesday by Minister Nara Lokesh. Many of the participating artisans are self-help group members or independent weavers.

**Timings**
**VIJAYAWADA**

| | |
|---|---|
| **THURSDAY, NOV. 06** | |
| RISE | 06:07 SET 17:35 |
| RISE | 18:12 SET 06:42 |
| **FRIDAY, NOV. 07** | |
| RISE | 06:07 SET 17:35 |
| RISE | 19:13 SET 07:51 |
| **SATURDAY, NOV. 08** | |
| RISE | 06:08 SET 17:35 |
| RISE | 20:18 SET 09:00 |

| Vijayawada Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Machilipatnam | 34 | 26 |
| Guntur Town | 33 | 24 |
| Vijayawada City | 32 | 25 |

**Vijayawada City Today**
**33°C** The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

**Vijayawada City Tomorrow**
**34°C** Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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## Admission notification of Vignan varsity out

**The Hindu Bureau**
GUNTUR

Vignan University vice-chancellor Colonel P. Nagabhushan on Wednesday announced the admission notification for 2026-27. Applications for B.Tech and B.Pharmacy programmes are open at the university's Guntur and Hyderabad campuses, with the Vignan's Scholastic Aptitude Test entrance test scheduled from March 1 to April 15, 2026. The last date to apply is February 25. Dean of admissions K.V. Krishnakishore said scholarships will be offered to top performers–50% for ranks 1-50, 25% for ranks 51-200, and 10% for ranks 201-2000.

Col. Nagabhushan said the university aims to produce industry-ready graduates through an updated curriculum and practical exposure. Accredited by ABET (U.S.) and holding NAAC A+ and NBA Tier-1 recognitions, Vignan ranked 70th nationally in the 2025 NIRF rankings, he added.

**Text & Context and Science**

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carry explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (November 6, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- Challenges facing the upcoming income survey **newsth.live/challengesincomexp**
- Clearest black hole merger signal yet allows probe of Hawking's law **newsth.live/blackholdmerger**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

## Collectors suggest changes to NH expansion

**The Hindu Bureau**
VIJAYAWADA

NTR and Krishna District Collectors G. Lakshmisha and D.K. Balaji felt changes are needed in the proposals for expansion of NH-65 from Vijayawada to Machilipatnam into six lanes. A meeting was held to discuss the NH expansion proposals at the District Collectorate in Vijayawada on Wednesday. The Collectors, MLAs from both the districts, officials from National Highways Authority of India and Metro Rail authorities participated.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Lakshmisha directed officials to prepare three design models for the expansion of NH-65 in coordination with metro authorities. He pointed out that the current design does not address the traffic issues between Benz Circle and China Ogirala.

# *Andhra teen Kyvalya Reddy selected for global astronaut training programme*

The 17-year-old was selected after an intense multi-stage global selection process; over next four years, she will undergo comprehensive training under veteran astronauts from around the world

**P. Sujatha Varma**
VIJAYAWADA



Kyvalya Reddy Kunchala

Seventeen-year-old Kyvalya Reddy Kunchala, who hails from the quiet town of Nidadavole in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, has taken a leap toward the stars. She has been selected as an Astronaut Candidate (ASCAN) for the Space Class 2025-2029 Astronaut Programme of Titans Space Industries Inc. (TSI), a Florida-based space technology and spacecraft development company working to develop a variety of spaceflight programmes, including human spaceflight. Ms. Kyvalya, as an Astronaut Candidate, will undergo a comprehensive astronaut training programme, an eligibility she has earned after an intense multi-stage global selection process that culminated in a final interview with TSI's top leadership, including its CEO, Chief Astronaut, and COO and Chief Engineer.

Over the next four years, Ms. Kyvalya will train under some of the world's most respected spaceflight experts. Her mentors will include TSI's Chief Astronaut and a NASA veteran with 224 days in space William McArthur and Brazil's first astronaut and TSI's Deputy Chief Astronaut Marcos Pontes. She will also be guided by Dr. Vladimir Pletser, a former European Space Agency astronaut trainer and Dr. Mindy Howard, a mental preparedness coach for astronauts.

**Titans Space Class**

Representing over 36 countries and nearly 150 astronaut candidates, the Titans Space Class of 2025-2029 is an international collaboration in space exploration. "This feels like moving a step closer to my dream of becoming an astronaut," said Ms. Kyvalya, who has completed her Intermediate education and is applying for admission to an astrophysics programme in a university in Germany. According to a letter she received from TSI, her astronaut journey will unfold in two stages. The phase-1 (2026-2027) will combine theoretical learning with extreme physical challenges - from zero-gravity flights and neutral buoyancy drills to scuba diving, high-altitude skydiving, and mountain expeditions, designed to simulate the rigours of space travel. In Phase 2 (2027-2029), the Astronaut-Designate teen will move to advanced mission-specific training.

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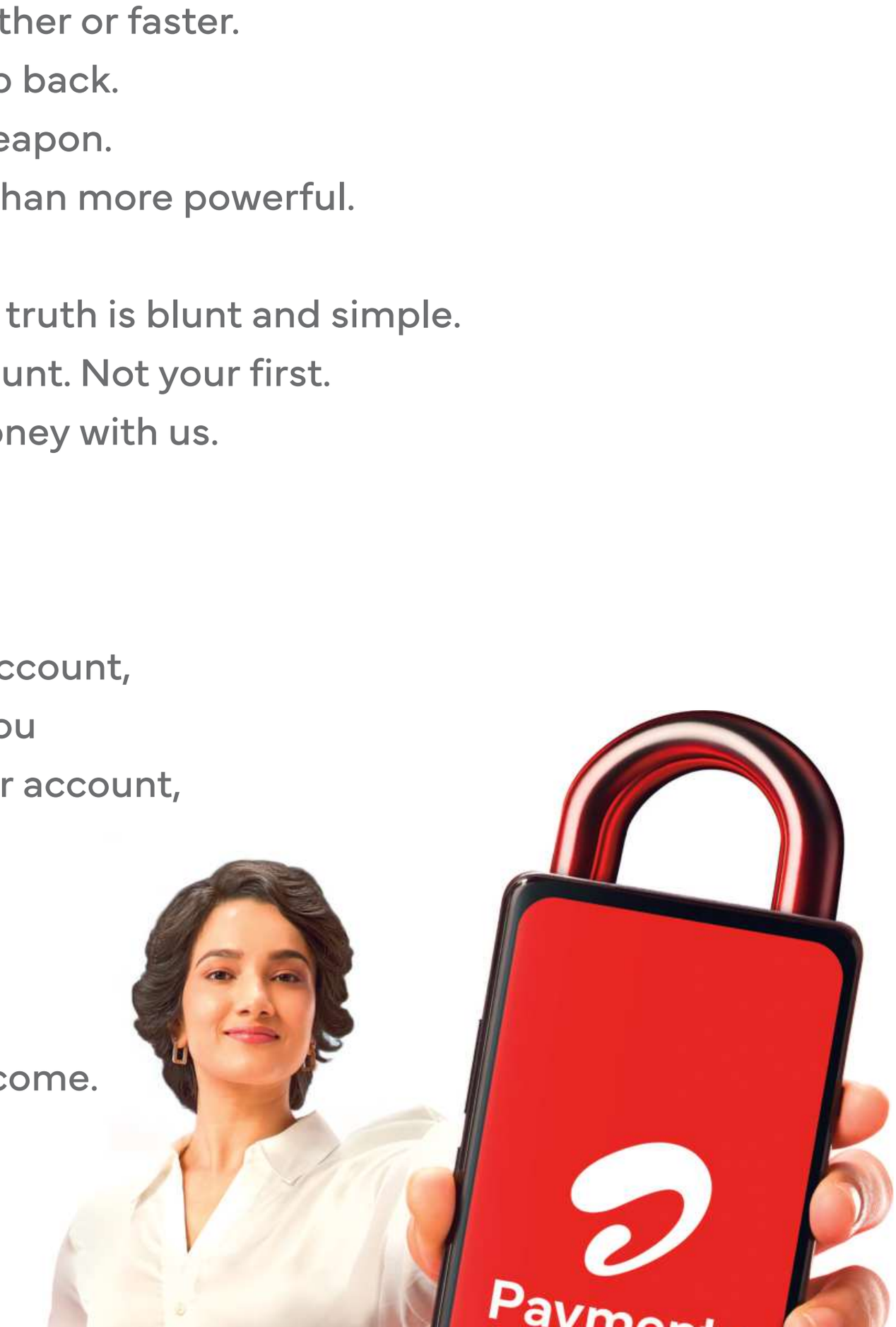
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Tender is invited through e-procurement platform (online) for **T178-2:** Procurement and supply of Medicines, **T179:** Procurement and supply of Surgical Consumables & **T180-3:** Procurement and supply of Reagents & Consumables.

For complete details, please visit Website:
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APMSIDC will reserve the right to cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reasons.

DIPR 4543PP/CL, Dt: 05-11-2025 **Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR**

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**e-TENDERS** are invited for Procurement of three numbers of Image Intensifier **2D C-Arm Equipments** with five years warranty period for Operation Theatre and Five years of CAMC after completion of warranty period Tender ID No.:860649 (NIT Roc.No.: TTD-104021(31)/24/2025-BIRRD-TTD to the BIRRD Trust Hospital, TTD, Tirupati.

- **Bid Document Download Start Date & Time : 06-11-2025 at 10:00 AM**
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TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.277) Date:05-11-2025 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Form No. 3
(See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)

## DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL VISHAKHAPATNAM

Ground & 1st Floor, 31-31-21, Sai Baba Street, Narayan Bhawan, Dabagardens, Visakhapatnam- 530020

**Case No.: O. A.No. 841 OF 2025**

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

**HDFC Bank Limited**
**A N D**
**Sri Arikirevula Koti Nageswara Rao & others**

To,

**D1 Sri Arikirevula Koti Nageswara Rao** S/o Sri Sriramulu H. No. 4-100, Near Vinayaka Temple, Jalipudi, Eluru – 534 004.

**D2 M/s. Boyzway Readymades represented by its Proprietor Sri Arikirevula Koti Nageswara Rao** S/o Sri Sriramulu, D. No. 25-14-1, Dr. Satyanarayana Street, Opp Post Office, Ward No. 26, Eluru Mandal, W.G. District – 534 006.

**D3 Smt. Arikirevula Sai Raja Kumari** W/o Sri Koti Nageswara Rao H. No. 4-100, Near Vinayaka Temple, Jalipudi, Eluru – 534 004.

**D4 Smt Arikirevula Venkata Lakshmi** W/o Sri Sriramulu H. No. 4-100, Near Vinayaka Temple, Jalipudi, Eluru – 534 004

**SUMMONS BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION**

Whereas, OA/841/2025 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 24.11.2025 be heard and decided in your absence.

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of **Rs. 61,87,459,64** application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties:

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Presiding Officer/Registrar on **24.11.2025** at 10:30 A.M. failing the application shall

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 30/10/2025.

**Signature of the Officer**
**Authorized to issue summons**

## IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE, KERALA, ERNAKULAM

**MACA No. 3373 of 2020**

(Against order dated 18.05.2020 in O.P.(MV) No.1600 of 2009 on the files of the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal, Pathanamthitta)

***Between:***

**Appellant/ 3rd Respondent in O.P.(MV):**

National Insurance Co. Ltd., branch office, Vijayawada, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, represented by its Deputy Manager (Legal), Kochi Regional Office, Omana Building, Padma Junction, Ernakulam - 682035.

**Vs.**

**Respondents/ Petitioners and Respondent Nos. 1 and 2 in O.P. (MV):**

1. V. N. Muralidharan, (Died), Venmelil House, Aruvappulam Post, Aruvappulam Village, Kozhencherry Taluk, Pathanamthitta - 689699, represented by his sole legal heir, the 2nd respondent herein.
2. V. K. Geetha Devi, W/o Muralidharan, Venmelil House, Aruvappulam Post, Aruvappulam Village, Kozhencherry Taluk, Pathanamthitta - 689699
3. N. Sreenevasa Ra, S/o. Ramaiah, Mogalarajapuram, Vijayawada, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh - 520010
4. P. Sreemannarayanna (Died), S/o. Suryanarayana, D.No. 46-4-114 Gunadala, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh - 520004.
5. Somisetti Vijayalakshmi, W/o Venkatrao, 4-262, Kanuru, Krishna, Andhra Pradesh-520007
6. Kodeti Uma, W/o Murali, 2-61, Vijayawada (Rural), Ramavarappadu, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh - 521108.

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to respondent No. 3, 5 and 6 that the above appeal is posted for hearing on 10.11.2025 before the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala. If no appearance is made either in person or by duly authorised Counsel on that day, the above appeal will be heard and disposed of in your absence.

Dated this the 8th day of October 2025.

(Sd/-) P.G. Jayashankar
Counsel for the Appellant

## GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH NTR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, VIJAYAWADA AMBEDKAR SMRUTHI VANAM, VIJAYADA

Tender No.DC/NTR/EOI/01/2025, Date: 05.11.2025

The District Administration, NTR District invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for operation and maintenance of Cafeteria, Food Courts, Ice Cream Shops, Souvenir Shops, Book Shops, Children Play Area, Advertising Sign Boards at Ambedkar Smruthi Vanam, PWD Grounds, Vijayawada.

**Detailed EOI document will be available in the following link**
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mKNUTZOnQQG1qkoS4MoJyWFcnXa6vknM/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=112777453122966324222&rtpof=true&sd=true

**Last date for submission:15-11-2025.**
**Contact Persons: Suman Mallipeddi, Manager, +91 96188 48470 and Ch.Srinivas, Manager, 7416882031**

DIPR 4547PP/CL, Dt.05/11/2025 **Sd/- Collector & District Magistrate, NTR District, Vijayawada**

## NARSIPATNAM MUNICIPALITY

**TENDER NOTICE**

**Roc.No.448/2020/E1** **Dated 05.11.2025**

Narsipatnam Municipality inviting the following Tenders on 'e' -procurement Platform under VMRDA Grant

| Sl. No | Grant Name and No of Works | Tender Call | Total Value | Download Starting Date &Time | Download Ending Date & Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 01 Work (VMRDA Grant) | 1st Call | Rs.75.00 Lakhs | 06-11-2025 by 10:00 AM | 20-11-2025 by 04:00PM |

For details logon to **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/**
Contact Ph. No.**8008559277, 7702495544**

**Sd/- J.Surendra**
**Commissioner, Narsipatnam Municipality**


**Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder**

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

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## ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD

Vidyut Nilayam, Corporate Office, ITI College Road, Vijayawada - 520 008

**E-Procurement Tender Notice**

Tenders are invited from APCPDCL for Procurement of 16Nos 5MVA Power Transformers for APTIDCO Phase-II Works against Tender No: CPMPT-29 / 25-26, through AP e procurement. For further details please visit **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** from **06-11-2025**. Ph: **0866-2955455** & **Email: cgmpmm.cpdcl@apcpdcl.in**

**Sd/- Chief General Manager/P&MM, APCPDCL, Vijayawada**

HOKMB-TVM/332/2023-C3 (Devp) I/62881/2025

## KERALA MARITIME BOARD

(A statutory Board of Govt. of Kerala)

**RFP TENDER - DUE DATE EXTENSION NOTICE**

The Kerala Maritime Board (KMB) has announced date extension to the bid due date for its **Development of Maritime Enclave at Port Bungalow, Kozhikode (2025_KMB_774245_2)** project. The bid due date has been extended from November 03, 2025, to **November 21, 2025.**

For further information: **0471 - 2910040 | 9544410029** **kmb.kerala@gmail.com** and visit **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Sd/ **Chief Executive Officer,**
D3/853/2025 **Kerala Maritime Board**


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| LOCATION | AUTHORISED SPACE SELLERS | CALL FOR ADVERTISEMENTS |
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| Kadapa | : Sree Putta Ads | Cell : 97017 52420 |
| Kurnool | : The Neo Vision Ads | Cell : 94405 03019 |
| Nellore | : Chandini Communications | Cell : 98491 88889 |

**Advertisement Material Deadline**

Classifieds Mart : Weekdays 6.00 P.M.
Property Plus : Friday 7.00 P.M.
Sunday Classifieds : Friday 7.00 P.M.


## MSME-DEVELOPMENT AND FACILITATION OFFICE

MSME-DFO, F. 19 - 22, IDA, Autonagar, Thokada, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam – 530012 Andhra Pradesh.
Ph: 08912517942, Mob : 7010311021, Email: dcdi-vish@dcmsme.gov.in

Govt. of India, Ministry of MSME, MSME-DFO Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, has received proposal from **KONASEEMA GOLDEN FIBER INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District of Andhra Pradesh** for the Establishment of Common Facility Center for mattress products manufacturing at Ippanapadu Village Mandapeta, Konaseema-533308 under MSE CDP Scheme. In this regard anyone having similar project for the establishment of CFC are requested to submit the Detailed Project Report (DPR) along with requisite details within 10 Days to this office and if any enterprise willing to join the cluster SPV may submit their request to this office.

## DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL VISAKHAPATNAM

Ground & 1st Floor, 31-31-21, Sai Baba Street, Narayana Bhawan, Dabagardens, Visakhapatnam-530020.

**Case No. OA 1016/2025**

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

Between:

Indian Overseas Bank, Ramavarappadu Branch, Vijayawada , Kirshna District Reptd by it's Senior Manager ... Applicant

And:

1. M/s.Sreevenkata Lakshmi Srinivasa Wholesale Marketing represented by its Prop: Smt Maddi Radhika
2. Smt Maddi Radhika
3. Smt Jujjuru Mahalakshmi
4. Sri Maddi Srinivasa Koteswara Rao ... Defendants

**SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION**

To,

**Defendant No.1: M/s Sreevenkata Lakshmi Srinivasa Wholesale Marketing represented by its Prop: Smt Maddi Radhika wife of M.Srinivasa Koteswara Rao,** D No 9-65-12/B 2nd Floor Sykam Vari Street Kothapet Near Fish Market Vijaywada -520001.

**Defendant No.2: Smt Maddi Radhika wife of M Srinivasa Koteswara Rao,** D No: 9-65-12/B 2nd Floor Sykam Vari Street Kothapet Near Fish Market Vijaywada - 520001

**Defendant No.3: Smt Jujjuru Mahalakshmi wife of M Koteswara Rao,** D No: 6-47, Gollapudi Vijayawada, Krishna -521225

**Defendant No.4: Sri Maddi Srinivasa Koteswara Rao Son of Venkata Satyanarayana,** D No 9-65-12/B, 2nd Floor Sykam Vari Street, Kothapet, Near Fish Market, Vijaywada-520001

WHEREAS **OA 1016/2025** was listed before Honb'le Presiding Officer/ Registrar on **05/12/2025** WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of **Rs.49,39,917/-** (application along with copies of documents etc.annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under : -

(i) To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) To disclosed particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and / or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institution holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Presiding Officer/Registrar on **05-12-2025** at 10:30 A.M. failing the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

**Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this 30/10/2025**

**Sd/- Signature of the Officer,**
**Authorized to issue summons**


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## Government of Odisha
## Higher Education Department

Lokseva Bhawan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001

HE-SCH-PLAN-0059-2025/59941/H.E., Bhubaneswar, Dated: 03/11/2025

**ADDENDUM-1**

**NOTICE INVITING RFP FOR ENGAGEMENT OF STATE PSU/ CENTRAL PSU/ DEPARTMENTAL UNDERTAKING AS PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC) FOR "CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR / RENOVATION ACROSS FIVE STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, ODISHA UNDER PM USHA**

In continuation to the Request for Proposal (RFP) No. **PM-USHA:01/2025 Dt.09.10.2025,** the following addendum is hereby issued. All other terms and conditions of the RFP shall remain unaltered

| Sl.No. | Reference | Description | Date / Place |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Pre-Bid Meeting | Schedule of Pre-Bid Meeting | 07.11.2025, 11:00 AM Conference Hall, Higher Education Department, Lokaseva Bhavan, Ground Floor, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001. |
| 2. | Bid Submission Dateline | Last Date & Time for Submission of Proposal | 18.11.2025, 03:00 PM |

Contact No.: +91-7894709964 / 0674-2954600

N-189 **Special Secretary to Govt., SPD, RUSA/PM-USHA**

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

e-mail - serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

Letter No. 4108 **1st Corrigendum** Date: 28.10.2025

In continuation to this office Bid Identification No. **CCERWCSBD-Online-15/2025-26** invited vide this office Notice No.3223 Dtd.10.09.2025, partial modification of NCB has been made as follows :-

| Sl No. | Item | Time Schedule as per original NCB | Time Schedule as per Corrigendum notice |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Availability of Tender online for bidding | 25.09.2025 at 11.00 AM to 29.10.2025 up to 5.00 PM | **Extended up to 28.11.2025 5.00 PM** |
| 2 | Date and Time of seeking tender clarification if any | 28.10.2025 up to 2.00 PM | **27.11.2025 up to 2.00 PM** |
| 3 | Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid) | 30.10.2025 at 11.00 AM | **29.11.2025 at 11.00 AM** |
| 4 | Date & Time of opening of tender (Price Bid) | Will be intimated later on to the successful bidders | **Will be intimated later on to the successful bidders** |

All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered.

O-1302: **Chief Construction Engineer, RW Circle, Sunabeda.**

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

e-mail - serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

Letter No. 4081 **2nd Corrigendum** Date: 28.10.2025

In continuation to this office Bid Identification No. **CCERWCSBD-Online-18/2025-26** invited vide this office Notice No.3281 Dtd.11.09.2025, partial modification of NCB has been made as follows :-

| Sl No. | Item | Time Schedule as per original NCB | Time Schedule as per 1st Corrigendum notice | Time Schedule as per 2nd Corrigendum notice |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Availability of Tender online for bidding | 23.09.2025 at 11.00 AM to 14.10.2025 up to 5.00 PM | Extended up to 30.10.2025 5.00 PM | **Extended up to 18.11.2025 5.00 PM** |
| 2 | Date and Time of seeking tender clarification if any | 13.10.2025 up to 2.00 PM | 29.10.2025 up to 2.00 PM | **17.11.2025 up to 2.00 PM** |
| 3 | Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid) | 15.10.2025 at 11.00 AM | 31.10.2025 at 11.00 AM | **19.11.2025 at 11.00 AM** |
| 4 | Date & Time of opening of tender (Price Bid) | Will be intimated later on to the successful bidders | Will be intimated later on to the successful bidders | **Will be intimated later on to the successful bidders** |

All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered.

O-1298: **Chief Construction Engineer, RW Circle, Sunabeda.**

## Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage and Infrastructure Corporation Ltd.

Old Working Women Hostel, Behind Nehru Place, Lal Kothi, Tonk Road, Jaipur, Ph: 0141- 2742240, 2742538, 2742263, E-mail: ruifdco@gmail.com, rudsico@rajasthan.gov.in, Web: urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rudsico

F18 (52) RUDSICO/AMRUT-2.0/2024-25/Tender/865 Date :- 24/10/2025

**NIB No. 09/2025-26 and NIB No. 10/2025-26**

Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage & infrastructure Corporation Limited (RUDSICO), a Government of Rajasthan undertaking, invites online unconditional bids on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan through e-procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from eligible bidders in accordance with the RTPP Act 2012 and RTPP Rules 2013, amended up to date, and under Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) National with single stage-two envelope Bidding procedure for following work.

| S. No. | Name of Work | Cost (In Lakh) | Bid Security (In Lakh) | Period of completion |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Rejuvenation of Water Bodies work:-** | | | |
| 1 | Rejuvenation of Water Body projects at Jaisalmer and Jodhpur North (AMRUT 2.0/RAJ/RWB/01) | 8.82 | 0.176 | 09 months |
| 2 | Rejuvenation of Water Body projects at Baran (Baran) and Mangrol (Baran) (AMRUT 2.0/RAJ/RWB/02) | 9.78 | 0.195 | 09 months |
| 3 | Rejuvenation of Water Body projects at Kama (Deeg), Nagar (Deeg) and Sarmathura (Dholpur) (AMRUT 2.0/RAJ/RWB/03) | 12.56 | 0.251 | 09 months |
| 4 | Rejuvenation of Water Body projects at Mandalghar (Bhilwara), Kapasan (Chittorgarh) and Pratapghar (Pratapghar) (AMRUT 2.0/RAJ/RWB/04) | 11.23 | 0.224 | 09 months |
| 5 | Rejuvenation of Water Body projects at Pilibhanga (Hanumanghar), Rawatsar (Hanumanghar), Baggar (Jhunjhunu) and Sujanghar (Churu) (AMRUT 2.0/RAJ/RWB/05) | 7.96 | 0.159 | 09 months |
| 6 | Rejuvenation of Water Body projects at Sumerpur (Pali), Sadri (pali) and Mt Abu (Sirohi) (AMRUT 2.0/RAJ/RWB/06) | 30.68 | 0.613 | 09 months |
| 7 | Rejuvenation of Water Body Projects at Khandar (Sawai Madhopur) and Dausa (Dausa) (AMRUT 2.0/RAJ/RWB/07) | 10.11 | 0.202 | 09 months |
| | **Sewerage work :-** | | | |
| 1 | Providing a SPS and diverting the flow of existing sewer trunk in the congested area to resolve the issues of blockage and overflow in existing sewerage system (AMRUT 2.0/RAJ/SEW/39) | 12.19 | 0.24 | 18 months |
| 2 | Decentralized Sewerage Treatment Plant at Bharatpur Town (AMRUT 2.0/RAJ/SEW/40) | 52.48 | 1.04 | 24 months |
| 3 | Disposal line for treated water of 34 MLD STP from near existing STP to Gwalda (AMRUT 2.0/RAJ/SEW/41) | 70.38 | 1.40 | 24 months |
| 4 | Additional STP, Sewer network and reuse of treated effluent of STPs in Churu (AMRUT 2.0/RAJ/SEW/42) | 69.32 | 1.38 | 24 months |
| 5 | To provide House Sewer Connections in area where sewer system is already developed (AMRUT 2.0/RAJ/SEW/43) | 7.76 | 0.15 | 12 months |

The details of NIB can be seen at e-procurement portal of state government sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and eproc.rajasthan.gov.in of Rejuvenation of water bodies work date 30.10.2025 at 1700 Hours till the end date of online submission of bids i.e. 21.11.2025 up to 1500 Hours. For Sewerage work date 30.10.2025 at 1700 Hours till the end date of online submission of bids i.e. 01.12.2025 up to 1500 Hours. Any subsequent addendum/corrigendum shall be published only at the e-procurement portal.

**NIB Code : RDP2526A0026**

UBN No. : RDP2526WLOB00067, RDP2526WLOB00068, RDP2526WLOB00069, RDP2526WLOB00071, RDP2526WLOB00072, RDP2526WLOB00073, RDP2526WLOB00074

**NIB Code : RDP2526A0027**

UBN No. : RDP2526WLOB00075, RDP2526WLOB00076, RDP2526WLOB00077, RDP2526WLOB00078RDP2526WLOB00079

Raj.Samwad/C/25/13108 **Executive Director RUDSICO, Jaipur**

## OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Eighth Anniversary



**Dr.K.A.PISHAROTI**
Population Specialist, World Bank (Retd.)
You will always be remembered
Family & Friends

### REMEMBRANCE

**Tribute to**
**Legend of Textile**



Janab Haji **S Madhar Sha**

*Heavenly Abode :* **6-11-2009**

**We pledge to maintain the rapport and standard of service set by our great father to our loyal customers who are with us for so many decades.**

Family Members, Management & Staff

MADHAR SHA DEATH ANNIVERSARY 16

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### PERSONAL

### CHANGE OF NAME

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **UPPU RAMULAMMA** W/o. NISSANKARA SRINIVASA RAO, (D/o. UPPU VENKATA RAMANA) R/o. Door No. 2-11/1, Pesarlanka Village, Kolluru Mandal, Bapatla District, Andhra Pradesh, have changed my Son's name from the existing **NISSANKARA VENKATA NANCHARAIAH to NISSANKARA VENKATA VISHNU** for all purposes as per affidavit dated: 30/10/2025 executed in presence of Notary Public, Tenali, Guntur district, AP.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **SHAIK KARIMULLA (Old Name) S/o SAYYAD SUBHANI,** resident of Door No.1-177/1, Ludharpeta, Cherukupalli Village & Mandal, H/o Arumbaka, Bapatla District, Pincode-522309, Andhra Pradesh, India., I have changed my name as **(New Name) SAYYAD KAREEMULLA S/o SAYYAD SUBHANI.** Hereafter my name is Known as **(New Name) SAYYAD KAREEMULLA** for all purposes.

### TENDERS

**CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY MARINE DEPARTMENT**

**Tender Notice**
**No. M/OPS/F6**

e-Tender for Hiring of Green Tug - Manning, Operation, Maintenance and Technical Management of 1 no. 60-ton capacity New Battery Electric Tug for a period of 15 years at Chennai Port Authority.

**Est. Cost: Rs.344,92,50,000/- excl of GST**

for further details/corrigendum, if any, visit, www.chennaiport.gov.in/eprocure.gov.in

**Tender opening date: 29.01.2026**

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator.


TO ADVERTISE CONTACT
**THE HINDU**
**Advt. Dept.,**
VIJAYAWADA
**0866-2553033/ 44/ 77**
TIRUPATI
**0877-2255577, 2255553**

## KIDWAI MEMORIAL INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY,

Cancer Research & Training Centre
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION
(Regional Centre of Cancer Research & Treatment Member of International Union Against Cancer)
Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, Bengaluru-560029 Ph: 080-6669 7999

**NO.KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/M.EQUIP/H&N/467/2025-26** **Date: 05.11.2025**

### e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Online Tenders are invited in Two Bid System for the following through GOK KPP Portal tender for Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology.

| Sl No. | Tender No. & Date | Name of the Items |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/M.EQUIP/ H&N/467/2025-26, DT: 05.11.2025 | Supply and Installation of Medical Equipments to the Dept. of Head and Neck at KMIO., (Estimated Budget: 1.6 Cr) |
| 2 | KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/M.EQUIP/ DMB/468/2025-26, DT: 05.11.2025 | Supply and Installation of Medical Equipments to the Dept. of Microbiology at KMIO (Estimated Budget: 24 Lakh) |
| 3 | KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/M.EQUIP/ DMO/469/ 2025-26, DT: 05.11.2025 | Supply and Installation of Medical Equipments to the Dept. of Medical Oncology at KMIO(Estimated Budget: 88 lakh) |
| 4 | KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/M.EQUIP/ GYNAEC/470/ 2025-26, DT: 05.11.2025 | Supply and Installation of Medical Equipments to the Dept. of Gynaec Oncology at KMIO (Estimated Budget: 1.63 Cr) |
| 5 | KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/M.EQUIP/ DBC/471/2025-26, DT: 05.11.2025 | Supply and Installation of Medical Equipments to the Dept. of Biochemistry at KMIO (Estimated Budget: 25 Lakh) |
| 6 | KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/ GENERAL DRUGS & IV FLUIDS/472/2025-26, DT: 05.11.2025 | Supply of General Drugs and IV Fluids to KMIO., (Estimated Budget: 3.96 Cr) |
| 7 | KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/ HOSPITAL CONSUMABLES/473/2025-26, DT: 305.11.2025 | Supply of Hospital Consumables items to KMIO., (Estimated Budget: 4.33 Cr) |
| 8 | KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/ ANAESTHESIA DRUGS & SURGICALS/ 474/2025-26, DT: 05.11.2025 | Supply of Anaesthesia Drugs and Surgical items to KMIO., (Estimated Budget: 3.87 Cr) |
| 9 | KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/INTERVEN-TIONAL RADIOLOGY/475/2025-26, DT: 05.11.2025 | Supply of Interventional Radiology and Radiology Items to KMIO., (Estimated Budget: 4.03 Cr) |
| 10 | KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/HNS/476/ 2025-26, DT: 05.11.2025 | Supply of Hospital Necessary Supply items to KMIO., (Estimated Budget: 2.35 Cr) |
| 11 | KMIO/MNT/TENDER/AC/477/ 2025-26, DT: 05.11.2025 | Supply and Installation of Split AC and Ductable AC to KMIO., (Estimated Budget: 23.5 Lakh) |
| 12 | KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/DRUGS/ 478/2025-26, DT: 05.11.2025 | Supply of Anticancer Injection to KMIO., (Estimated Budget: 1.55 Cr) |
| 13 | KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/ ORAL DRUGS/479/2025-26, DT: 05.11.2025 | Supply of Anticancer Oral Durgs to KMIO., (Estimated Budget: 34.83 lakh) |
| 14 | KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/ ANTIBIOTIC AND ANTIFUNGAL DRUGS/480/ 2025-26, DT: 05.11.2025 | Supply of Antibiotic and Antifungal Drugs to KMIO., (Estimated Budget: 1.43Cr) |
| 15 | KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/DRUGS/ 481/2025-26, DT: 05.11.2025 | Short Term tender for Supply of Drugs to KMIO. (Estimated Budget: 20.30 Lakh) |
| 16 | KMIO/MNT/ELECTRICAL/446/ 2025-26, DT: 05.11.2025 (Call-2) | Providing CAMC (Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract services) services for Air conditioning units, Air Handling units (AHU, s) 24x7 at various Units including BMT(Bone Marrow Transplant unit) at KMIO (Estimated Cost: Rs. 90.32 Lakhs) |

The Bid Document will be available in online for **Sl. No. 01 to 10** from **10.11.2025** to **10.12.2025** and for **Sl. No. 11 to 14** from **10.11.2025** to **24.11.2025** and **Sl. No. 15 to 16** from **10.11.2025** to **19.11.2025.** Bidders can view and download the Bid Document from the Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Bids have to be submitted through e-Procurement Portal and e-procurement Portal fees. The last date and time of Receipt of Bid through e-Procurement Portal is **10.12.2025, 24.11.2025** & **19.11.2025** till **4-00 P.M.** Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereof.

**Sd/-**
**Financial Advisor**

DIPR/SI/3592/2025-26

## GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
## DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

2nd Floor, My Home Sarovar Plaza, Secretariat Road, Saifabad, Hyderabad-500063
Website: www.mines.telangana.gov.in Email: dmgtg-mines@telangana.gov.in
Telephone No: 040-23221766/9866633414

**Ref No.3382196/IT-DMG/2025** **Dated:04.11.2025**

**Request for Proposal (RFP)**

The Director of Mines and Geology, Telangana State invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from interested bidders for Empanelment of Agencies for Supply, Installation, Integration and Maintenance of CCTV Cameras in Mining Leases, Quarry Leases, and Mineral Dealer Areas in Telangana State.

Interested may visit Mines & Geology Department Website **(https://mines.telangana.gov.in/MinesAndGeology/Views/Index.aspx)** to download the RFP Document (free of cost).

The RFP along with Application shall be filed on or before 18.11.2025 by 5.00 P.M in the Office of the Director of Mines and Geology in the address mentioned herein. For further details contact the telephone number mentioned herein.

**Sd/-**
**Director of Mines & Geology(FAC)**
**Government of Telangana**

DIPR R.O.No.800-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt:05.11.2025

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
## COMMISSIONERATE OF INDIAN MEDICINE AND HOMOEOPATHY, CHENNAI - 600 106.

**NOTIFICATION**

Online Applications are invited from the eligible Candidates for admission to Post Graduate Medical Degree courses for the academic year 2025 - 2026 session.

- **M.D. (Homoeopathy)** Govt. Surrendered seats, All India Quota and Management Quota Seats in Self Financing Homoeopathy Medical Colleges.
- **M.D. (Yoga & Naturopathy)** Government Surrendered Seats and Management Quota Seats in Self-Financing Yoga & Naturopathy Medical College.
- For further details, Online Applications and Respective Prospectuses please visit the Official Websites: **www.tnayushselection.org, www.tnhealth.tn.gov.in.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of Notification | **06.11.2025** |
| Date of commencement of Online application Registration & downloading the Prospectus through website | **06.11.2025** |
| Last date for Online application Registration | **09.11.2025** up to **05.00** pm |

DIPR/1316/DISPLAY/2025

**Commissioner,**
**Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy, Chennai-106.**

## BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

### BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

**(Through e-procurement)**

BESCOM invites tenders through e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders for the Enquiry No.: BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT597 for **"Conversion of LT Overhead bare conductor by LT AB Cable in Bidadi town area of Bidadi Sub Division, Ramanagara Division of Ramanagara Circle area of BRAZ, BESCOM for a period of one year on Rate Contract on Total Turnkey basis".**

**Bid Documents availability:** 06.11.2025, **Last date for Bid Submission:** 05.12.2025, 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 06.12.2025, 17:15 Hrs.

The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal web-site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.

**Sd/-**
**Chief General Manager (Ele.), Procurement, BESCOM**

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

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## BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

### INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

**BWSSB, invites tenders in Two Stage tender system from eligible registered contractors for the below mentioned works:**

| Name of Work | Amount Put to Tender / EMD |
|---|---|
| **Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.** | |
| IFT NO.BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-I/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/4039/2025-26 Dt: 30.10.2025 | |
| **Work of Replacement of old 100mm dia CI water supply lines with DI line from 18th Cross to 22nd Cross 3rd Sector HSR Layout and surrounding area coming under HSR Layout S/stn. of AEE S12 Sub Division.** | **Rs.199.60 Lakhs** / **Rs.2.99 Lakhs** |
| Last date and time for submission of tender document is: **21-11-2025 upto 15:00 hours.** Tender will be opened on **24-11-2025 after 15:00 hours.** | |
| IFT NO.BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/4041/2025-26 Dt: 30.10.2025 | |
| **Work of Replacement of old 400mm dia CI line by 450mm dia MS water line and installation of new 600mm dia NRV near Mountjoy pump house coming under Mountjoy S/stn. of AEESW-3 Sub Division.** | **Rs.182.58 Lakhs** / **Rs.2.73 Lakhs** |
| Last date and time for submission of tender document is: **18-11-2025 upto 15:00 hours.** Tender will be opened on **19-11-2025 after 17:00 hours.** | |
| **Sd/- Chief Engineer (South).** | |
| The details regarding the tender and participation in the kpp portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO 3607/25-26 | |

## Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office: #27, Industrial Suburb, Bangalore-Pune Highway, Rajajinagar, Bangalore - 560055.
E-mail: ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com, Ph. No.: 080-22164810/22164879/23372367

An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company

e-Auction Notice No.: KSDL/2025-26/AUCTION20 Date: 04.11.2025

### e-Auction Notification

KS&DL invites applications from scheduled public sector banks for investment by way of deposit of surplus funds. Documents for e-auction can be downloaded from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal through the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

| Sl.No. | Amount Available (Rs.in Crores) | Period of Investment | Eligibility | Date of e-Auction Notification | Date and Time of Live Auction | Date of Investment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Fund name: KS&DL Fixed Deposits** | | | | | |
| 1 | Investment of Surplus/Maturity amount as fixed deposit of Rs.400 Crores - (Rs.100 crore (Rs.50 crores x 2 Packages) is Callable for the period of 1 year and Rs.300 crores (Rs.100 crores x 3 Packages) is Non-callable for the period of 1 year) | 1 Year For Non-callable and 1 Year for Callable | Scheduled Public Sector banks | 04.11.2025 | Commences at 10.30 am & Concludes at 04.30 pm on 17.11.2025 | 19.11.2025 To 24.11.2025 |

**Item wise Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs.5000/- should be Paid only through e-portal. SCHEDULE OF VARIOUS EVENTS FOR e-AUCTION: (1)** Pre-bid meeting: **07.11.2025 at 3.00 pm. (2)** Last Date to upload the Eligibility Criteria in Annexure- A & Declaration in Annexure-B in the e-portal: **13.11.2025 on or before 3.00 pm.**

**Sd/- Asst. Gen. Manager (Materials)**

## THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

### NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.

The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

**Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/14/2025-26)**

**Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)**

| Sl. No. | DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 716/2019) | Minimum Bid Price (Rs) | EMD (Rs) | Bid Increase Value (Rs) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | No 01, PID No: 62-81-1,3rd Cross, Jayanagar, Chengaiah Compound, Krishnanagar, Ward No: 153(62), Hombegowda Nagara, Bengaluru. East to West 40 ft. North to South 24 ft Aggregating to 960 Sq.ft Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/LAW5AnYQz1Q9mGLB8 Latitude and Longitude: 12°55'44.7"N 77°35'53.4"E | | | |
| (a) | Ground Floor, Flat No.GF-01, UDS-102.58, SBA-402 sq.ft | **28,87,050/-** | **2,88,705/-** | **28,900/-** |
| (b) | First Floor, Flat No. FF-01, UDS-214.35, SBA-840 | **60,42,000/-** | **6,04,200/-** | **61,000/-** |
| (c) | Second Floor, Flat No.SF-01, UDS-214.35, SBA-840 sq.ft | **60,99,950/-** | **6,09,995/-** | **61,000/-** |
| (d) | Third Floor, Flat No.TF-01, UDS-214.35, SBA-840 sq.ft | **60,09,700/-** | **6,00,970/-** | **60,100/-** |
| (e) | Fourth Floor, Flat No.FF-01, UDS-214.35, SBA-840 sq.ft | **60,09,700/-** | **6,00,970/-** | **60,100/-** |

| Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place | Date of Inspection & time | Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission | Date & Time of E Auction |
|---|---|---|---|
| **19th November 2025, 3 pm to 4 pm** Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01 | **02nd December 2025 11:00am to 05:00pm** | **04th December 2025 Before 5pm** | **05th December 2025 11 am to 1 pm** |

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 6364403715.

**Date: 29-10-2025**
**Place: Bengaluru**

**Sd/-**
**Special Officer & Competent Authority**
DIPR/CP/3598/Zen/2025-26 **(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.**

## BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor,
BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

**No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/11/2025-26** **Date: 05.11.2025**

### INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

**(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)**

**The Deputy General Manager-1 (Technical),** Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), on behalf of Managing Director; BSWML invites proposals for the works/services mentioned in the below table.

| Sl. No. | Name of the work | Approx. Estimated capital cost of the project in INR in Crores (Excluding GST) | | EMD Amount (in Rs.) | Stipulated Completion of Infrastructure (Including Monsoon Period) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | For Secondary Collection & Transportation (Sec. C&T) | For Processing & Disposal (P&D) | | |
| 1 | Appointment Of Concessionaire On Tipping Fee Basis To Execute The Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) Facilities Including Secondary Transportation Of MSW From Transfer Stations To Designated Processing Centers And Further Processing And Disposal Of The Same In **North Package (Yelahanka Zone, Dasarahalli Zone, East Zone & West Zone)** of BBMP and Bengaluru Urban District jurisdiction by seeking private sector participation on Public Private Partnership ("PPP mode – DBFOT Model) Call-3. | **788.00** | **1124.00** | Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of one the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs. 9,55,00,000/- by Bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank. | 24 Months |
| 2 | Appointment Of Concessionaire On Tipping Fee Basis To Execute The Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) Facilities Including Secondary Transportation Of MSW From Transfer Stations To Designated Processing Centers And Further Processing And Disposal Of The Same In **South Package (RR Nagar Zone, Mahadevapura Zone, South Zone & Bommanahalli Zone)** of BBMP and Bengaluru Urban District jurisdiction by seeking private sector participation on Public Private Partnership ("PPP mode – DBFOT Model) Call-3. | **802.00** | **1010.00** | Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of one the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.9,05,00,000/- by Bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank | 24 Months |

**NOTE: 1)** RFP documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka KPP Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** under tenders' section. The bid document can be downloaded from the portal as per prescribed date and time published in the portal. Only Interested Service Provider who wishes to participate should remit online transaction fee for tender after registering in the portal. The transaction fee/Bid document/Tender Document fee is non-refundable. **2)** Bidders shall quote & submit the bids only online. **3)** The quoted rates of tipping fee shall be excluding GST. **4)** Other details can be seen in the RFP document.

**5. Calendar of events:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Last Date for Uploading Pre bid Queries in KPP portal | 11.11.2025 upto 17:00 hrs. |
| Pre Bid meeting | 12.11.2025 at 16:00 hrs. at BSWML office, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore. |
| Last Date for submission of Bids | 27.11.2025 before 16:00 hrs. |
| Opening of Technical Bid | 28.11.2025 after 16:30 hrs. |

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/-**
**Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

**DIPR/CP/JA/3621/2025-26**

## INBRIEF

### V-P for Puttaparthi on Nov. 22 for Sai Baba birth centenary

Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan will be visiting Puttaparthi in Sri Sathya Sai district on November 22 to participate in the birth centenary celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Confirming the visit, Superintendent of Police S. Satish Kumar told the media in Puttaparthi on Wednesday that in view of the huge gathering of dignitaries from all over the world, tight security, with round-the-clock digital surveillance, was in place in the entire town and at vital junctions in the district.



### Giant python spotted on Tirumala ghat road

Panic gripped commuters on the second ghat road to Tirumala on Tuesday night when a massive python, measuring around 15 feet, was spotted crossing the road. Traffic came to a standstill as terrified motorists stopped their vehicles and watched. Later, the giant reptile slithered away into the dark, and videos of the incident soon went viral online.

### Mend your ways or face action, Palla tells TDP leaders

TDP State president Palla Srinivasa Rao has said the behaviour of some leaders is bringing disrepute to the party, and has warned that stringent action will be taken against those who fail to change their ways. Also, he has expressed dissatisfaction that the grievance redress programmes are not being held in the constituencies as desired. Speaking to important leaders through a tele-conference on Wednesday, Mr. Srinivasa Rao said the TDP was known for its discipline, and it would not take the misconduct of anyone lightly. The leaders who were cautioned against their bad behaviour should fall in line, or face action, he reiterated.

### Jagan's farmers' outreach a drama, says BJP Kisan Morcha

BJP Kisan Morcha State president Chigurupati Kumaraswamy has said that YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's 'Rythu Paramesha Yatra' is nothing but a pleasure trip under the guise of farmers' outreach. "The farmers of Andhra Pradesh, who are still reeling under the impact of Cyclone Montha, feel deeply hurt by Mr. Jagan's political drama," Mr. Kumaraswamy said on Wednesday. When farmers in Kadapa, Nellore, Guntur, and East Godavari were in distress after losing their crops, Mr. Jagan was relaxing in his palace for 10 days. "Now, he suddenly appears with long convoys, blocking roads and inconveniencing the public," he alleged.

### YSRCP chief's downfall inevitable, says BJP MLA

Jammalamadugu BJP MLA C. Adinarayana Reddy has said his party will put a "super check" on YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and ensure his political downfall. "Mr. Jagan's days of deceiving the people are over. His decline is inevitable," he said at a press conference in Vijayawada on Wednesday. Highlighting the NDA's development agenda, he said Amaravati and Polavaram would be completed in 1,000 days. Under the Purnodaya project, ₹26,000 crore would be invested in irrigation, he said.



### Abdul Nazeer conferred honorary doctorate by KSLU

The Karnataka State Law University (KSLU) conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws on Andhra Pradesh Governor S. Abdul Nazeer during the 7th Convocation held at the University of Agricultural Sciences, in Dharwad on Wednesday. Karnataka Governor and KSLU Chancellor Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Minister for Law and Pro-Chancellor H.K. Patil were present. Justice Shivaraj V. Patil, former judge of Supreme Court and Chairman of Karnataka State Border and River Protection Commission, delivered the convocation address.

# SAEL Industries to invest ₹22,000 crore in State

The company will focus on multiple sectors such as renewable energy, biomass, data centres and port development, with a potential to create 7,000 direct and 70,000 indirect jobs

**The Hindu Bureau**
VIJAYAWADA

SAEL Industries Limited is investing ₹22,000 crore in Andhra Pradesh across renewable energy, biomass, data centres and port development, with a potential to create 7,000 direct and 70,000 indirect jobs.

The company has already commissioned 600 MW in a record nine months, which underscores its execution capabilities as it scales up investments in Andhra Pradesh as part of an MoU signed earlier, said an official release.

The MoU is for a 'multi-sector pipeline' of industries, including utility-scale solar and storage, biomass-based power, a hyperscale-ready data centre, and port-linked infrastructure to anchor industrial growth and logistics efficiency.



The MoU the company signed is for a 'multi-sector pipeline' of industries, including utility-scale solar and storage, biomass-based power, hyperscale-ready data centre etc. FILE PHOTO

The major areas of proposed collaboration are seven solar/BESS projects totalling over 1,750 MW solar with grid scale storage in Kadapa and Kurnool districts including National Hydropower Power Corporation and Solar Energy Corporation of India-linked tenders, a 200-MW biomass project comprising eight 25 MW plants, a data centre investment of ₹3,000 crore with associated high quality direct and indirect jobs, and a port development investment of ₹4,000 crore aimed at strengthening maritime logistics and export competitiveness.

IT & HRD Minister Nara Lokesh said he was delighted that SAEL was committed to investing ₹22,000 crore in A.P. and it had already demonstrated excellent execution expertise.

He said that Andhra Pradesh was looking forward to SAEL investment under various State government policies and incentive frameworks.

# Rice card-holders will be given 1 kg wheat flour for ₹18 from Jan.: Minister

**The Hindu Bureau**
VIJAYAWADA

Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar has announced that the government is procuring 51 lakh MT of paddy for the kharif season, valued at approximately ₹12,200 crore, through 4,041 Rythu Seva Kendras and 3,803 procurement centres.

Addressing the media here on Wednesday, Mr. Manohar said a total of 16,700 staff had been deployed for achieving the targeted paddy procurement, and that six crore gunnysacks were made available. The Minister recalled that the coalition government was saddled with pending payments amounting to ₹1,670 crore when it took the reins from the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in 2024.



Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar addressing the media in Vijayawada on Wednesday. K.V.S. GIRI

He said the government was using a uniform brand of machines, and the farmers could schedule their paddy sales by posting a 'Hi' message on WhatsApp from their mobile phones.

Mr. Manohar said from January 1, 2026, the government would distribute one kg of wheat flour per family at ₹18 for those having rice cards. For this, 2,400 MT of wheat flour was kept ready.

**LPG cylinders**

Under the Deepam-2 scheme, LPG cylinders were given to 90 lakh beneficiaries in the third phase, which would continue until November 30.

The Civil Supplies Department distributed essential commodities to 2,39,169 families affected by Cyclone Montha, the Minister said.



Geothermal Energy Technology systems lower electricity usage by nearly 50% and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO: REUTERS

# EESL to implement geothermal energy tech project in State

**The Hindu Bureau**
VIJAYAWADA

The Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has cleared a proposal to implement the country's largest Geothermal Energy Technology (GET) project in the tourism sector of Andhra Pradesh as a pilot.

"The EESL will set up two installations in Araku Valley and Visakhapatnam as a part of the pilot project," according to an official release.

The project is in alignment with the Central government's vision of accelerating economic development through cutting-edge clean technologies.

The decision to implement the pilot project in A.P. has been taken following detailed consultations held by EESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit with Ajay Jain, Special Chief Secretary (Housing & Tourism) of Andhra Pradesh government, Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation MD K. Amrapali.

Geothermal energy harnesses the stable temperatures beneath the earth's surface to provide environment-friendly heating and cooling. At a depth of up to eight metres, the ground temperature remains constant throughout the year, making geothermal systems highly efficient and reliable.

Technologies such as earth air tunnel systems and ground source heat pumps help maintain comfortable indoor environments in buildings while drastically reducing energy consumption.

These systems lower electricity usage by nearly 50%, require minimal maintenance, and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions – while ensuring enhanced comfort standards for tourists.

The deployment of GET is aimed at not only improving tourist amenities but also demonstrating how clean energy-powered tourism infrastructure can become a catalyst for sustainable economic growth.

The GET project will contribute to improved living standards in tourist centres, deliver substantial operational savings to tourism establishments, and create a scalable model that can be replicated across the country.

"It shows how environmental leadership and tourism excellence can go hand in hand, driving clean growth, creating new economic opportunities, and playing a vital role in India's fight against climate change," said an EESL spokesperson.

# 'Final decision on reorganisation of districts soon'

**The Hindu Bureau**
AMARAVATI

A final decision on the reorganisation of districts in Andhra Pradesh will be taken shortly after discussions with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Minister for Revenue, Stamps and Registration Anagani Satya Prasad has said.

Mr. Satya Prasad was speaking after a meeting of the Group of Ministers on district reorganisation held at the State Secretariat, in Amaravati on Wednesday.

Ministers Vangalapudi Anitha (Home), Nimmala Ramanaidu (Water Resources), Nadendla Manohar (Civil Supplies), and BC Janardhan Reddy (Roads and Buildings) attended the meeting, while Satya Kumar Yadav (Health) joined virtually. Mr. Satya Prasad said the Ministers held detailed deliberations on various proposals received to improve administrative convenience. "The CCLA will soon prepare its report, and after consulting the Chief Minister, we will announce the final decision," he added. Mr. Naidu had suggested setting up a Special Development Authority for ASR district, and the GoM discussed modalities for its formation and functioning.

# TTD Parakamani case: CID sets up temporary office in Tirupati

**The Hindu Bureau**
TIRUPATI

The Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department (CID), which is probing the case pertaining to alleged embezzlement of offerings made to the Tirumala Srivari Hundi, known as 'Parakamani scam', set up a temporary office at Sri Padmavati rest house here on Wednesday.

A 20-member team led by Director-General of Police (CID) Ravi Shankar Ayyanar will start the probe by observing and understanding the way in which the Parakamani (the counting of coins, currency notes and offerings made into the Hundi) functions. The CID is expected to study the possible role of the former TTD officials, trust board members, police personnel, Parakamani staff and the supervisors allotted by the Jeeyar Mutt, who are said to have been involved in the issue.




CID Director General of Police Ravi Shankar Ayyanar addressing the media in Tirupati on Wednesday. K.V. POORNACHANDRA KUMAR

The CID will also examine the scope of the irregularities allegedly happened and if the due diligence was followed.

Mr. Ayyanar said the probe, which was launched at the behest of the High Court, would closely study the Parakamani operations, supervision by the administrators, CCTV records, financial statements and the properties donated to the TTD.

Efforts are on to trace the main accused, C.V. Ravi Kumar, who represented the Jeeyar Mutt and had been associated with the institution since 1980. Hinting at his possible location in Hyderabad, Mr. Ayyanar said the CID would delve into the finer details pertaining to the properties worth ₹14 crore donated by him to the TTD.

Mr. Ayyanar appealed to the public to share information pertaining to the case, assuring to maintain confidentiality. They can dial 9440700921 or send email to adgcid@ap.gov.in.

# Nara Bhuvaneswari receives two prestigious awards in London




Nara Bhuvaneswari receiving an award in London, in the presence of her husband and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. PTI

**The Hindu Bureau**
VIJAYAWADA

Nara Bhuvaneswari, Managing Trustee of NTR Trust and Managing Director of Heritage Foods, received two prestigious recognitions from the Institute of Directors (IOD), United Kingdom, during a grand ceremony held at the Mayfair Hall in London on Tuesday.

Ms. Bhuvaneswari, who is the wife of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, was conferred the 'Distinguished Fellowship-2025 Award' for her exceptional contributions to public service and social impact through the NTR Memorial Trust. Under her leadership, the Trust had implemented several welfare programmes, including Sanjeevani Free Health Clinics, Mobile Health Camps, safe drinking water initiatives, and women empowerment and vocational training programmes.

In addition, Heritage Foods Ltd., under Ms. Bhuvaneswari's stewardship, was honoured with the Golden Peacock Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance in the national FMCG category.

Ms. Bhuvaneswari, in her address, dedicated the honours to the NTR Trust team and the people it served. She reaffirmed the Trust's mission to promote equality, health, and education, saying, "NTR Trust strives to be like the sea, offering its resources to everyone, and like the sun, spreading its light equally across society. Our goal is to ensure that even the most underprivileged can live with dignity and opportunity."

Other distinguished personalities, including Dr. Krishnaprasad Chigurupati, Prof. Peter Bonefield, and Harsh Bina Jhaveri, were honoured at the event. Mr. Naidu attended the ceremony and congratulated his wife on receiving the awards.

# Can Devaswom staff be tried under law against graft, asks HC

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOCHI


The HC sought a scientific probe into misappropriation of gold from Sabarimala temple.

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday directed the special investigation team (SIT) probing the Sabarimala gold theft case to conduct a scientific investigation into how gold could have been misappropriated during the repair and replating of sacred artefacts such as the *Dwarapalaka* (guardian deity) idols, *peedhom* (pedestals), and doors of the temple.

The court directed the SIT to examine whether provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 are applicable in the case, considering the alleged involvement of Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) officials.

A Division Bench of Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan V. and Justice K.V. Jayakumar observed that the entire chain of events pointed to a systematic misappropriation of temple assets under the guise of renovation and restoration.

Senior SIT personnel appeared before the court on Wednesday and the proceedings were held in camera. After perusing an SIT report, the court said the investigation is proceeding on the right track.

The matter has been posted for hearing on December 3.

# Kerala to move court against SIR; Opposition backs govt.

## At all-party meeting, participants voice concern over poll panel decision to take 2002 electoral rolls as the base document for the present exercise; CM calls it 'unscientific and ill-intentioned'

**The Hindu Bureau**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM


A booth-level officer helping a voter fill the enumeration form in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

An all-party meeting chaired by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan here on Wednesday decided to legally challenge the Election Commission's decision to conduct the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the State.

Representatives of all political parties except the BJP supported the decision, Mr. Vijayan's office said after the online meeting.

**Follows TN move**

The decision comes just days after a meeting of Tamil Nadu parties, chaired by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday, deciding to approach the Supreme Court against the SIR.

The house-to-house enumeration phase kicked off in Kerala on Tuesday in line with a national-level schedule for SIR 2.0.

Mr. Vijayan told Wednesday's meeting that the government would seek legal advice on the EC's decision to go ahead with the SIR just when the elections to the local bodies were going to take place in the State. The EC decision to take the 2002 SIR voter roll as the base document for the current exercise and not the list updated for the 2024 Lok Sabha election was unscientific and ill-intentioned, the Chief Minister told the meeting.

Echoing similar concerns, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said that the Opposition Congress-led United Democratic Front was ready to implead in the case if the government moved court.

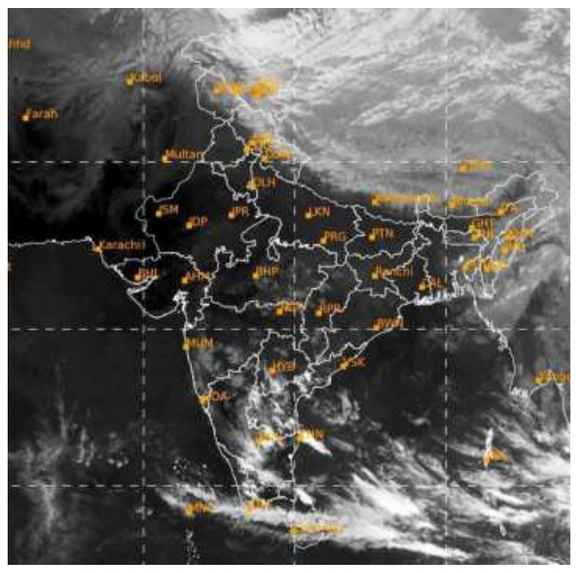
**On same page**

Communist Party of India (Marxist) State secretary M.V. Govindan described the EC decision as anti-Constitution and anti-democratic. Representatives of various political parties expressed concern over the decision to use the 2002 SIR list as the base document.

In September, the Kerala Assembly unanimously passed a resolution against the SIR and the EC decision to proceed with it when the local body elections were imminent.

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.15 HRS)

**Forecast for Thursday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Rayalaseema, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | 5 | 28.0 | 23.3 | Kozhikode | — | 33.4 | 25.5 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 31.8 | 22.3 | Kurnool | 12 | 33.4 | 23.8 |
| Aizawl | 12.4 | 26.6 | 18.8 | Lucknow | — | 30.4 | 18.4 |
| Allahabad | — | 33.2 | 18.8 | Madurai | — | 37.4 | 25.1 |
| Bengaluru | — | 28.4 | 21.0 | Mangaluru | — | 30.1 | 23.0 |
| Bhopal | — | 30.3 | 18.8 | Mumbai | — | 30.5 | 22.4 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 31.8 | 17.0 | Mysuru | — | 30.0 | 17.2 |
| Chandigarh | 0.6 | 29.7 | 16.4 | New Delhi | — | 30.4 | 18.4 |
| Chennai | — | 33.8 | 25.4 | Patna | — | 31.3 | 20.9 |
| Coimbatore | 0.4 | 33.2 | 22.2 | Port Blair | 0.2 | 31.0 | 25.0 |
| Dehradun | — | 28.1 | 15.3 | Puducherry | — | 33.1 | 26.7 |
| Gangtok | — | 23.5 | 13.3 | Pune | — | 30.0 | 21.2 |
| Goa | — | 31.2 | 23.4 | Raipur | — | 32.1 | 19.3 |
| Guwahati | — | 31.0 | 22.9 | Ranchi | — | 27.1 | 14.9 |
| Hubballi | — | 29.0 | 18.0 | Shillong | 0.1 | 22.5 | 15.8 |
| Hyderabad | 2 | 30.6 | 23.4 | Shimla | — | 21.4 | 13.2 |
| Imphal | — | 25.3 | 19.6 | Srinagar | 8 | 13.8 | 5.6 |
| Jaipur | — | 30.6 | 20.1 | Thiruvananthapuram | — | 31.7 | 25.0 |
| Kochi | — | 30.8 | 25.0 | Tiruchi | — | 33.1 | 25.0 |
| Kohima | 4 | 24.5 | 17.8 | Vijayawada | — | 31.9 | 25.4 |
| Kolkata | — | 31.5 | 22.4 | Visakhapatnam | 1 | 32.4 | 26.0 |

*(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 | .25 | .50 | .29 | 94 | 123 | |
| Bengaluru | — | 25 | 121 | 60 | 89 | |
| Chennai | 5 | 59 | — | 74 | 106 | |
| Delhi | .38 | .82 | 102 | 236 | 199 | |
| Hyderabad | 8 | .28 | .39 | 135 | 80 | |
| Kolkata | 7 | .16 | .43 | 315 | 230 | |
| Lucknow | .10 | .60 | .43 | 196 | 329 | |
| Mumbai | 5 | .21 | .30 | 45 | 116 | |
| Pune | — | .28 | .50 | 83 | 94 | |
| Visakhapatnam | .18 | .57 | .16 | 97 | 114 | |

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 313 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

# Will expand temple network, says TTD chairperson

**The Hindu Bureau**
HYDERABAD

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) trust board chairperson B.R. Naidu on Wednesday announced to include hitherto uncovered States in the network of Sri Venkateswara temples.

Mr. Naidu, who completed one year in office as the chairperson of the prestigious temple board, unveiled his road map for the second year, at a media conference in Hyderabad, along with members Panabaka Lakshmi, B. Mahendhar Reddy, Nannuri Narsi Reddy and Anumula Ranga. He explained the steps meant for expanding the temple network.

In tune with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's vision, Assam's first TTD temple on ten acres tops the list of national expansion, while negotiations are on with the governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka for building new temples. "International temples will also be considered using the ₹2,000 crore corpus from Sri Venkateswara Temple Construction Trust," he explained.

Apart from the plan to have TTD temples in all State capitals, Mr. Naidu termed as 'historic' the decision to build 5,000 temples in Dalit, tribal hamlets and fisherfolk colonies in Andhra Pradesh.

Referring to his one-year term, Mr. Naidu recalled the steps taken during his first year to restore the temple's sanctity, such as taking strict measures against political speeches, negative propaganda and hate campaign aimed at hurting devotee sentiments, complete overhaul of the Annaprasadam division by including premium raw materials to ensure hygiene and taste, removal of non-Hindu employees in line with legal provisions and enhancing the Laddu Prasadam production capacity from 3-3.5 lakh to 4.4.5 lakh per day.

On safeguarding assets, Mr. Naidu mentioned that the 25 acres of land nestled under the Tirumala hills had been reclaimed from the Department of Tourism to ensure its sanctity, with amendments made to the religious laws to restrict the region to spiritual events and barring commercial events.

In the wake of unsuspecting pilgrims falling victim to cybercrimes, the TTD has proposed a 'cyber security lab' to curb online frauds in fake darshan bookings, while an advisory is being circulated across social media platforms to use only the TTD's official website for all services.

# ACB cracks whip on SROs across Andhra Pradesh

**The Hindu Bureau**
VIJAYAWADA

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday (November 5) organised simultaneous surprise checks at 12 Sub-Registrar Offices (SRO) spread across the State. Officials found unaccounted cash at some of the SROs and the same was seized for verification.

According to an official release by the ACB, the surprise checks were conducted at SROs at Jagadamba Centre, Pedagantyada and Madhurawada of Visakhapatnam, Bhogapuram of Vizianagaram, Ibrahimpatnam of NTR, Narasaraopeta of Palnadu, Ongole of Prakasam, Stone House Pet of Nellore, Renigunta of Chittoor, Rajampeta of Kadapa, Chilamattoor of Anantapur and Allagadda of Nandyal districts on the allegations and petitions received in ACB.

**Unaccounted amount was found at Bhogapuram, Jagadamba Centre, Ibrahimpatnam, Ongole, Nellore, Narasaraopet SROs**

"During searches, unaccounted amount was found at Bhogapuram, Jagadamba Centre, Ibrahimpatnam, Ongole, Nellore, Narasaraopet SROs and the amount ranged from ₹10,000 to ₹75,000. The source and ownership of the amounts is under verification," the release said.

Further, various records, documents relating to anywhere registration, violations in registration, documents kept pending for registration, registered documents not issued to the parties, registration of prohibited properties, non-judicial stamp papers sales registers and relevant records maintained in the above SROs is being verified thoroughly, the release said and added that the searches are under progress. Officials said the exact unaccounted amount seized and action taken against any government official can be revealed only after the verification process is over.

# Talks to be held on sugar cane price stand-off

**The Hindu Bureau**
BELAGAVI

Karnataka Law Minister H.K. Patil said on Wednesday that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah would chair meetings with farmers and factory managements in the next two days to resolve the deadlock over sugar cane prices.

Sugar cane growers in north Karnataka have been protesting for the seventh day, demanding a hike in the higher procurement prices.

# Siddaramaiah's camp plans meet amid leadership debate

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU


CM Siddaramaiah

Amid speculation over the replacement of the Chief Minister once the Congress government in Karnataka completes its half term, Ministers and legislators loyal to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah have planned to hold a convention of AHINDA (Minorities, Backward Classes and Dalits) to express their solidarity with Mr. Siddaramaiah.

The meeting is also aimed at putting pressure on the party high command to retain Mr. Siddaramaiah as the Chief Minister for the entire five-year term. Sources in the Congress said AHINDA organisations, apparently backed by Yathindra Siddaramaiah, MLC, launched the campaign by posting letters to Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge to declare Mr. Siddaramaiah Chief Minister for the full term, thereby putting an end to the confusion over the change of leadership.

However, sources said the date and the venue of the convention have not been finalised.

A leader close to the Chief Minister said Mr. Siddaramaiah was not showing interest in the convention and reportedly asked the legislators loyal to him to desist from such events.

Earlier too, Ministers and legislators loyal to Mr. Siddamaiah held AHINDA conventions to project him as the "undisputed" backward class leader of the State.

Meanwhile, the high command has reportedly told the State Congress leaders not to hold any conventions in support of the party leader.

**LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**
#27-10-1/1,First Floor, Umiya Nivas,Attarattaiah Street, Governorpet, Vijayawada-520002

**POSSESSION NOTICE** SARFA & ESI ACT,2002 (Appendix-IV) Under Rule 8(1) for Immovable Property

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **LIC Housing Finance Limited, Vijayawada Area Office,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice calling upon the following borrower/s to repay the amounts as mentioned below with the names & with further interest / costs etc. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

**S.No.1) Name Of The Borrower/s:Mr. SURESH KUMAR KOKKIREPATI (Applicant / Borrower),** S/o. VENKATA RAMANA **Ms. ROOPA SRAVYA ELURI (Co-Applicant / Co-Borrower),** W/o. SURESH KUMAR K Flat No.B Tf-302, 3rd Floor, Sri Sai Krishna Apartments, Door No.59a-9-14, R.S.No 131/2b,Near Stella College, Old Asst No.35036B, New Asst No. 268940, Municipal Ward No.31A, Present Ward No.8 ,Opposite To Sai Baba Temple, Ali Baba Nagar, Patamata, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520050**. Loan No:720100000555 ,720100000556,720100001258 Demand Notice Date: 11.03.2025 Symbolic Possession Date:31.10.2025 Amount Outstanding::Rs. 44,68,250.21** (forty four lakh sixty eight thousand two hundred fifty Rupees and twenty one paisa only), and applicable future interest there on till realization. **DESCRIPTION / SCHEDULE OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:Property Address Schedule A:** All that piece and the parcel of the property bearing sale deed No:**5947/2016 DATED 03/09/2016**, Krishna district, Vijayawada registration district, Patamata Sub Registrar Ilaka, Vijayawada Municipal corporation area, Vijayawada town, Patamata village, R.S.No 131/2b Near Stella College, Opposite To Sai Baba Temple, Municipal Ward No. 31/A, Present Ward No.8, Old Asst No.35036b, New Asst No.268940, Door No.59a-9-14. The Immovable Residential Property named "**SRI SAI KRISHNA APARTMENTS**" admeasuring **with an extent of 830 Sq.yds** or 693.96 Sq.mtrs, on which undivided share of land 35 Sq.yds or 29.26 Sq.mtrs of site.**Bounded as Follows**: **1st Item:East**: Property of NarlaSubhash Chandra Bose, **South:** Property of Dunlop Tyres, **West:** Property of Uppalapati Raja Ratnam, **North:** Municipal Corporation road **Schedule B:** ", **SRI SAI KRISHNA APARTMENTS, B-Block** Flat No.B Tf-302, 3rd Floor, **1110**sft (Including plinth area, Common Area) **Bounded as follows:East:** Open to Sky ,**South:**Steps, **West:** Open to Sky, **North**: Corridor

**S.No.2) Name Of The Borrower/s:Mr. Lakshminarayana Kaza (Borrower /Applicant) S/O.** Namaiah **Mrs. Naga Deepika Kaza (Co-Borrower /Co-Applicant),W/O.** Lakshminarayana Kaza**mrs. Sailaja Kaza (Co-Borrower /Co-Applicant) D/O.** Lakshminarayana Kaza resident Of door No.34-2-69, Gandhi Bomma Centre, Near Sweet Magic, Beside Venkateswara Tempe, Kasturibaipet, Moghalrajpuram, Vijayawada **Loan No: 720100001270 Demand Notice Date:20/05/2025 Symbolic Possession Date:31.10.2025 Amount Outstanding:: Rs. 30,77,362.59** (thirty lakhs Seventy Seven thousand Three Hundred sixty Two and Fifty Nine paisa only), and applicable future interest there on till realization**. DESCRIPTION / SCHEDULE OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: Property Address:** All that piece and the parcel of the property bearing **Sale deed No.8818/2019 Dated 09/12/2019**, the Immovable Residential Property bearing at Krishna District, Vijayawada East Registration District, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Area, Vijayawada Town, Kasthuribaipeta, TS.No.799/1, Revenue Ward No.9, Block No.13, Municipal Ward no.26/1, Asst No.22716A, New Asst No.1073091907, Door No.34-2-69, With an extent of 88.15 Sq. yards or equivalent to 73.704 Sq.mtrs site **Bounded by: East**: Municipal Road, **South:** Property of Katari Lalitha**, West:** Property of Chintakayala Ramchandrarao**, North:** Library and Temple Property

**S.No.3) Name Of The Borrower/s:Mr. LAZAR ANDUGULA (Applicant / Borrower), S/o. ANDUGULA RAJU , Resident** at Near Do.No.6-75, Plot No.4, R.S.No.155/2, Poranki Village Penamaluru Mandal, Krishna, Andhra Pradesh -521137, **Loan No: 711400007278 Demand Notice Date:11/03/2025** As the said notice was returned, the same demand notice was published in two newspapers of Andhra Prabha and The Hindu on 22.06.2025 **Symbolic Possession Date:04.11.2025 Amount Outstanding:: Rs. 16,91,128.67** (sixteen lakh ninety one thousand one hundred twenty eight Rupees and sixty seven paisa only), and applicable future interest there on till realization. **DESCRIPTION / SCHEDULE OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: Property Address:** All that piece and the parcel of the property bearing **Sale Deed No: 5777/2019 Dated. 25/09/2019**, Krishna District, Kankipadu Sub Registrar ilaka, Penamaluru Mandal, Poranki Grama Panchayathi Area, Poranki Grama, Near Door No.6-75, RS.No.155/2, Plot No.4, W**ith an extent of 255.0 Sq.yds** or 213.20 Sq.mtrs of site.Bounded as Follows: 1st Item:**East:**33 feet Wide Road**, South:**Property of Madhiraju Satyanarayana Raju Plot No.3, **West:** Property of Thotakura Koteswara Rao, **North:**Property of Madhiraju Purnachandra Rao

The above borrowers, having failed to repay the amount, mentioned in the notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the **SYMBOLIC possession** of the properties described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002 on the above mentioned dates. The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **LIC Housing Finance Limited** for the amount mentioned above with further accrued interest & costs thereon till realization. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Assets.

**Date : 31.10.2025 , 04.11.2025 , Place:Vijayawada** **Sd/- Authorized Officer, LIC Housing Finance Ltd.**

**केनरा बैंक Canara Bank** — **REGIONAL OFFICE : GUNTUR**
Recovery Section, J K C College Road, 5th Lane, Vijayapuri, Guntur-6. Ph: 9492758257, 8019308696

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties 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/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which have been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Canara Bank** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is"** basis on **27-11-2025**, for recovery of outstanding as mentioned here below is due to the **Canara Bank** from below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s).

**DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 27-11-2025 at 12.00 P.M to 01.00 PM**
**(With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale)**

**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 through RTGS/ NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before 27-11-2025 at 11.00 am**

**CANARA BANK, BRINDAVAN GARDENS (13276) BRANCH, Ph: 9440905117**

1 **Borrower(s): Sri Shaik Moinuddin and Smt. Shaik Naseem Ara.**
**Total Liabilities: Rs. 32,41,673.34/- as on 31.10.2025** + further interest & other charges.
**Description of the immovable property with no encumbrances to the knowledge of the bank:**
**A Schedule:** Guntur District Guntur subdistrict Within Municipal Corporation Area of Guntur At Kankaragunta area at Municipal Old ward No 17, Block No. 4 T.S No.67 as per sub Division survey no. 67/1 and 67/2 Door No. 28-1-79- of anaextent of 541-5 sq. yards of site and MID CITY Apartment there in which is bounded By. East: Surkar donka - 63-9 Ft, South: 15 feet Galli bazar - 93-6 Ft, West: Property of patchipulusu Subrahmanyam - 35-6 Ft, North: Property Of Pudota Subbaiah - 103-0 Ft.
**B Schedule:** An undivided, unspecified and indivisible share of site admeasuring an extent of 67.6875 sq yds or 56.59 sq mts of site along with **one flat bearing No.301,** located in the 2nd floor of "Mid City Homes" apartment being bounded by: East: Open area in ground, South: Open area in ground abetting Muncipal Road, West: Common staircase common corridor and common lift, North: Open area in ground. Within these boundaries, a flat bearing No.301 located in the 2nd floor of "Mid City Homes" apartment constructed in a plinth area of 1500 sq ft (including common area) along with all common amenities and common passage rights including one car parking and common parking facility in stlit floor.
**Reserve Price: Rs. 46,60,000/-** **EMD Amount: Rs. 4,66,000/-**

**CANARA BANK, ADDANKI BRANCH (13712), Ph: 8332973976**

2 **Borrower(s): Sri Derangula Ramulu, S/o Kotaiah.**
**Total Liabilities: Rs. 9,69,525.53/- as on 31.10.2025** + further interest, costs and other charges.
**Description of the immovable property with no encumbrances to the knowledge of the bank:**
**Property owned by Sri Derangula Ramulu S/o Kotaiah:** All that Part and Parcel of **Residential land and Building** situated at Prakasam District, Markapur Registration District, Addanki SRO, Korisapadu (M), Medarametla h/o Bodduvanipalem (v), Gramapanchayat Medarametla, Sy. No.739, D.No.8-512, Old D.No.8-56, **an extent of 108 sq yards, bounded by: East:** Site of Derangula Anjamma, **South:** Own Bazaar, **West:** Site of Dharmavarapu Sithamma, **North:** Compound wall of Market yard.
**Reserve Price: Rs. 24,70,000/-** **EMD Amount: Rs. 2,47,000/-**

**CANARA BANK, TENALI-II BRANCH, Ph: 94409 05143**

3 **Borrower(s): Sri Thalluri Vara Kumari (Legal Heir of late Sri Thalluri Jacharaiah).**
**Total Liabilities: Rs.16,16,034.47/- as on 31.10.2025** + further interest & other charges.
**Description of the immovable property with no encumbrances to the knowledge of the bank:**
The **Residential RCC Roof Ground & First Floor Building with an Extent of 103.20 Sq. Yards or 86.31 Sq. Mtrs** in The Door No 20-36-21/1 is situated in Guntur Dist,Tenali Revenue Dist, Tenali Municipal, 7 th ward, 13 th block, T.S. No 504 Property **Bounded by : East :** Municipal road - 30-00 ft, **South :** Property of Kancherla Asweervadam & others - 32-00 ft, **West :** Property of Merugu Sudarsanam - 29-00 ft, **North :** joint Galley - 31-00 ft.
**Reserve Price: Rs. 35,60,000/-** **EMD Amount: Rs. 3,56,000/-**

**CANARA BANK, MACHERLA BRANCH (3507), Ph: 83310 15719**

4 **Borrower(s): M/S Vigneswara Shopping Mall, rep. by partners Shaik Saida & P. Srinivasarao.**
**Total Liabilities: Rs. 99,76,207.41/- as on 31.10.2025** + further interest, costs and other charges.
**Description of the immovable property with no encumbrances to the knowledge of the bank:**
**Property-1: Vacant site measuring 242.00 sq. yards** located at D.No.388/1, nearest D.No.15-1-398, 15th block, near anjaneya swamy temple, Macherla, Guntur district. Standing in the name of Sri Sk Saida S/o Khasim. **vide Doc No.503/2009, extent of 242 sq yds bounded by: East:** landed property of Sri Shaik Rashid, **South:** Land prop. Of Sri Shaik Mastan Vali, **West:** Bazar, **North:** Landed property of Shaik Ibrahim.
**Reserve Price: Rs. 13,50,000/-** **EMD Amount: Rs. 1,35,000/-**

**Property-2: Vacant site measuring 242.00 sq. yards** located at D.No.388/1, nearest D.No.15-1-398, 15th block, near anjaneya swamy temple, Macherla, Guntur district. Standing in the name of Sri Sk Saida S/o Khasim. **vide Doc No.504/2009, extent of 242 sq yds bounded by: East:** landed prop of Sri Manjula Venkateswarlu, **South:** Landed property of Sri D.Yaladri, **West:** Bazar, **North:** Landed property of Sri Shaik Rafi.
**Reserve Price: Rs. 13,50,000/-** **EMD Amount: Rs. 1,35,000/-**

**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 Respective Branch Manager or Authorized Officer, Canara Bank Regional Office, Guntur during office hours on any working day.**
**E-Auction Process and Terms & Conditions, contact Service Provider: M/s PSB Alliance (baanknet), web portal: http://baanknet.com, Helpdesk No. 8291220220, E-mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com**

**Date: 05-11-2025, Place: Guntur** **Sd/- Authorized Officer, CANARA BANK**

## Death on the move

Road accidents are not resulting in an overhaul of infrastructure and licensing

The highway accident on November 3 that claimed 19 lives at Chevella near Hyderabad was far too routine to change India's disgraceful record in fatal road accidents. The driver of a gravel-laden truck apparently swerved to avoid a pothole and rammed into a bus. There were no dividers, no streetlights and no signages on that stretch of National Highway 163. India's roads are a major public hazard. Pedestrians, bus riders and two-wheeler motorists constitute the majority of the over 400 people who die on India's roads on average, the equivalent to a full transcontinental flight going down. Flight disasters invite scrutiny, multi-agency probes and quick remedial actions but road accident deaths that mostly involve poorer folk trigger perfunctory probes and glacial change in rules, if any. Government documents identify human error as the most common cause but deeper reasons – vehicular and infrastructural – are unaddressed.

In India, the road test for getting a driving licence examines whether the person is able to handle a vehicle of certain specification, largely a skill test, rather than one of his knowledge and execution of safe driving practices. No safety training is mandated. Most accidents are collisions from the back – whereas exemplar driving tests in other countries filter out tailgating tendencies and arbitrary lane changing. The system of certifying and monitoring drivers and vehicles is broken and corrupt. For nearly all Indians, navigating RTOs is unpleasant. The SaveLIFE Foundation advocates License Seva Kendras – on the lines of Passport Seva Kendras – so that they are transparent, digitised, and ensure good driver skills and safety awareness. One in five accidents are head-on collisions, which have happened even on four-lane highways, indicating wrong-side driving and the state of road dividers. In general, national highways need to adhere to Indian Roads Congress guidelines but States have made no mandates as required by the Motor Vehicles Act. There are potholes, dangerous curves, drainage systems, bridge parapets and concrete objects, but no crash barriers or energy absorbers. Collision-risk warning devices are relatively inexpensive and can be mandated on commercial vehicles. Better pedestrian infrastructure alone can prevent many fatalities. In Hyderabad, a community health-care centre was available for immediate treatment and a government hospital was not far away. But that is often not the case elsewhere. In States such as Bihar, fatality rates are double because of inadequate trauma care infrastructure. An overhaul of the road transport system is an urgent requirement in India.

## Winter of discontent

U.S. election results are a referendum on the Trump administration's policies

Democrats have swept the first major election in the U.S. during the second term of President Donald Trump, indicating a degree of frustration with the ongoing federal government shutdown but also signalling a broader barometric downturn in the approval ratings of his administration's policies. In a historic first, Zohran Mamdani, a Uganda-born, Muslim Democratic Socialist New York State Representative, scored a decisive victory over former Governor Andrew Cuomo and Republican candidate Curtis Sliwa, garnering over one million votes – 50.4% of the total polled – to secure the post of Mayor of New York. Similarly, Democrats Abigail Spanberger and Mikie Sherrill won gubernatorial races in Virginia and New Jersey, respectively, making them the first female Governor and Democratic female Governor of their States. Additionally, Indian American Democrat Ghazala Hashmi is projected to become Virginia's next Lieutenant Governor and is on track to become the first Muslim woman elected statewide. In California, voters approved Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom's campaign to redraw the State's congressional map in a manner that would help the party secure five additional seats in the U.S. House of Representatives in the 2026 midterm elections. Mr. Trump has blamed the Republican setback on the fact that he was not on the ballots and on the government shutdown, which he has repeatedly faulted Democrats for. However, what is now officially the longest federal government closure raises questions about his ability to bring lawmakers together to strike a deal in Congress for the betterment of the American people.

While each of these results offers a snapshot of voter preferences within limited geographies, it also serves as a broader referendum on the Trump administration's policies, especially regarding questions of the economy, jobs and cost of living. Mr. Mamdani ran on a platform focused on issues close to the heart of the ordinary American – affordable housing, broader offerings for childcare, greater support for immigrant communities, and free public transport. Mr. Trump responded to his campaign by vowing to slash federal funding if Mr. Mamdani prevailed as Mayor. After his victory, Mr. Mamdani hit out at the involvement of Mr. Trump's family in the federal government. Indeed, Mr. Trump's approval rating has dropped to its second-term low, with voters suggesting that affordability was their main concern. The question is whether he will now double down on the MAGA agenda, for example by accelerating immigration raids and deportations despite resistance by States, or by pressing on with the global tariff war despite costs faced by U.S. importers. Whichever path he chooses, the Democrats have put the White House on notice, and 2026 will be a further indicator of voter mood in this context.

# *In Brazil, COP30 and the moment of truth*



**Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**

is the President of Brazil

Today, in the Brazilian Amazon, the Belém Summit opens ahead of the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30). World leaders convened here in the days leading up to the COP so that we can all commit to acting with the urgency that the climate crisis demands.

If we fail to move beyond speeches into real action, our societies will lose faith not only in the COPs but also in multilateralism and international politics more broadly. That is why I have summoned leaders to the Amazon: to make this the COP of Truth; the moment we demonstrate the seriousness of our shared commitment to the planet.

Humanity has shown its ability to overcome great challenges when it acts together and guided by science. We protected the ozone layer. The global response to the COVID-19 pandemic proved that the world can act decisively when there is courage and political will.

**Back to Brazil**

Brazil hosted the Earth Summit in 1992. We approved the Conventions on Climate Change, Biological Diversity and Combating Desertification, and adopted principles that defined a new paradigm for preserving our planet and our humanity. Over the past 33 years, these gatherings have produced important agreements and targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions – from ending deforestation by 2030 to tripling renewable energy use.

More than three decades later, the world has returned to Brazil to confront climate change. It is no coincidence that COP30 takes place in the heart of the Amazon rainforest. This is an opportunity for politicians, diplomats, scientists, activists and journalists to witness the reality of the Amazon.

We want the world to see the true state of the forests, the planet's largest river basin, and the millions of people who live in the region. COPs cannot be mere showcases of good ideas or annual gatherings for negotiators. They must be moments of contact with reality and of effective action to tackle climate change.

> The setting of the Belém Summit — in the Amazon — will help lead the way in effective action to tackle climate change

To confront this crisis together, we need resources. And we must recognise that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities remains the non-negotiable foundation of any climate pact.

That is why the Global South demands greater access to resources – not out of charity, but justice. Rich countries have benefited the most from the carbon-based economy. They must now rise to their responsibilities, not only by making commitments but also by honouring their debts.

Brazil is doing its part. In just two years, we have already halved deforestation in the Amazon, showing that concrete climate action is possible.

**A move to preserve forests, other measures**

In Belém, we will launch an innovative initiative to preserve forests: the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF). It is innovative because it operates as an investment fund, not a donation mechanism.

The TFFF will reward those who keep their forests standing and those who invest in the fund; a genuine win-win approach to tackling climate change. Leading by example, Brazil has announced a $1 billion investment in the TFFF, and we expect equally ambitious announcements from other countries.

We also set an example by becoming the second country to present a new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Brazil has committed to reducing its emissions by 59% to 67%, covering all greenhouse gases and all sectors of the economy.

In this spirit, we call on all countries to present equally ambitious NDCs and to implement them effectively.

The energy transition is fundamental to meeting Brazil's NDC. Our energy matrix is among the cleanest in the world, with 88% of our electricity coming from renewable sources. We lead in biofuels and are advancing in wind, solar and green hydrogen energy.

Redirecting revenues from oil production to finance a just, orderly and equitable energy transition will be essential. Over time, oil companies worldwide, including Brazil's Petrobras, will transform into energy companies, because a growth model based on fossil fuels cannot last.

People must be at the centre of political decisions about climate and the energy transition. We must recognise that the most vulnerable sectors of our society are the most affected by the impacts of climate change, which is why just transition and adaptation plans must aim to combat inequality.

We cannot forget that two billion people lack access to clean technologies and fuels for cooking, and 673 million still live with hunger. In response, we will launch in Belém, a 'Declaration on Hunger, Poverty and Climate'. Our commitment to fight global warming must be directly linked to the fight against hunger.

**The need for a climate change council**

It is also fundamental that we advance the reform of global governance. Today, multilateralism suffers from the paralysis of the United Nations Security Council. Created to preserve peace, it has failed to prevent wars. It is our duty, therefore, to fight for the reform of this institution.

At COP30, we will advocate the creation of a UN Climate Change Council linked to the General Assembly. It would be a new governance structure with the force and the legitimacy to ensure that countries deliver on their promises, and an effective step toward reversing the current paralysis of the multilateral system.

At every Climate Conference, we hear many promises but see too few real commitments. The era of declarations of good intentions has ended: the time for action plans has arrived. That is why, today, we begin the COP of Truth.

# *Clean up the voter list urgently, but not the Bihar way*



**Praveen Chakravarty**

is Chairman, All India Professionals' Congress and Data Analytics of the Congress party

According to Ministry of Road Transport data, there are roughly 40 crore (400 million) vehicles registered in India across all States and Union Territories. No two vehicles across the country have the exact same registration number. Similarly, there are 20 crore (200 million) people in India with a driver's licence. No two people have the exact same driver's licence number. Each number is unique. The same person may have many driving licences (albeit illegal), but each driving licence number is unique.

It is obvious and elementary that every vehicle registration or driving licence number or any ID number is unique, and that two records cannot have the same number. Yet, this simple and basic principle is violated in the voter lists of the Election Commission of India (ECI). Voters in Bengal have the exact same voter identification number as some in Uttar Pradesh; this pattern is one that repeats itself across many States. Nearly two decades earlier, in 2008, the then Chief Election Commissioner boasted that the ECI had given electoral photo identity cards (EPIC) to every voter. Apparently, he did not know that the most elementary rule of any identity system is for the ID number to be unique and not have the same number for many.

**Much cause for worry**

It gets worse. For example, if you are a registered voter, I can change your registered mobile number to my number using Form-8 without you getting to know it. Then, using my mobile number and OTP for your voter id, I can submit an application to delete you as a voter. It is as simple as that. This is how there was an attempt to delete 6,000 genuine voters in the Aland constituency in Karnataka – which the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, exposed on September 18, 2025.

Five days after Mr. Gandhi's exposé, the ECI, after vehemently denying his charges, quietly and surreptitiously changed this process to now use only the Aadhaar-linked mobile number. While this is a welcome and positive change, such a significant move to link Aadhaar to voter id was done without any press release or discussion. This is a clear and implicit admission by the ECI of the egregious faults in its voter list management system that has been exploited to manipulate and impact electoral outcomes.

It has also been clearly established, as Mr. Gandhi showed yet again, on November 5, 2025, that India's voter lists are riddled with duplicate, fake and ghost voters. A lack of unique voter id numbers, and allowing anyone to change voter details are such elementary system errors which even an engineer in his teens with a basic knowledge of databases will not commit. It is evident that the ECI is staggeringly incompetent in its database management abilities. This is cause for worry as the voter list is India's most important database. It is abundantly clear that India's voter lists need to be purified and managed better by more competent people and processes.

> It is welcome that the Election Commission of India acknowledges the serious issues with India's voter lists, but its method of cure must not be worse than the disease

**A Bihar-style SIR is bad**

In this context, the idea of a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) to purify voter lists is welcome. There is no doubt that India's voter lists need to be cleaned up. But can this be entrusted with the same authorities under the very process that muddied it in the first place? The ECI, as seen in press conferences held by the Chief Election Commissioner, has proved that it is blatantly biased and partisan. So, the ECI lacks both the trust and the capabilities to come up with its own processes and rules to conduct an SIR to clean up voter lists. The only alternative is for the ECI to undertake this cleaning up exercise as a joint constructive exercise with the involvement of all political parties in every step, and not just issue diktats and orders.

First, the Bihar-style SIR is not the way to conduct this exercise in other States. The Bihar SIR was malicious in intent, and was rushed with the sole aim of the deletion of genuine voters under the false reason of removing illegal migrants from the list.

Second, the Aadhaar is fundamental and integral to having a clean voter list. There is deliberate conflation and confusion being created by the ECI on the use of Aadhaar, claiming that it is not proof of citizenship and so it cannot be used, which is true. Every Aadhaar holder need not be a voter. But every voter must be an Aadhaar holder. Aadhaar linked de-duplication of a voter list is the most efficient and cheapest method to remove duplicates, fakes and ghosts and ensure that every voter has only one voter id card that is unique and non-transferable. By repeatedly rejecting the Aadhaar and even the need for de-duplication, the ECI is showing itself to be either technically ignorant or willingly malevolent or both.

Third, genuine voters must be enrolled by visiting every household and registering voters using proper documents, and not by asking voters to download forms online or collecting them from a centre and registering themselves on their own. The ECI must go to voters instead of asking voters to go to them, as they did in Bihar. When a State such as Telangana can do a complete census of 3.5 crore people by visiting every household in two months, the ECI must and can do this also. This is the only way to ensure that no genuine voter is left behind. This also implies that the ECI cannot rush this exercise in a month like it did in Bihar. Clean voter lists are too important and fundamental for an SIR to be done in a hurried and shabby way.

**Listen to the Opposition**

Political parties are integral and a vital cog in the wheel of the SIR process. The ECI is known to be unresponsive to complaints and suggestions from Opposition parties. A striking example was in Maharashtra where, in October 2024, a month before voting, all Opposition parties wrote a joint letter to the ECI with clear evidence of the mass addition of fake voters. But this was completely ignored. We know how 75 lakh new and mysterious votes were cast in the Maharashtra State election. Shockingly, the BJP alliance got exactly 75 lakh more votes in the Assembly election vis-à-vis the Lok Sabha election to win a majority. Had the ECI taken the Opposition's complaint more seriously, Maharashtra might have had a different Chief Minister.

The all-party meetings that the ECI convenes are a farce where the ECI puts on a show of listening to parties but then issues its own rules and procedures. The SIR process must be one where political parties are consulted at all levels and at every step – from the State leadership in the State capital, to every district, to every booth. These meetings must be video recorded, and suggestions, complaints and ideas given by political parties must be clearly documented.

The most important and strongest demand by the Opposition parties is for the ECI to publish the final, consolidated and machine-readable digital copy of the photo voter rolls after the SIR process. This is an absolutely critical step for the ECI to do for it to win back the trust of the Opposition parties and the public.

It is not that the ECI woke up one day and realised the need for cleaning up voter lists through SIR exercises. After the Congress party exposed clear anomalies in the Maharashtra 2024 State election and, subsequently, in two constituencies in Karnataka, and in Haryana, it became crystal clear that India's voter lists are being manipulated to impact elections. It is welcome that the ECI acknowledges the serious issues with the nation's voter lists and wants to rectify. But the cure must not be worse than the disease. The Chief Election Commissioner must understand that a Bihar-style SIR is a bad idea.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**SIR second phase**

There can be no second opinion that the SIR exercise being carried out by the Election Commission of India (ECI) is not only against the Constitution but is also being done with an ulterior motive — the exercise in Bihar is an example. The higher judiciary should not remain a mute spectator to any attempt made to disenfranchise voters.

**Tharcius S. Fernando,**
Chennai

The allegations of potential disenfranchisement being put forth by many State governments cannot be dismissed. It is imperative that the ECI ensures that the process is conducted in a very fair manner to maintain the integrity of our electoral democracy.

**Salini Reghuraj,**
Mambaram, Kannur, Kerala

The ECI must learn from its mistakes and make sure that it is accountable to voters. Meticulous planning and taking every voter into confidence have to be its priority. The ECI has to make sure that it can defend its actions.

**Chiraag G.V.,**
Shivamogga, Karnataka

We cannot stick to an electoral list that was prepared a long time ago. In fact, the SIR will only streamline the electoral process and is the first step in the right direction. The political parties opposed to the idea should provide constructive ideas to make elections more transparent.

**V. Lakshmanan,**
Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu

**Boardroom battles**

The ancient dictum of Chanakya found modern embodiment in Jamsetji Tata's belief that industry must exist not merely for profit but for the progress of the people it touches. The Tata philosophy was built on trusteeship capitalism — the idea that enterprise is a means to uplift society, not just enrich shareholders. A chunk of Tata equity rests with philanthropic trusts. In an era obsessed with profits, the Tatas face the challenge to temper capitalism with compassion, serving both enterprise and equity. Despite boardroom debates, that legacy may yet prevail over primacy to the balance sheet.

**R. Narayanan,**
Navi Mumbai

**Corrections & Clarifications**

A report ('Sport' page, November 3, 2025), "Tjen gets the better of Birrell to clinch her maiden WTA 250 title", referred to Janice Tjen as an Australian tennis player in one instance. She is Indonesian, as mentioned correctly in the rest of the report.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28576347/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

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# The malleable Code of Conduct



**Rangarajan R**

is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. He currently trains at Officers IAS Academy. Views expressed are personal.

Ambedkar famously remarked in the Constituent Assembly, "However good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it happen to be a bad lot". Well, it applies equally to any law or code framed for functioning of the country and its various public processes.

The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for guidance of political parties and candidates is a set of norms which has evolved with the consensus of political parties. They have consented to abide by the principles embodied in the said code. It binds them to respect and observe it in its letter and spirit. This code began to be implemented strictly in the 1990s and has been revised in 2013 by the Election Commission of India (EC).

The MCC is operational from the date on which the election schedule is announced until the date of announcement of result.

The MCC lays down code for general conduct during campaign process by political parties and contesting candidates. With respect to the party or parties in power, it stipulates that ministers and other authorities shall not announce any financial grants, promise any construction of roads or provision of drinking water, announce new projects, lay foundation stone for projects or schemes of any kind which may have the effect of influencing the voters in favour of the party or parties in power.

**Violations galore**

The MCC is a voluntary set of norms to be followed by political parties and candidates. It is by itself not legally enforceable. Violations of certain provisions of the MCC with respect to campaign process can be enforced through invoking corresponding provisions in criminal laws and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act). However, it is the announcement of financial grants or of new projects by the ruling government just before elections that can vitiate the level playing field thereby impairing free and fair elections. The code does not restrict grants or disbursements under ongoing programmes on the date of announcement of elections.

A famous quote from Hamlet goes, "more honoured in the breach than in the observance". This is meant for customs and laws that are better off being ignored than being followed. In the Indian electoral context, however, it has become a norm to breach the codes and laws. Politicians find ingenious ways of circumventing the MCC when it comes to announcement of projects or distribution of grants.

**Cash politics**

The recent example is the launch of Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana (MMRY) in Bihar in August 2025. Under the scheme, women are eligible to receive ₹10,000 as grant for self-employment and livelihood opportunities. The disbursements started on September 26, 2025 with the Prime Minister transferring the grant to 75 lakh women. Subsequently weekly instalments are being transferred to beneficiaries since October with recent one being on October 31 and the next on November 7. One-time cash transfer to the underprivileged and needy women, despite its fiscal burden on the state, does provide some much-needed succour.

However, with the elections scheduled to be held in two phases on November 6 and November 11, it is a valid criticism that this is breaking the MCC in spirit and influencing voters in favour of the ruling party through direct cash transfers. Taking refuge under the guise of an ongoing scheme, which was anyway launched just a month before the announcement of elections, does not seem kosher.

It is not the first time that MCC has been broken in spirit when it comes to announcements of new projects just before elections. Successive ruling governments at both the Centre and various States, representing the entire spectrum of political parties in India, are guilty of this breach. The MMRY scheme, nonetheless, does push the dubious envelope of such breach to a new low.

**Stop the sham**

In 2013, the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, recommended making the MCC legally binding. However, the EC is not in favour since the elections have to be completed within a relatively short period of around 45 days while judicial proceedings take longer.

There has been criticism directed at the EC for turning a blind eye to such blatant violations of the MCC, if not in letter but in spirit. However, considering the Machiavellian ability of our political leaders to invent new ways of working around election laws, even the sincerest attempts in curbing such practices would be a wild goose chase.

"It is much more important to kill bad laws than to pass good ones," said the former U.S. President Calvin Coolidge. It may be apt to apply this to most parts of MCC that deal with government schemes and projects. Violation of code with respect to campaign process can be suitably dealt with by the EC under its existing powers.

However, the MCC guidelines that stipulate no fresh projects or financial grants after announcement of elections can be done away with as they are more breached in spirit than followed.

One of the arguments for conduct of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies is to minimise the impact of MCC that restricts new government programmes and schemes with multiple elections every year. Scrapping these provisions in MCC would at least result in one farcical reason being less for the arguments in favour of simultaneous polls.

Successive governments at both the Centre and various States, representing the entire spectrum of political parties in India, are breaking the spirit of MCC

# Data, dissent and uncertainty

## Karnataka's caste survey concludes but challenges remain ahead

STATE OF PLAY

**Sharath S. Srivatsa**
sharath.srivatsa@thehindu.co.in

Karnataka has just completed the Social and Educational Survey of its population last week, a decade after the one conducted in 2015 whose report never saw the light of the day. The second survey came amid resistance from the dominant castes, backed by the Opposition BJP.

The exercise withstood attempts by its opponents to create controversy, including a legal challenge. It ended with about 90% of the State's population covered in just over a month. About 6.13 crore out of the projected 6.85 crore population in the State were covered by October 31, when the door-to-door survey ended. The online window is open till November 10.

**Many hurdles**

Several challenges were raised, from questioning the competence of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes in holding the survey to disputing its legal basis, many doubted the intention and necessity of such an exercise that cost the exchequer about ₹450 crore. On the eve of the launch, the Commission, under pressure from the BJP and Hindutva groups, masked 33 Christian subcastes in the list with Hindu caste prefixes.

Throughout the survey, there were also reports of enumerators, who were teachers or government employees, being abused by a section of the people, before shutting the door on them.

Though dominant castes have shown an antipathy to the survey, there are striking




differences in the way this was expressed by different groups within this category. The politically-dominant and landowning Vokkaligas in Old Mysore region, and Veerashaiva-Lingayats in north Karnataka, who opposed the last survey, remained highly critical of the present one too. But they took part in it. Both communities are not only in the backward classes list and beneficiaries of reservation, but establishing their numbers remains important for them to wield political clout. They asked their community members, through their caste organisations, to enumerate themselves in a certain way, so that their numbers can be projected as significant.

However, a section of the Brahmin community, who do not count themselves as beneficiaries of government schemes or reservation, abstained. In Karnataka, the EWS reservation, which could help economically weaker households in public employment and education, has not yet been implemented.

**Non-participants**

Taking a cue from the Karnataka High Court's order that made participation in the survey voluntary, many households refused to participate. Political leaders, including Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya, aired their opinion against the survey. In fact, Dharwad, represented by Mr. Joshi, lagged in the survey progress as the first deadline reached. Prominent people like Infosys co-founder N.R. Narayana Murthy and his wife and Rajya Sabha MP Sudha Murty not taking part also hit headlines.

In all, according to the Commission, about 4.22 lakh households (not all from the same community) refused to participate in the survey. About 34.49 lakh houses remained vacant or locked. The Commission will now look into secondary data of those households that have refused to take part before preparing its report.

Abstention by a section of people has faced criticism from several quarters. The households that refused to participate or the community leaders who opposed the survey have been accused of not just being insensitive to social justice in a larger sense, but even being elitist with little concern about the poor within their own community.

The coming months will possibly witness heightened anxiety among the most backward communities, many of which have not had representation either in political realm or bureaucracy. These communities are anticipating the submission of the report and its quick implementation.

The Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats do not want the report going public, while the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who form about 25% of the population, are indifferent because it is of little consequence to them. Kuruba, a large caste group within the OBCs, is looking to secure a Scheduled Tribe tag. With varied caste interests at play, how the report will be received and interpreted remains to be seen.

# Can Congress overcome its 'weak link' tag in Bihar polls?

## The party posted the lowest contested vote share and strike rate among alliance partners in 2020

DATA POINT

**Sambavi Parthasarathy**
**Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

The Data Point published on Wednesday discussed in detail the spoiler effect created by Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) in the 2020 Bihar Assembly election and examined the possibility of it influencing the upcoming 2025 polls as well. This effect was one of the key reasons the 2020 election turned out to be a closely fought contest between the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the RJD-led *mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance).

Today, we will examine another major reason behind the close contest in 2020—the Congress party's poor performance—and assess whether this imbalance within the alliance could influence the outcome of the 2025 polls.

In 2020, Congress recorded a contested vote share of 32.9%, the lowest among major *mahagatbandhan* alliance partners, as shown in **Table 1**. In comparison, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) secured 39%, CPI 33.3%, CPI(M) 37.6%, and CPI(ML)(L) 41.4%. Contested vote share refers to the percentage of votes a party receives in the seats it fought. In the 2015 election, Congress recorded a contested vote share of 39.5%.

**Table 2** shows the strike rate of parties, calculated by dividing the number of seats won by the total seats contested. In 2020, Congress had a strike rate of 27.1%, once again the lowest among the *mahagatbandhan* alliance partners. In comparison, the RJD recorded 52.1%, CPI 33.3%, CPI(M) 50%, and CPI(ML)(L) 63.1%. In fact, Congress's strike rate that year was lower than that of the major constituents of the NDA as well.

In the 2015 election, Congress's strike rate was much higher at 65.9%. While the strike rates of the RJD and JD(U) also declined between 2015 and 2020, the steepest drop was seen in Congress's performance.

**Table 3** presents the share of seats won by parties with a victory margin of less than 5% of votes. For instance, in 2020, Congress won 52.6% of its seats with a margin below 5%, the highest such proportion among the *mahagatbandhan* alliance partners. While **Tables 1** and **2** indicate that Congress is losing more seats and securing significantly lower vote shares than its partners, **Table 3** shows that even in the seats it won in 2020, more than half were close contests.

Taken together, these three data points show that Congress remains the weaker link in the alliance, which partly explains why it is fielding fewer candidates in 2025 compared to 2020. However, since the majority of the seats Congress is contesting in 2025 are the same as those it contested and lost in 2020, reversing its fortunes will be a challenging task.

Further, in 2020, Congress had a poor strike rate of only 18.9% in direct contests against the BJP, and in 2025, the two parties are set to face each other in 31 seats. Against the JD(U), Congress had a better strike rate of 35.7% in 2020, and in 2025 they will compete against each other in 24 seats **(Table 4)**. However, Congress's higher strike rate against the JD(U) may also be attributed to the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) splitting votes and hurting JD(U)'s chances in many seats.

Congress's overall improved performance in 2025, particularly in seats contested against the BJP, will be a crucial factor for the *mahagatbandhan*.

To complicate matters further, Congress faces friendly contests in five seats against the RJD, in four seats against the Left parties, and in one seat against a smaller partner, the Indian Inclusive Party. If 2025 is another close contest, these seats with friendly fights could come under scrutiny, especially if they are lost **(Table 5)**.

## Unequal partners

The data for the charts were sourced from the Election Commission of India and Lok Dhaba. In the tables below, **MGB refers to the Mahagatbandhan alliance and NDA refers to the National Democratic Alliance**

**Table 1:** Contested vote share of select parties in the previous assembly elections. It is the % of votes a party receives in the seats fought

| | | Contested vote share | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alliance | Party | 2020 | 2015 |
| NDA | BJP | 42.6% | 37.5% |
| NDA | JD(U) | 32.3% | 40.7% |
| NDA | HAM(S) | 32.4% | 26.9% |
| MGB | RJD | 39.0% | 44.4% |
| MGB | INC | 32.9% | 39.5% |
| MGB | CPI(ML)(L) | 41.4% | 3.8% |
| MGB | CPI | 33.3% | 3.4% |
| MGB | CPI(M) | 37.6% | 3.3% |



**Table 2:** Strike rate of select parties, calculated by dividing the number of seats won by the total seats contested

| | | Strike rate | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alliance | Party | 2020 | 2015 |
| NDA | BJP | 67.3% | 33.8% |
| NDA | JD(U) | 37.4% | 70.3% |
| NDA | HAM(S) | 57.1% | 4.8% |
| MGB | RJD | 52.1% | 79.2% |
| MGB | INC | 27.1% | 65.9% |
| MGB | CPI(ML)(L) | 63.1% | 3.1% |
| MGB | CPI | 33.3% | 0.0 |
| MGB | CPI(M) | 50% | 0.0 |

**Table 3:** Share of seats won by parties with a victory margin of less than 5% of votes

| Alliance | Party | 2020 | 2015 |
|---|---|---|---|
| NDA | BJP | 21.6% | 43.4% |
| NDA | JD(U) | 39.5% | 18.3% |
| NDA | HAM(S) | 75% | 0.0% |
| MGB | RJD | 34.7% | 13.8% |
| MGB | INC | 52.6% | 22.2% |
| MGB | CPI(ML)(L) | 8.3% | 33.3% |
| MGB | CPI | 50% | - |
| MGB | CPI(M) | 0.0 | - |

Even in the seats the Congress had won in 2020, more than half were close contests with narrow victory margins

**Table 4:** Seats contested and strike rates of Congress in direct contests with the BJP and the JD(U)

| | Seats contested by INC in direct contests | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2025 | 2020 | 2015 |
| BJP | 31 | 37 | 28 |
| JD(U) | 24 | 28 | - |
| | **INC's strike rate in direct contests** | | |
| | 2020 | 2015 | |
| BJP | 18.9% | 67.9% | |
| JD(U) | 35.7% | - | |



**Table 5:** Assembly seats with 'friendly contests' within the MGB alliance in the 2025 Bihar election

| INC vs RJD | INC vs Left | RJD vs VIP | INC vs IIP |
|---|---|---|---|
| Narkatiaganj | Rajapakar | Gaura Bauram | Beldaur |
| Vaishali | Bachhwara | Chainpur | |
| Kahalgaon | Biharsharif | | |
| Sultanganj | Kargahar | | |
| Sikandra | | | |

IIP: Inclusive India Party, VIP: Vikassheel Insaan Party

Left parties mentioned in the above table include Communist Party of India: (CPI), Communist Party of India (Marxist): CPI(M), and Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation): CPI(ML)(L)

Janshakti Janta Dal (JJD) which is with the MGB alliance has not been included for the analysis

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

**FIFTY YEARS AGO** NOVEMBER 6, 1975

## Four top Bangla leaders in jail assassinated

NEW DELHI, Nov. 5: Four leaders, including Mr. Tajuddin Ahmed and Syed Nazrul Islam, who steered Bangladesh to freedom through a gory struggle, were assassinated on Monday, within three months of the brutal gunning down of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Radio Bangladesh which announced the assassinations today—the third day of the turmoil in Dacca—did not give the names of the killers but subsequent developments left little doubt that they were very army officers who engineered the August 15 coup in which the Sheikh and his family members were killed.

The two other assassinated on Monday were Mr. A.K.M. Kamaruzzaman and Mr. Mansur Ali.

With these killings, Mr. Khondakar Mushtaque Ahmed remains the sole survivor of the five-member provisional regime which guided the freedom struggle from Mujibnagar after the Pakistani army crackdown on March 26, 1971.

Mr. Tajuddin Ahmed was Prime Minister of the provisional Government and Mr. Nazrul Islam the acting President, in the absence of Sheikh Mujib who was then in Pakistani jail.

Radio Bangladesh said that Monday's killings took place in Dacca Central Jail, where the four leaders had been lodged after the August 15 coup. Another leader arrested after the coup was Mr. Abdus Samad, who was a member of Sheikh Mujib's Cabinet. His fate is unknown.

Radio Bangladesh announced in the morning that a three-member judicial committee headed by the Supreme Court Chief Justice had been appointed to inquire into the "heinous crimes" committed by "miscreants".

**A HUNDRED YEARS AGO** NOVEMBER 6, 1925

## Plot to assassinate Soviet leaders

(Reuter's Agency.)

MOSCOW, Nov. 5: The President of the Central Executive of the Soviet Union has commuted the sentence of death passed on three German students, into one of 10 years' imprisonment.

[The three German students, who were alleged to belong to German reactionary "Konsul" organisation, were sentenced to death on a charge of plotting to assassinate Trotsky and Stalin.]

From Page One

## ‘Vote theft took place in Haryana with EC help’

Asked if the party would seek legal recourse, Mr. Gandhi said, “The Supreme Court, the highest court of the country, is watching. We are not doing this in a private room but in front of the media.” He called upon “Gen Z and the youth” to restore democracy through *satya* (truth) and *ahimsa* (non-violence). “If the voter lists are a lie in Haryana, then there were no elections,” he said. “I am telling the youth, Gen Z, and the citizens that this democracy belongs to you and not the EC or Narendra Modi. You have to protect it.”

There were 2 crore voters in Haryana during the election.

He alleged there were 5,21,619 duplicate voters, 93,174 invalid addresses, and 19,26,351 bulk voters. Similarly, he showed an address in Hodal where there were 501 voters in a single address, 223 voters in two booths with the same photograph, and so on. “The other surprising aspect was that for the first time in Haryana, postal votes were different from the result. In postal ballots, Congress got 73 seats while the BJP got 17,” he said.

Mr. Gandhi started the press conference by playing out a video clip of Haryana Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini telling presspersons that the BJP will win the Assembly and they (the BJP) have all the *vyavasta* (arrangements).

The Opposition leader also took on Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar’s claim that house number “0” (Zero) is used for homeless people. “Look at the voters’ list where Mr. Narender’s house is marked as 0. We looked for him and found this as his house,” he said, showing a two-storey house.

## New York elects first South Asian Mayor

Mr. Mamdani’s meteoric rise from a little-known State assemblyman into the frontrunner for New York Mayor is one of the most potent case studies in grassroots organising in contemporary American politics.

A little over a year ago, as Democrats reeled from Mr. Trump’s re-emergence, Mr. Mamdani stood on a street corner in Astoria in Queens with a microphone, asking passers-by, including Trump supporters, why they voted the way they did.

“A year ago, we stood right here, talking to New Yorkers after Mr. Trump’s win,” he said in a video he shared on social media from the same spot a year later, noting how few were even willing to engage then. “Today, people are excited about politics again – on the very same street where almost no one wanted that conversation.”

He mobilised a coalition of ethnic and religious communities often overlooked by citywide candidates, bringing his economic message directly to thousands of immigrant New Yorkers.

In his victory speech, Mr. Mamdani said: “New York will remain a city of immigrants, a city built by immigrants, powered by immigrants and as of tonight, led by an immigrant.”

Mr. Mamdani said his candidacy challenged conventional wisdom, adding: “I am young, despite my best efforts to grow older. I am Muslim. I am a democratic socialist. And most damning of all, I refuse to apologise for any of this.”

Mr. Mamdani’s campaign built one of the largest door-to-door operations in modern city politics, knocking on over two million doors and making more than three million phone calls. His campaign was multilingual, multifaith, and unmistakably working-class where volunteers canvassed in Urdu, Bangla, Arabic, and Spanish and outreach events were also held in mosques, gurdwaras, temples and churches.

*(Anisha Dutta is a New York-based journalist)*

## Centre’s guidelines for AI call for trust, safety

The report has six recommendations also: expand access to AI infrastructure and “leverage the power of digital public infrastructure for scale, impact and inclusion”; build capacity by skilling in AI; “adopt balanced, agile and flexible frameworks” as far as regulating AI is concerned; mitigate risks by looking at “India-specific” factors that need to be addressed; boost accountability in the AI ecosystem by requiring “greater transparency... about how different actors in the AI value chain operate”.

“We are calling this the AI Governance Guidelines, not AI regulation or anything like that, because we don’t want it to be viewed as something that throttles AI adoption in India,” he said.

While the previous framework laid emphasis on minimising risks inherent in deploying AI, the current model scales this back to promoting innovation with guardrails. The report also strips away much of the previous work done by NITI Aayog and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development that was foundational to the earlier draft framework’s approach.

In the long term, the report says, new laws should be drafted based on “emerging risks and capabilities” of AI systems. Responding to reports on the government considering a new AI law, IT Secretary S. Krishnan said that there were no immediate plans, but as and when there would be an urgent need for such legislation, the government would act swiftly.

The AI guidelines are separate from a draft amendment to the IT Rules, 2021.

# ‘Outside’ forces using Rahul as pawn to defame India: BJP

Kiren Rijiju says the Indian youth is with the PM and will not fall for ‘illogical’ charges levelled by Rahul Gandhi; he says BJP has never blamed any democratic institution for electoral defeats

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Shortly after Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, levelled fresh allegations of “vote *chori*”, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday accused him of making fraudulent allegations against democratic institutions at the “instigation of forces” that aim at tarnishing the image of the country.

“Sitting outside, they give him ideas to defame our country, and he is blaring it out loud like a loudspeaker here,” Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said at a press conference, referring to Mr. Gandhi’s recent foreign visits.

“There are many people, in and outside the country, who are using Rahul Gandhi as a pawn to harm our image and the emerging power of India. Along with him, there are some other people whom they use. Rahul Gandhi is a prominent figure among them,” he said.

Stating that the country’s youth was with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and would not fall for such “illogical” charges, Mr. Rijiju said: “They see that India has become the fastest growing major economy under his leadership, while there is an economic slowdown in other parts of the world.”



Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, right, and BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia address a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

In response to the charges of ‘vote *chori*’ related to the 2024 Haryana Assembly polls, Mr. Rijiju said that Mr. Gandhi was trying to divert attention as he had no hopes of winning the Bihar polls. He said the voters’ list was a public document, available on the website of the Election Commission. “Political parties can view it. An opportunity for claims/objections is given and corrections are made. In the voting process, every political party has polling agents. Election Commission officials and observers from outside are deployed. Polling agents check if voters are genuine,” he said, asking if the Congress did not have any polling agent in Haryana.

Mr. Rijiju said that after the voting process is over, a petition with the poll body could be filed and then an appeal made in court if required. “However, they neither approach the Election Commission nor the court. They will just hold a press conference, show someone else’s presentation and run away,” he said. In Haryana, he said, even the Congress leaders had attributed the party’s defeat to a lack of internal coordination at the grassroots level.

“The people of Bihar are happy with the purification of electoral rolls (Special Intensive Revision). However, Rahul Gandhi appears to be the only one with a problem,” he said, adding that even Congress and RJD leaders in the State were unhappy with Mr. Gandhi. “He does not go among people or work hard. He appears occasionally, waves his hands, and vanishes again,” said Mr. Rijiju.

“When he does not engage with the people and keeps travelling abroad, he is bound to lose elections. Still, the Congress wins in some States. Why does he not raise these questions then? How did the Congress come to power in Telangana, Karnataka, and Himachal Pradesh? How many consecutive victories have the Opposition parties won in Tamil Nadu and Kerala,” he asked.

The Union Minister alleged that Mr. Gandhi in the past targeted the Army, questioned the judiciary, and also attacked the poll panel when election results were not in his favour. He said the BJP never blamed any democratic institution for electoral defeats. He said that when the Congress was in power at the Centre, judges and Election Commissioners were appointed by the government.

“But BJP never said that it did not believe in democracy. We kept fighting, gained the trust of the people, and won,” he said.

# Rahul’s claims on Haryana voter list are unfounded: EC

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**
NEW DELHI

**A senior official said that the LoP could present any evidence with the petitions filed in High Court**

As Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, made yet another attack on the Election Commission (EC), this time with respect to the Haryana Assembly election, the poll panel on Wednesday said that the charges were “unfounded” and asked why the Congress had not flagged voters who had allegedly cast multiple votes.

The poll body said Mr. Gandhi’s statements indicate his support for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which he had earlier opposed. “On one hand, Rahul Gandhi opposes SIR, which purifies electoral rolls, and on the other, he keeps giving presentations bringing out impurities in past electoral rolls. It is clear that he is supporting SIR despite opposing it in the beginning,” a senior EC official remarked.

Mr. Gandhi alleged that 25 lakh fake voters were listed in Haryana ahead of the election held in October 2024. He shared the voters’ list of the Rai Assembly constituency of Haryana in which the photograph of a Brazilian model was used 22 times across 10 booths as voters with different names.

Mr. Gandhi could present his evidence in the petitions already filed for Rai and Hodal Assembly constituencies in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, the EC official said. The poll body has reiterated that “zero appeals” were filed against the electoral rolls and only 22 election petitions were currently pending in the High Court.

The EC official also raised questions as to why the Congress’s booth-level agents had not flagged the voters who had allegedly cast multiple votes in Haryana.

**House numbers**

On the question of houses numbered ‘zero’ in the rolls, EC officials said ‘House Number Zero’ is given by booth-level officers to houses where the panchayat and municipalities have not given numbers.

The BJP had won 48 seats in the Haryana Assembly election of 2024, while the Congress, which was predicted to win by many exit polls, bagged 37 seats. The Indian National Lok Dal won two seats while Independent candidates bagged three in the 90-member Assembly.

# SIR 2025: EC’s transparency claim challenged in SC

NEWS ANALYSIS

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI

The run-up to the first phase of polling in Bihar on November 6 witnessed the Election Commission of India (EC) furiously defend the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the Supreme Court, even as petitioners questioned the EC’s claim that the current exercise is a continuation of the “transparent” 2003 intensive revision of the State’s electoral rolls.

The final voter list of Bihar, released on September 30 at the conclusion of the SIR exercise, had removed 3.66 lakh ineligible electors from the draft list published on August 1. Opposition parties have questioned the SIR exercise, and demanded the EC come out with reasons for the exclusion of these names.

The EC had said the SIR 2025 was a mere repetition of an exercise which used to take place regularly until 2003. It had used the 2003 electoral roll as “probative evidence of eligibility, including presumption of citizenship”.

Interestingly, one of the petitioners, the Association for Democratic Reforms, represented by advocates Prashant Bhushan and Neha Rathi, had pointed out to the court that the EC had “never placed on record the original documents of Special Revision of Intensive Nature held in 2003 which it claims as a precedent and cut-off”.



A Booth Level Officer checks documents during the SIR of electoral rolls in Purnea, Bihar. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The petitioner had dug out records of the 2003 revision of rolls to unearth a 62-page document titled ‘Electoral Rolls Special Revision of Intensive Nature with Qualifying Date 01.01.2003, Final Guidelines’ to discover that the 2003 exercise was “fundamentally different” from the present SIR exercise.

The petitioners have raised five “basic differences” between the intensive revision in 2003 and SIR 2025. For one, the onus of entering eligible names on the electoral rolls in 2003 was wholly on the Enumerator (now called the Booth Level Officer) and not on the elector.

Secondly, there was no enumeration form to be filled by the electors and, correspondingly, no deadline to be met by potential electors, as in the SIR 2025. The enumerator had carried out a house-to-house survey to confirm, add or modify the existing electoral roll in consultation with the head of the household or senior adult member of the family.

Thirdly, there was no general requirement in 2003 for all the potential electors to provide at least one document.

Again, there was no general mandate to verify citizenship of each elector in 2003. The Guidelines of 2003 permitted an inquiry into citizenship only in the case of individuals declared as ‘foreigners’ by the competent tribunals.

Finally, the 2003 intensive revision provisions did not allow exclusion of any name on the pre-existing rolls without going through due process for deletion of names.

The Supreme Court was scheduled to hear on the constitutionality of the Bihar SIR on Tuesday. However, both Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, who formed the Bench hearing the case did not assemble on Tuesday.

# FATF releases updated asset recovery framework; India played a key role, says ED

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The global inter-governmental Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has released the “Asset Recovery Guidance and Best Practices” guidelines, which provide a comprehensive and updated framework to strengthen the global system for asset recovery against financial crimes.

“The guidance follows up on one of the most significant global reforms to the FATF standards on confiscation and international cooperation in over three decades. It outlines practical measures for policymakers and practitioners to identify, trace, freeze, manage, confiscate, and return assets derived from criminal activity,” the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said on Wednesday.

The ED stated that India played a prominent role in the development of both the revised FATF standards and the guidance document.




The ED said that India played a key role in the development of revised FATF standards.

“The document contains multiple examples from cases investigated by the ED, which are cited as models of effective asset recovery practice and inter-agency coordination. This recognition reflects the increasing international standing of India and the ED in the global discourse on asset recovery and financial crime enforcement,” it said. The new framework expands the definition of asset recovery to cover the entire process from the identification of criminal property to its eventual confiscation and return. “For the first time, the FATF has mandated that countries provide for non-conviction-based confiscation, enabling authorities to recover criminal assets even in the absence of a criminal conviction where prosecution is not possible or practical,” the agency said.

The guidance also promotes the adoption of tools such as extended confiscations and unexplained-wealth orders that require individuals to show the lawful origin of their assets when there is reasonable suspicion of criminal linkage. Greater emphasis has been placed on provisional measures to secure assets at an early stage and prevent their dissipation.

# Sikh relic brought to Patna from Delhi after over 300 years

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

An important holy relic related to the Sikh faith, the sacred *Jore Sahib*, the footwear of the 10th Sikh Guru, Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj, and his wife, Mata Sahib Kaur Ji, had an unusual journey of 1,500 kilometres from New Delhi to Patna after a gap of more than 300 years.

It was established on November 1 at the Takhat Sri Harmandir Ji Patna Sahib.

The establishment of the reliquary at Patna Sahib, the birthplace of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, is being seen as a major event in the Sikh faith, as the private custodians of the relics have offered them to the larger Sikh congregation.

The relics were scientifically validated by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, and a system for transporting and further preservation of the relics was created. The provenance of the relics were authenticated by the Union Ministry of Culture via carbon dating. Interestingly, the private custodians of the relics are related to the family of the Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri.



The picture shows the sacred *Jore Sahib*, the actual footwear of the 10th Sikh Guru.

“Our ancestors were in the service of Guru Maharaj with the holy Jore Sahib ‘Charan Suhawa’ more than 300 years ago...,” Mr. Puri said in a post on X at the conclusion of a yatra.

# Was denied entry into Pak. with Sikh group: pilgrim

**Press Trust of India**
CHANDIGARH

A Hindu pilgrim has claimed that he and his family members were sent back by Pakistan after they crossed over to the neighbouring nation to participate in the birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev in Nankana Sahib district of Pakistan’s Punjab province.

A *jatha* (group) of nearly 1,900 Sikh pilgrims had crossed the Attari-Wagah border on Tuesday. Amar Chand said he was among those pilgrims.

“Pakistani officials told us you are Hindu, you cannot go with a Sikh *jatha*,” said Mr. Chand, who was sent back along with six family members.

Mr. Chand, who was earlier a Pakistani national and came to India in 1999 before obtaining Indian citizenship in 2010, claimed that seven other Indians were also turned back.

# BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION

## FIR based on 'doctored' video, says Lalan

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' on Wednesday claimed that a video clip, which has led to a first information report against him over an alleged violation of the Model Code of Conduct in poll-bound Bihar, was "doctored".

The former Janata Dal (United) president, who was booked on Tuesday under relevant sections of the BNSS and the Representation of People Act for a speech he gave in Mokama, expressed confidence that the investigation would take into account "the full video footage" and lead to his exoneration.

He also accused the Rashtriya Janata Dal cadres of threatening poor people in Mokama with dire consequences if they cast their votes in favour of CM Nitish Kumar's JD(U). PTI



Rajiv Ranjan Singh

## Defeat NDA to end migration, says Congress

The Congress on Wednesday put out 20 points on what it called "deceptions, injustices, and neglect inflicted upon" the State by the BJP-JD(U) government, urging the voters to defeat the NDA to end unemployment, migration, corruption, and "*goonda raj*".

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh alleged that the NDA has pushed Bihar's bright future into darkness for the sake of its own "power-hungry interests".

"Due to the NDA government's failed economic and employment policies, people were forced to leave their homes and migrate to other States for labour work," he said.

Mr. Ramesh also cited the caste-based survey in the State and said 64% of the population is surviving on just ₹67 a day. PTI



> NDA stands for HIRA... H for highway, I for internet, R for railway, and A for airport... Developments have taken place in Bihar and will continue
>
> **J. P. NADDA**
> BJP national president

## Ahead of polls, JSP candidate joins BJP

Sanjay Singh, the Jan Suraaj Party candidate from Bihar's Munger, joined the BJP on Wednesday, ahead of the first phase of Assembly elections, officials said. Mr. Singh extended his support to Kumar Pranay, the BJP candidate from the seat. He expressed confidence that the NDA would win the polls. PTI



> This time, Nitish Kumar's inability to work, and the way the BJP ignored him will lead to a reduction in BJP's seats. JD(U) seats will also be reduced
>
> **PRAMOD TIWARI**
> Congress leader



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during a rally in Fatuha constituency in Patna. PTI

# *Rahul trying to create anarchy with remarks on Army: Rajnath*

**Amit Bhelari**
PATNA

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday came down heavily on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks on the Indian Army, saying the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha was trying to "create anarchy" by demanding reservation in the Army. Mr. Singh added that the Army should not be "dragged into politics".

On Tuesday, Mr. Gandhi had said the Army was "under the control of 10% of the country's population".

Mr. Singh, who addressed election rallies in the Banka, Jamui, Sikandra and Gurua Assembly constituencies, criticised Mr. Gandhi for bringing the Army into political debates. He said the Army followed only one religion – "*Sainya* [Military] *Dharma*", and there was no place for caste or religion in the armed forces.

"What happened to Rahul *ji*? He is raising the issue of reservations in the defence forces. He is simply trying to create anarchy in the country, our forces are above all these," Mr. Singh said while addressing a rally in Jamui.

### 'Deeply damaging'

Expressing anger, Mr. Singh condemned caste-, sect- and religion-based politics, calling it deeply damaging to the nation's unity and progress. Mr. Singh said that India's culture has never promoted discrimination and every section of society deserves equal upliftment.

The senior BJP leader also claimed Mr. Gandhi should know that "running the country was no child's play".

Mr. Singh also spoke about Operation Sindoor, highlighting that major terror hideouts were destroyed during the operation. "The operation is temporarily paused, not stopped, and India will strike back if terrorism re-emerges," Mr. Singh said.

He criticised the previous Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Congress governments for the gap between their words and actions, saying it led to a crisis of trust among citizens.

Praising the Bihar government, he said under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's leadership and the NDA's governance, Bihar has witnessed rapid development. He recalled that earlier, people in Bihar struggled for basic amenities like electricity and roads, but today, Metro trains run in Patna. Mr. Singh also declared that the NDA will form the government in Bihar with a two-thirds majority, as people have faith in its development-oriented governance.

### 'No proof'

He also cited the NDA's focus on infrastructure, electricity, roads and education, crediting Mr. Modi's leadership for India's transformation.

Mr. Singh lashed out at Opposition parties attacking constitutional institutions like the Election Commission and said, "They level allegations but fail to produce any proof, even when asked repeatedly."

BJP president J.P. Nadda also addressed public meetings in Madhuban and Narkatiaganj Assembly constituencies, where he claimed the RJD's identity had still not changed. "Extortion, jungle raj, and law-breaking are in their DNA," Mr. Nadda said.

# Bihar first phase today; crucial for big leaders and small parties in alliances

The Opposition's Chief Minister face, Tejashwi Yadav, is in the fray, as are Deputy CMs Samrat Choudhary and V.K. Sinha; crucial test for CPI(ML), LJP(RV), VIP; in 2020, Grand Alliance won 63 of the 121 seats going to the polls; half of the 20 CPI(ML) candidates are contesting in this phase

IN FOCUS

**Sobhana K. Nair**
NEW DELHI

Over 3.75 crore voters in Bihar will cast their ballots in the first phase of the Assembly election on Thursday, covering 121 of the State's 243 constituencies. This phase is particularly significant for the Opposition *Mahagatbandhan* (Grand Alliance), which had secured 63 of these seats in the 2020 election. The ruling BJP and Janata Dal (United) together had won 55.

The first phase contests are also crucial for the smaller parties in both coalitions. Ten of the 20 constituencies where the CPI (ML) has fielded candidates will go to the polls in this phase. The party holds six of these seats. The CPI (ML) had one of the best strike rates in the 2020 election and to maintain the record, it will have to retain these seats. In the ruling NDA, 10 of the 29 seats that the Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) is contesting are in the first phase. The NDA currently holds only one of these 10 seats. The LJP(RV)'s seat share had sparked discontent among NDA allies, particularly the Janata Dal (United), which argued that the party's allocation was disproportionate given its lack of representation in the Assembly.

This phase will also reveal whether the Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) is able to pull its own weight in the Opposition alliance. The electoral fate of six of the 15 seats it is contesting will be decided on Thursday. The Grand Alliance has named VIP president Mukesh Sahani as its Deputy Chief Ministerial candidate.

### Top leaders in fray

Several top leaders are in fray in this phase, including the Opposition's chief ministerial face Tejashwi Yadav and over a dozen BJP and JD(U) Ministers in the Nitish Kumar government, including Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha. Mr. Choudhary is contesting a direct election after about a decade from Tarapur. Former Bihar BJP chief and State Minister Mangal Pandey is also contesting his first Assembly election from Siwan.

This phase will also test the electoral appeal of celebrities. Young folk singer Maithili Thakur (BJP-Aliganj), and Bhojpuri superstars Khesari Lal Yadav (RJD-Chhapra) and Ritesh Pandey (Jan Suraaj Party-Kargahar) are contesting in the first phase.

While the RJD succession battle has long been settled in favour of Mr. Tejashwi Yadav, this phase will also decide whether his estranged elder brother, Tej Pratap Yadav, who floated his own outfit, the Janshakti Janata Dal, will be able to mount a challenge. He is contesting from the Mahua constituency. Two other seats that are being closely watched are Mokama and Raghunathpur.

In Mokama, the JD(U)'s Anant Singh, recently arrested in connection with the murder of a Jan Suraaj Party supporter, is up against the RJD's Veena Devi, wife of Suraj Bhan, who also faces multiple criminal charges.

In Raghunathpur, Osama Shahab, the 31-year-old son of the late gangster-turned-politician Mohammad Shahabuddin, is contesting on the RJD ticket.

Voting will take place at 45,341 polling stations, a large majority of which fall in rural areas (36,733). According to the Election Commission, of the 3.75 crore voters in the 121 constituencies, 10.72 lakh are "new electors". The number of voters in the age group of 18 to 19, however, stands at 7.38 lakh.



**Ready to vote:** Polling staff and police personnel carry EVMs and election materials as they leave for their respective polling stations for the first phase of Bihar Assembly polls, in Patna on Wednesday. ANI

# In Magadh region, NDA eyes comeback while Grand Alliance seeks to retain its stronghold

**Amit Bhelari**
JEHANABAD/ARWAL

The Magadh region could change the fate of both the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Opposition *Mahagatbandhan* (Grand Alliance) in the second phase of the Bihar Assembly election. Spread over the five districts of Jehanabad, Aurangabad, Gaya Ji, Arwal, and Nawada, the region has 26 Assembly constituencies.

In the 2020 Assembly election, the Grand Alliance won 20 seats, whereas the NDA could only win six seats in Magadh. The Janata Dal (United) could not even win a single seat in four (Nawada, Jehanabad, Aurangabad, and Arwal) out of the five Magadh districts. In the fifth, Gaya Ji, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Hindustani Awam Morcha-Secular (HAM-S) saved face for the NDA.

Magadh, once a stronghold of the NDA, belied its expectations in the previous two Assembly elections.

As the NDA faces the challenge of regaining lost turf, the Grand Alliance is going all out to maintain its dominance for the third consecutive term.

Both the NDA and the Grand Alliance have given Magadh a special focus and have changed the candidates for several seats.

The NDA has also left some constituencies for the Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas (LJP-RV) – Bodhgaya, Sherghati, Nawada, Govindpur, Makhdumpur, and Obra. The Chirag Paswan-led LJP-RV contested alone in 2020.



**Crucial segment:** Women voters will play an important role in the Assembly polls in Bihar, including in the Magadh region. AMIT BHELARI

**PM Narendra Modi will address a public meeting in the Magadh region on November 7**

In the 2020 election, the Rashtriya Janata Dal's (RJD) Prakash Veer won from the Rajauli Assembly constituency in Nawada district, but he has not been given ticket this time.

In another change, the RJD has fielded Suday Yadav, the sitting MLA of Jehanabad, from the Kurtha constituency in Arwal district. Rahul Sharma, son of veteran Bhumihar leader Jagdish Sharma, has been asked to contest from Jehanabad by the party; he was earlier associated with the JD(U) and HAM(S).

The LJP(RV) is fielding Vimal Rajbanshi from Rajauli under the NDA's seat-sharing arrangement.

The RJD MLA from Nawada, Vibha Devi, is now contesting as a JD(U) candidate.

Anil Singh is contesting again from Hisua on the BJP ticket, although he finished second in the last election. Sitting RJD MLA Mohammad Kamran, after being denied ticket, is contesting as an Independent from Govindpur in Nawada. The RJD has fielded Purnima Yadav, who contested for the JD(U) in the last election.

Union Minister Jitam Ram Manjhi, who hails from Gaya Ji, is a prominent NDA leader in Magadh.

The HAM(S) has announced candidates for five out of the six seats it secured in the seat sharing.

The NDA's decision to give 11 out of the 26 seats in Magadh to the LJP(RV) and HAM(S) reflects its decision to bank on Scheduled Caste (SC) votes.

In the previous election, out of the 10 Assembly seats in Gaya Ji, the BJP won Gaya Town and Wazirganj. Mr. Manjhi's HAM(S) won Imamganj, Barachatti, and Tekari, whereas the RJD secured victory in Sherghati, Gurua, Bodhgaya, Belaganj, and Atri. The JD(U) failed to open its account, but it made a comeback by winning Belaganj in the 2024 byelection. Currently, the NDA holds six of the 10 seats in Gaya Ji.

In Gaya Ji district, the BJP, HAM(S), and JD(U) have two, three, and one Assembly seats, respectively, whereas the RJD has four. In Arwal, the RJD and the Communist Party of India Marxist-Leninist Liberation (CPI-ML-L) won one seat each. In Jehanabad, the RJD and CPI(ML-L) won two and one seats, respectively. In Aurangabad, the RJD and Congress shared four and two seats, respectively. In Nawada, the RJD won three, and the Congress and BJP won one seat each.

The RJD and its alliance partners are banking upon their core voters, the Muslim and Yadav communities, which dominate most of the rural areas in the Magadh region. This is the RJD's traditional vote bank. Their numbers are particularly high in districts including Gaya Ji, Nawada, and Jehanabad, and in Gaya Town.

The JD(U) and BJP's traditional voter base includes the Kurmi, Koeri, Brahmin, Bhumihar, and Rajput communities in Aurangabad, Jehanabad, Arwal, and Nawada.

There was a time in 2010 when the NDA won 24 out of 26 seats in Magadh. The RJD won only Belaganj, and one seat was won by an independent candidate. In 2010, the JD (U) won 16 seats and the BJP won eight.

In 2015, the Grand Alliance made a comeback. The RJD won 10 seats, the JD(U) six, the Congress four, the BJP five, and the HAM(S) won one seat.

Caste equations and the image of the local leadership play an important role in the Magadh region.

Women voters are expected to play an important role in this Assembly election, including in the Magadh region. The ₹10,000 provided as financial assistance by the Nitish Kumar government has been welcomed.

"We are happy with the money Nitish-*ji* has given to us. He has done a lot of work for women," Neelam Devi, an SC resident of the Karpi block in Arwal, said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a public meeting in the Magadh region on November 7.

## 'NDA wants to form govt. in Bihar through vote *chori*'

**Press Trust of India**
BETTIAH

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday alleged that the NDA wanted to form the government in Bihar through 'vote *chori*' and claimed that the names of 65 lakh people, including women, have been deleted from the electoral rolls through the special intensive revision (SIR).

Addressing a rally in the Valmiki Nagar constituency in West Champaran district, the Congress general secretary said that the current situation in the country was akin to the British Raj, and raised suspicion whether it would continue to witness elections in the future.

"NDA will destroy everything... It is not clear whether there will be elections in the future... Chase them out of power," Ms. Vadra told people attending the rally.

Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she said that he seemed more concerned about the absence of RJD leader and INDIA bloc's chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav's photograph from a Congress poster than controlling crime and corruption, and educating the youth.

She said that people of Bihar would receive free treatment of up to ₹25 lakh if the INDIA bloc was voted to power. "We will try our best to give at least one government job per poor family... We will fill up lakhs of vacancies in various departments," she added.

## INBRIEF



### Mansukh Mandaviya says Pak. misuses international forums

Countering Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari's claim that India was weaponising war, Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in Doha on Wednesday that Pakistan was abusing an international forum. Mr. Mandaviya was addressing the Session of Second World Summit for Social Development. "We take strong objection to certain unjustified references made by President of Pakistan yesterday (Tuesday) on India in his remarks. This is an abuse of an international forum to distract the world from focusing on social development," he said. Mr. Mandaviya added that Pakistan has no *locus standi* to comment on India's internal affairs.

### 7 held for assaulting doctor, throwing black liquid on face

Seven men have been arrested in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh for allegedly assaulting a senior government doctor and throwing a black liquid on his face, reportedly over poor hospital facilities and private practice, the police said on Wednesday. The incident occurred on Monday morning, when district civil surgeon and head of the district hospital S. B. Khare, 64, was on his way to his private clinic. All accused, including prime suspect, Vivek Pandey, were arrested on Tuesday, Superintendent of Police Aman Mishra told *The Hindu*.

# Police file case in Bilaspur train crash

Police say Railways' findings that the crew failed to control the passenger train at a red signal will be part of their probe; Commissioner of Railway Safety will begin investigation, says government

**Shubhomoy Sikdar**
RAIPUR



**Probe on:** The investigation will commence in the office of the Divisional Railway Manager, Bilaspur. Anyone with information regarding the accident can appear to give evidence or send it in writing. PTI

The Chhattisgarh Police on Wednesday registered a case of death by negligence and other offences against unknown persons in connection with the collision of a passenger train and a stationary goods train in Bilaspur on Tuesday. Eleven people were killed in the accident, the Railways said.

Superintendent of Police, Bilaspur, Rajnesh Singh said an FIR was registered on the basis of a memo submitted by the Railways on Tuesday. He said an initial probe by the Railways, which found that the crew had failed to control the passenger train at a red signal, will be part of the police investigation.

**Signal violation**

The report, prepared by five experts, found that the "crew of train no. 68733 (MEMU local) failed to control the train at danger signal no. AJ-5 and collided with the rear brake van (last coach) of train no. N/MDIT (goods train)". It said that the crew committed a "Signal Passed at Danger" violation – an instance of overshooting a red signal.

The train's loco pilot died in the crash while the injured assistant loco pilot remained hospitalised and unfit to give a statement till Wednesday evening.

"We received the initial report, but these are *prima facie* technical points and are part of our investigation. The Commissioner of Railway Safety will now look into the cause of the accident and provide a detailed report during which police officers will also be present," Mr. Singh said.

He said the FIR was registered under Sections 106 (1) (causing death by negligence), 125 (A) (causing hurt by an act endangering the life or personal safety of others) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and Sections 153, 154 and 175 of the Railways Act, 1989 (all dealing with negligence and endangering safety of persons on a railway carriage).

The Central government said that B.K. Mishra, Commissioner of Railway Safety (under the Ministry of Civil Aviation), South Eastern Circle, Kolkata, would conduct an inquiry under Section 113 of the Indian Railways Act.

" This investigation will commence in the office of Divisional Railway Manager, Bilaspur... . Any person having information regarding this accident and the facts related to it and willing to give evidence can appear and give evidence... or can send information in writing... ," the government said in a press release.

A railway spokesperson said the probe will begin formally on Thursday.

## Parents dead, toddler stares at bleak future

**Shubhomoy Sikdar**
RAIPUR

Archana Yadav sounded overwhelmed while talking over the phone. As she sobbed and spoke, the cries of a toddler and the commotion of a hospital corridor muffled her voice. She was waiting for the CT scan report of her nephew Rishi.

Rishi, around two years old, had a "miraculous" escape but lost his parents and grandmother in Tuesday's train accident in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur.

His parents, Arjun Yadav and Shila, and his maternal grandmother Manwati were among the 11 people killed in the accident. His photographs did the rounds on social media helping the family trace him a few hours after the tragedy.

"Life can change in an instant," Ms. Yadav said. "I spoke to Arjun an hour before the accident. He was returning with his family from Champa where he had gone to a hospital for treatment. He told me he was still on the train and was just a few kilometres short of Bilaspur. We expected him to return soon but that wasn't to be," she said.

Ms. Yadav was worried about Rishi's health as he sustained injuries on his head and legs.

But the future bothers her. She is concerned about her nephew's upbringing as Arjun, an autorickshaw driver, was a man of modest means and his death will saddle their elder brother Ajay with more responsibilities.

**₹10 lakh ex-gratia**

The Indian Railways has announced an ex-gratia of ₹10 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased, and the State government has promised ₹5 lakh.

In Bilaspur, Mr. Ajay was waiting for the bodies. "This is extremely tragic, and negligence has caused such a big accident," he told presspersons. He said the entire family had fallen apart after the accident, and urged the government to provide assistance.

Gopi Vastrakar, the son of Pramila Vastrakar who was on the train, said his mother was visiting his elder sister in Bilaspur after a long gap.

# Stubble-burning area in Punjab 20% lower than last year's in three major districts: data

**Jacob Koshy**
NEW DELHI



**Inferno footprint:** Punjab's burnt area rose from 15.4 lakh hectares in 2022 to about 19 lakh in 2023, and stayed similar in 2024. ANI

While instances of stubble burning in Punjab in October were at a five-year low, the area that was actually set afire in three major districts – Amritsar, Taran Taran and Ferozpur – was likely 20% less than last year's, according to data sourced by *The Hindu* from a satellite-imagery firm and a senior official formerly with the Punjab Pollution Control Board.

However, the first fortnight of November is historically when farm fires in Punjab peak and there may well be a surge in the burnt area.

The government regularly shares daily data on the fire count but does not disclose burnt area. The link between fire counts and burnt area is significant for an accurate picture on efforts to curb farm fires, which in previous years have contributed as much as 35% of the daily winter pollution load in Delhi.

Last November, *The Hindu* reported – triggering the Supreme Court to order increased scrutiny – that Punjab's claims of a reduction in farm fires, by publicising only fire counts caught on satellite, did not capture reality. The area actually burnt in Punjab had increased in 2023 (19.1 lakh hectares) compared to 2022 (15.4 lakh hectares). This was likely due to farmers burning stubble after satellite-passes to avoid detection. In 2024, the burnt area was nearly the same as 2023, at 19.4 lakh hectares.

This year, satellite imagery of farm fires over Punjab only began emerging around October 10 – almost a month-long delay – due to heavy rain and flooding during most of September, contributing to a delayed harvest. Between October 13 and 28, the three districts were responsible for 515 fire events detected by satellite, about 55% of the 933 such events in the State. During the period, 2.46 lakh hectares were burnt in these districts, according to an analysis shared with *The Hindu* by Noida-based Suhora Technologies, a space-analytics company with expertise in using satellite imagery for a variety of applications.

Krunesh Garg, who had served as the Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board, until September 2025 and has for years monitored and implemented measures to address stubble burning, told *The Hindu* that data with him showed "the three districts at the same time last year reported 3.15 lakh hectares of burnt area". "If it is indeed 2.46 lakh hectares, that is a reduction and is certainly a positive sign...it shows that measures implemented in the last five years have started to show results," he added. He said that Amritsar and Taran Taran belt (northeast Punjab) typically saw fires start early and conclude by October-end. "I believe whatever burning that usually happens in those regions has already concluded," he noted.

*The Hindu* couldn't establish what proportion of cultivated area in the three districts of Amritsar, Taran Taran and Firozpur has been harvested.

In the week from October 28 to November 4, fire counts have sharply spiked from 993 to 2,839 – nearly three times higher than the cumulative October figure. Still, this is nearly half of the fire count logged at the same time last year and about a fifth of figures from 2023. The spike was attributed to the window for sowing wheat – the rabi crop – fast closing and available till November 15.

## Chinese varsities dominate QS Asia rankings; India slips

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**This year, a total of 1,526 universities have been ranked, of which 557 are new**

China has overtaken India as the most-represented location in the QS World University Rankings: Asia 2026, according to the rankings released this week.

While India added 132 universities and institutes to the list this year, taking its tally to a record high of 294, China added 259 institutions, bringing its total to 394.

In the last two editions, India had the highest number of universities and institutes in the rankings, ahead of China. This year, a total of 1,526 universities were ranked, of which 557 are new entries.

**Among the top 100**

Seven Indian institutions feature in the top 100, with the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, ranked highest at 59, followed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), and the IITs in Madras, Bombay, Kharagpur, and Kanpur, along with the University of Delhi. China, meanwhile, has 25 universities in the top 100. While India retained the same number of institutes in the top 100 as last year, their rankings declined. The IIT-Delhi slipped from 44 in the 2025 rankings to 59 this year.

Delhi University fell from 81 to 95, the IISc from 62 to 64, and the IIT Madras from 56 to 70.

The top 10 positions in the 2026 rankings were dominated by universities from Hong Kong, Singapore, and China.

## BJP to mark 150 years of *Vande Mataram*

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday announced that *Vande Mataram* would be collectively sung across the country on November 7, the day Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend one such event at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here.

At a press conference, BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh said the party would organise programmes at the district and State levels to commemorate the 150th anniversary of *Vande Mataram* from November 7 to 26, coinciding with Constitution Day.

The celebrations will take place at 150 key sites of national significance, including the Kargil War Memorial, and nearly 1,100 locations in West Bengal.

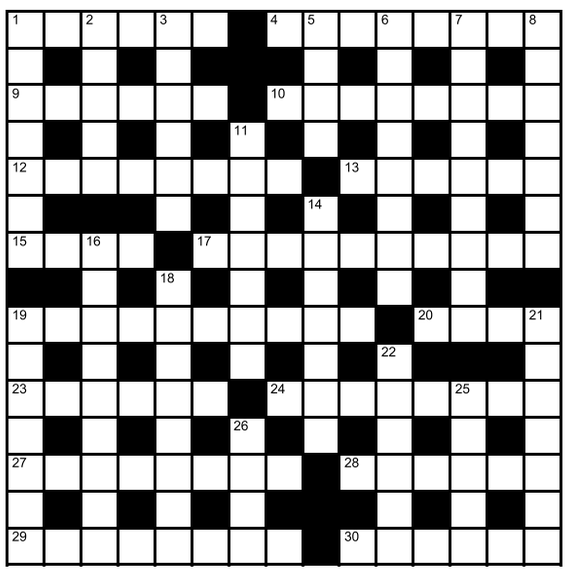
*(With PTI inputs)*

## TH CROSSWORD + 14632

(set by Karaoke)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



**Across**

**1** Child in the making more by mutation (6)
**4** Trusted friend at club receives criticism (8)
**9** Hire ruthless gang to invade vacant estate (6)
**10** Battered a follower with clue finally, worried over play on words (6,2)
**12** Division protecting tower closely (3,2,3)
**13** Kick bonnet, kick bottoms and cry (3-3)
**15** Share equally? Not very well (4)
**17** Mischievous sprite vandalising Nehru Place (10)
**19** Official in a hurry to smoke no-name cigarette (6,4)
**20** Type of workers' protest essentially in European city (4)
**23** Pay tribute to sailor rescuing belugas heartily, mid-sea (6)
**24** Termagant, most tough about lowest point (8)
**27** Turns a blind eye to criminal with blades, I hear (8)
**28** We join college old boys' network (6)
**29** Rubbish can be reportedly in a stew sadly (5,3)
**30** They are brutal and live like tough stuff (6)

**Down**

**1** See-saw playing with husband? Nonsense (7)
**2** Lady of high rank, say, hugged by beggar (5)
**3** Niyogi cycling with woman proficient in physical exercises (6)
**5** Deplores deceptive plan, they say (4)
**6** Hint about tonic preparation, it hardly has any effect (3,2,3)
**7** Spooner announces "Polish floors, idiots" (9)
**8** Fever running but no infectious disease primarily? - It may frequently happen in India (7)
**11** French city using old arsenal to destroy Russia at last (7)
**14** Maybe second or third alternative number in phone (7)
**16** They rescue by pumping current and oxygen finally to the almost dead (9)
**18** Financial assistance rejected to ethnic group for attack (8)
**19** Fight and triumph, reject left and right, it continuously generates funds (4,3)
**21** Substitute in second round compilation (7)
**22** Model's journey without essential authority in Tube (6)
**25** Drinks in daybreaks, not active for office primarily (5)
**26** Shop selling prepared foods in capital, neither new nor hot! (4)

## SUDOKU

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

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**Solution to previous puzzle**

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**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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

## FAITH

### Rules to follow at a temple

We are told that the *archa* form of Lord Narayana is important and that we should visit temples as often as we can. What are some of the basic rules we should follow when we go to a temple? We should bathe before we go to a temple. However, the word 'bath' means not only bathing the body to get rid of dirt, grime, and dust but also cleaning the mind to get rid of impure thoughts. We should not go to the temple harbouring ill feelings against anyone, explained Velukkudi Krishnan, in a discourse.

Once we reach the temple, we must first prostrate before the *dvajasthamba*. We must then visit the *sannidhis* of the Azhvars Acharyas, Viswaksena, Anjaneya, Garudan, the Goddess of the temple, and finally go to the main sanctum. We must not go to the Lord's sanctum first, before worshipping at the other *sannidhis*. We must not go empty-handed to a temple; we must take flowers, or fruits, or a coconut and some betel leaves. We must not see ourselves as important. Our complaint about having to wait in long queues comes from the feeling that we are important and should not be kept waiting. We must not speak loudly inside a temple. We should keep children from being noisy. When Vyasa was writing his Mahabharata, he found the noise made by the river Saraswathi annoying. So he ordered the river to go underground. The river, which went underground, then emerged only in Prayag, at the Triveni Sangama. We must circumambulate the *sannidhi* at a slow pace. If an Acharya happens to be visiting at the same time when we visit a temple, we must not try to overtake him. We must walk behind him, for when the Acharya receives the Lord's blessings, some of them will come to us too.

# ‘Highest’ FPI sell-off signals waning confidence in India

Unless corporate performance improves significantly, foreign investors won’t find India attractive for investments, say experts; tepid corporate profitability has more to do than just stock returns

**Ashokamithran T.**

Foreign investors have sold ₹1.5 lakh crore worth of Indian stocks as of November 4, 2025, according to NSDL data. Continued selling will make this the largest sell-off in about 20 years.

“India benefitted from investors leaving China, but this benefit has run out,” said Mike Coop, Chief Investment Officer, EMEA at Morningstar Investment Management.

“I think India was like the mirror image of China when the latter collapsed, and people thought it was uninvestable. India boomed and benefited from the reshoring from China to India. We have reached the end of that and probably, that’s not a great starting point for Indian equities. The valuation level has not been positive as it was,” he said.

“On a PE basis, Indian markets have remained expensive relatively to peers in most years [in the past nine years],” said Dhananjay Sinha, CEO and co-head of Institutional Research at Systematix, an Indian financial services firm. Price to earnings (PE) ratio is a measure used to determine if the price of a stock justifies its earnings to the shareholder. “Currently, Indian stocks are trading 22 times their earnings,” Mr. Sinha said.



**Brief win:** India benefitted from investors leaving China, but this benefit has ‘run out’, says Morningstar Investment’s Coop. REUTERS

A section of experts though believes that the market is past the stage of expensive valuations and may now be ready for better returns. “Over the last year, returns have been weak in India, whereas returns in many other parts of the world have been much stronger,” Pranjul Bhandari, Chief Economist ASEAN, HSBC, said.

“Today, we are seeing our relative valuation actually going back to long term average. It’s not looking too rich,” she added.

“This is because investors have understood that earnings growth can’t be in teens when the nominal gross domestic product (GDP) growth is in single digits. A more realistic expectation may trigger foreign investors to return and an improvement in market returns might be around the corner,” Ms. Bhandari said.

Despite divergent views, there is consensus among experts that corporate India’s profits must grow at a faster pace. For FPI participation to revive, either corporate earnings growth must quicken to 15-20% or valuations must compress significantly, Mr. Sinha said. “Currently, trailing earnings over the past 4-6 quarters are flattish, while forward expectations for the next two years are only approximately 10-11%; hardly enticing, especially amid visible downside risks,” he added.

**FDIs trend lower**

While FPIs are selling, net foreign direct investments (FDI) also trend lower. Total foreign investment, which includes portfolio and direct investment as a share of gross domestic product (GDP), hit a 25-year low in 2024-25, he said. What makes this more concerning is that, FPIs who invest in India based on their conviction in the economy’s long-term growth redeemed for the eighth consecutive week as of October 31, 2025, according to Sunil Jain, V-P of Elara Capital.

A low-performing corporate sector has consequences beyond just the stock market. “Elusive private capital expenditure and slowing household incomes are inter-linked trends that have curtailed private demand and lending growth. These issues, persisting for years and recently intensifying, have been partly offset by government spending on infrastructure and household transfers. Amid intensifying de-globalisation, India’s structural growth outlook faces considerable risks,” Mr. Sinha reiterated.

Adding credence to his views, the World Bank, in its World Development Report 2024, highlighted the need for sweeping institutional reforms in the absence of which developing economies like India can run the risk of slowing down before it becomes a high income economy, a phenomenon that economists call “The Middle Income Trap.”

That being said, conversations about middle income trap happen all over emerging economies in Southeast Asian economies and is not exclusive to India. With policy reforms, India can reduce the risk of structural economic slowdown, Ms. Bhandari asserted.

# Agri tech a ‘big part’ of FTA negotiations with India: McClay

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**
NEW DELHI

Agricultural technology sharing and methods to increase output are a “big part” of the negotiations between New Zealand and India on a free trade agreement (FTA), New Zealand’s Minister for Trade and Investment Todd McClay said on Wednesday.

India and New Zealand began the fourth round of negotiations towards an FTA on Monday, with the Indian team visiting Auckland until Friday. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal also visited New Zealand on Wednesday to discuss various issues with Mr. McClay.

Speaking to reporters in Auckland along with Mr. Goyal, Mr. McClay said that New Zealand had been innovating over the years and working with its farmers to find ways to produce more and to increase its farmers’ incomes.

“Prime Minister [Christopher] Luxon has directed me in our discussions and negotiations to make sure New Zealand does its part to help Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi meet his commitment to increasing the earnings of Indian farmers by 50% by 2030,” Mr. McClay said.

“So a lot of the science that we have developed here to help them produce more is available to us in cooperation with India and that’s been a big part of our discussion around the negotiation so far,” he added.

Negotiations with India regarding agriculture have been tricky as the Indian government has been steadfast in protecting the interests of its farmers.



Union Minister Piyush Goyal with New Zealand Trade Minister McClay. FILE PHOTO

This has been a speed bump in negotiations with the U.S., European Union, and even the United Kingdom.

**‘Challenges remain’**

“It’s fair to say that on both sides, there are always challenges in a trade negotiation,” Mr. McClay acknowledged.

“What Minister [Piyush] Goyal and I have agreed is that rather than our negotiators arguing, we will find solutions together. And so far, I think we’ve made great progress.”

Neither Minister was forthcoming about a deadline by which the deal would be finalised.

“I don’t think we ever discuss deadlines,” Mr. Goyal said.

“There never has been a timeframe for any free trade agreement that we have negotiated,” Mr. Goyal asserted.

## INBRIEF




### Nvidia among investors to join India Deep Tech Alliance

Nvidia on Wednesday joined Indian and U.S. investors backing the South Asian country’s deep-tech startups as the group added new members and secured more than $850 million in capital commitments to close a big funding gap. Qualcomm Ventures and Kalaari Capital are among the new investors joining the Alliance. It was launched in September with a $1 billion initial commitment to support companies in industries such as space, AI and robotics. REUTERS

### Aurobindo Pharma Q2 net profit rises 4% to ₹848 crore

Aurobindo Pharma reported Q2 consolidated net profit rose nearly 4% to ₹848 crore compared with ₹817 crore a year earlier aided by higher formulations revenue. The net profit came on a more than 6% increase in revenue from operations to ₹8,286 crore (₹7,796 crore). “Q2 has been another steady quarter for Aurobindo, demonstrating resilience of our base business and the depth of product portfolio,” said Vice-chairman and MD K.Nithyananda Reddy.

### Grasim Industries Q2 PAT surges 76% to ₹553 crore

Grasim Industries Ltd., a part of the Aditya Birla Group, reported a 76% year-on-year (YoY) growth in Q2 consolidated net profit to ₹553 crore. Consolidated revenue rose 17% to ₹39,900 crore, largely driven by growth in Building Materials and Chemicals businesses. Standalone revenue rose 26% to ₹9,610 crore, led by growth from new businesses: Paints and B2B E-commerce coupled with stable core businesses: Cellulosic Fibres and Chemicals, the company said.

# In a ‘workforce review,’ IBM to lay off thousands globally; may hit hundreds in India

**Sanjana B**
BENGALURU

IBM on Tuesday announced layoffs potentially impacting thousands globally, though the firm said it would affect a low single-digit percentage.

Sources told *businessline* India is likely to be among impacted regions.



IBM website lists up to 2,468 job openings across India.

**No significant impact**

The country accounts for 30-35% of IBM’s global workforce of more than 2,70,000, making it one of the firm’s largest employee bases. Sources said India would be affected by the layoffs, though the impact is not expected to be as significant as in markets such as the U.S., given its lower-cost base. A few hundred people are likely to be impacted in India.

“We routinely review our workforce... and at times rebalance accordingly,” the company said.

The layoffs come amid a broader global tech slowdown.

While IBM has not explicitly attributed this decision to AI, many of its peers have let go of thousands of staff this year as they pivoted to AI-led efficiency and automation. This includes Oracle, Meta, Microsoft, Intel and also Indian IT firms like TCS.

However, IBM’s website currently lists up to 2,468 job openings across India.

In Q3 2025, IBM reported $16.3 billion revenue, up 7% in constant currency terms with gross profit rising 11% to $9.4 billion.

*(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)*

# Will run AI queries on Indian data centres: Microsoft

**Aroon Deep**
NEW DELHI

Microsoft said it would give its productivity suite’s customers in India to have AI work processed within the country itself starting by the end of 2025.

The firm said “in-country data processing for customers’ Microsoft 365 Copilot interactions [would be] available in 15 countries around the world,” with India, Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom getting the option by the end of the year.

The announcement is a tonal shift from large tech firms’ resistance over the last few years against proposed data localisation mandates, such as India’s in 2018. Since then, Microsoft and other firms have dramatically increased their data centre footprint around the world, with India seeing a surge of investments, and as regulated industries – such as finance – have been required to keep data within Indian borders, data residency has turned from cumbersome requirement to a sweetener for cloud and data centre providers.

**KERALA WATER AUTHORITY**
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

KWA-SEWC/KCHI/56/2025-DB2 Date : 04.11.2025

E-Tender No. 04/2025-26/SE/PPD/KCH

AMRUT.2.0-Design, Construction, Commissioning, Trial Running, Operation and Maintenance (for a period of 5 years) of 5 MLD STP at Alissery in Alappuzha District along with Design, Construction, Testing and Commissioning of 11.87 km Sewage Collection Network in Ward No.34 and 35 of Alappuzha Municipality and allied works. Details of the tender will be published in the website https://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in. Cost of Tender form: Rs. 19,518/- (indusive of GST), EMD: Rs. 5,00,000/-, Date and time of Opening Tender: 11/12/2025 3.30 pm, Last date of receipt of tender: 10/12/2025 3.00 pm, Phone:8547638502, E-mail- seppdregionkochi@gmail.com

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, PPDIU & Sewerage Circle, KWA, Kochi - 11

**WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED**
**(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)**
WBSETCL
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in

NIT No.: CE/CTD/WBSETCL/Procurement/25-26/06 Date: 06.11.2025

E-Tender is invited for procurement of DC Regulatory Source along with associated items as per technical specification. Bid documents can be downloaded from **06.11.2025, 06:00 P.M.** and bids shall be submitted (online) up to **03:00 P.M., 05.12.2025**.

Visit the following websites - www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.

ICA- T22185(3)/2025

**KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E TENDER NOTICE**

O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Electrical Circle, Manjeri, Malappuram

E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_815130_1 PAC: Rs. 9,09,61,709/-, Last Date: 21.11.2025 05.00 pm
E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_818175_1 PAC: Rs. 8,34,88,165/-, Last Date: 22.11.2025 05.00 pm
E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_817921_1 PAC: Rs. 20,05,67,660/-, Last Date: 22.11.2025 05.00 pm
E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_817919_1 PAC: Rs. 9,46,59,547/-, Last Date: 22.11.2025 05.00 pm

O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Electrical Circle, Tirur, Malappuram

E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_817773_1 PAC:Rs. 43,48,14,618/-, Last Date: 24.11.2025 05.00 pm

Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in, Ref : PR/MC1/E587/E-tender/2025

**NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES**
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

**NBEMS DIPLOMA FINAL THEORY EXAMINATION – DECEMBER 2025**

**NOTICE**

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the NBEMS Diploma Final Theory Examinations on **06th, 07th and 08th January 2026.**

The online applications are being invited from **06th (03:00 PM onwards) to 26th November 2025 (Till 11:55 PM)** at NBEMS website
**https://natboard.edu.in/viewnbeexam?exam=diploma**

Candidate Care Support : +91-7996165333
• Helpline Portal on applicant login page
• Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

# Sun Pharma Q2 net rises 2.6% to ₹3,118 cr.

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, for the second quarter ended September 30, reported a 2.6% growth in consolidated net profit to ₹3,118 crore.

Consolidated sales income for the quarter grew 8.6% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹14,405 crore.

Kirti Ganorkar, managing director, said, “India, emerging markets and rest of world led our growth for the period.

“U.S. sales of innovative medicines have surpassed generics for the first time during the quarter.”

“We remain focused on broadening our portfolio while strengthening in-house talent pool and execution capability,” he added




Consolidated sales income grew 8.6% to ₹14,405 crore.

Formulation sales in India were ₹4,735 crore, up 11%. India formulation sales accounted for 32.9% of the total consolidated sales for the quarter

# City Union Bank Q2 net profit rises 15% to ₹329 cr.

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

City Union Bank reported a 15% rise in net profit to ₹329 crore for the second quarter ended September 30. Total income also increased to ₹1,912 crore from ₹1,660 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal, City Union Bank said in a filing.

Interest income improved to ₹1,653 crore (₹1,434 crore). Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) eased to 2.42% of gross advances from 3.54%. Net NPAs or bad loans came down to 0.9% compared with 1.62% a year ago.

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU**
**HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT**
**NABARD & Rural Roads Circle, Chengalpattu**
**SHORT TENDER NOTICE**

**Short Tender Notice No. 35 / 2025-2026/ SDO / Dt.04.11.2025.**

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu Percentage **Tender through online only** will be received upto **25.11.2025, 12.00** hours by the **Superintending Engineer(H) NABARD & Rural Roads, Chengalpattu Circle for One** road work in respect of **Cuddalore(H)** NABARD & Rural Roads Division under **Upgradation of Panchayat Union roads and Panchayat Roads to ODR Standards.**

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, tender documents and all other details are available from **07.11.2025** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in**. If any Changes / Corrections / Amendments etc to the tender, it will be published on the above Government website only.

**Superintending Engineer(H)**
**NABARD & Rural Roads Circle, Chengalpattu-1**

DIPR/ 5986 /TENDER/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU**
**HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT**
**THANJAVUR (H), CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE CIRCLE**
**TENDER NOTICE**
**T. N.No. 40/2025-26 / HDO/DATED:31.10.2025**

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Percentage tender through online under Two Cover System** will be received up to **10.12.2025, 11.30** hours (server time) by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Thanjavur Circle for **CMRDP 2025-26** One work **(TNJ-103) Pertaining to Thiruvarur (H) C&M Division.**

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD (EMD through online payment Gateway of the Portal only) availability of tender document and all other details are available from **07.11.2025** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** If any Changes / Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only

**Superintending Engineer (H),**
**C&M Circle, Thanjavur.**

DIPR/5971/Tender/2025

BORDEAUX

## Man rams car into pedestrians in France, wounding 10: prosecutor



REUTERS

A 35-year-old man from Oleron on Wednesday deliberately rammed his car into pedestrians and cyclists on the French island, injuring 10 people, four seriously. Police subdued him with a taser as he tried to set his car on fire. When arrested, the man cried "God is the greatest" in Arabic, the prosecutor said. AFP

PORT SUDAN

## Funeral attack on city in Sudan's Kordofan region kills 40, says UN



AFP

A funeral attack in El-Obeid, North Kordofan, killed 40 people, the UN said on Wednesday, as Sudan's conflict deepens. The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), at war with the military since 2023, was preparing to launch an assault in Kordofan after capturing El Fasher, the last army stronghold in Darfur region. AFP

LAHORE

## Army chief Munir 'most oppressive dictator' in Pak.'s history, says Imran



AP

Imran Khan, jailed former Pakistan Prime Minister, called Army chief Asim Munir the "most oppressive dictator" in the country's history and a "mentally unstable" man. He accused the Army chief of tyranny, citing May 9 and Muridke crackdowns. He said his wife is kept in solitary confinement merely to put pressure on him. PTI

WASHINGTON

## At least 9 dead after UPS cargo plane crashes near U.S. airport



AP

A UPS cargo plane on Tuesday crashed and exploded after take-off from Louisville International Airport in U.S., killing at least nine and injuring several. The MD-11 aircraft was bound for Hawaii. The cause of the crash is under investigation by the FAA and the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). AFP

# Democrats win major elections in early test of Trump's second term

Democrats cruised to comfortable victories in the Virginia and New Jersey Governors' elections; Pennsylvanians picked new state Supreme Court Justices while California voted for Proposition 50, the plan to redraw congressional districts

**Agence France-Presse**
**Press Trust of India**
WASHINGTON/NEW YORK



**Turning the tide:** New Jersey Democratic Governor-elect Mikie Sherrill and Lt. Gov.-elect Dale Caldwell celebrate on Tuesday. AP

Moderate Democrats Abigail Spanberger and Mikie Sherrill cruised to comfortable victories in the Virginia and New Jersey Governors' elections on Tuesday, on an election night seen as a referendum on Donald Trump's second presidential term.

Pitting centrist Democrats against Trump-aligned Republicans, both elections were seen as signalling whether middle-of-the-road voters had made peace with the President's radical cost-slashing agenda – or plan to give his party a bloody nose in 2026.

Mr. Trump has driven a steamroller through the federal bureaucracy since returning to office in January, shuttering entire agencies and cutting an estimated 200,000 jobs even before the government shutdown. Ms. Spanberger's win in Virginia – which is second only to California in the size of its federal workforce – was no surprise, as polls had shown her holding a steady lead of seven to 12 points throughout the campaign.

The former CIA officer and three-term congresswoman was projected to beat Republican Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears, a Marine veteran and staunch Trump ally, by a comfortable margin that makes her Virginia's first-ever female Governor.

In New Jersey, Democratic former Navy pilot Mikie Sherrill was also seen as the favourite, although she was locked in a closer battle with Republican businessman Jack Ciattarelli. On a pivotal day in US democracy, with elections at various levels of government taking place across the country, Pennsylvanians were picking new state supreme court justices while California was delivering its verdict on redistricting measure Proposition 50.

California Governor Gavin Newsom spearheaded the plan to redraw congressional districts in response to Mr. Trump pressuring Texas into a rare and contentious mid-decade redistricting. The Texas move, aimed at yielding five more Republican seats in the closely divided U.S. Congress, would likely be cancelled out by approval for Proposition 50 in left-leaning California.

# China extends suspension of extra tariffs on U.S. goods

**Agence France-Presse**
BEIJING



Xi Jinping

China said on Wednesday it would extend a suspension of additional tariffs on U.S. goods for one year, making official an agreement reached in talks between Presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump last week.

The two leaders held talks in South Korea at the end of October that effectively prolonged a delicate truce for a year, after several rounds of trade negotiations in recent months.

A statement published on Wednesday on the Ministry of Finance website, citing Beijing's State Council, said that "for one year the 24% tariff on U.S. goods will continue to be suspended, (and) a 10% tariff on U.S. goods will remain".

The statement said the pause follows "the consensus reached in the China-U.S. economic and trade consultations" and would be effective from November 10.

Mr. Trump on Tuesday formalised an agreement that Washington would cut its additional tariffs on Chinese imports from 20% to 10%, also effective from November 10.

Temperatures have spiked between the world's two biggest economies this year as Washington and Beijing imposed escalating tariffs on each other's products.

At one point, duties on both sides reached prohibitive triple-digit levels, hampering trade.

The two have been engaged in an uneasy truce since, as top economic leaders met several times for talks in recent months, with tensions surging over export controls and other issues.

Beyond the statement covering the blanket tariffs, China also published several statements on Wednesday suspending related measures hitting different sectors.

That move was a response to Mr. Trump doubling additional tariffs on Chinese goods over Beijing's handling of fentanyl – now back to 10%.

# 'Ukrainian troops in Pokrovsk, Kupiansk should surrender'

**Reuters**
MOSCOW

Russia said on Wednesday that Ukrainian troops in the battered cities of Pokrovsk and Kupiansk were encircled and should surrender, as they had no chance of survival otherwise.

Russia has been trying to capture Pokrovsk, dubbed "the gateway to Donetsk", since 2024 as part of an attempt to take the entirety of the Donbas region, of which Ukrainian forces still control about 10%, or 5,000 sq. km.

In a break with the frontal assaults which Russian forces used against other cities, Russia has used pincer movements to almost encircle Ukrainian forces in both Pokrovsk and Kupiansk while small highly-mobile units and drones disrupted logistics and sowed chaos behind Ukrainian lines.

Russia's military says it now controls more than 19% of Ukraine, or some 1,16,000 sq. km.

# Nepal's 10 left parties merge to form single party ahead of general elections

**Press Trust of India**
KATHMANDU

Ten left parties, including the CPN (Maoist Centre) and the CPN (Unified Socialist), on Wednesday merged to form the Nepali Communist Party, months ahead of the general elections scheduled for March 5.

The unification announcement was made at a mass gathering at Bhrikutimandap here.

With the merger, the Maoist Centre, which led the decade-long insurgency, has dropped the term "Maoist" from its official name.

Ahead of the formal unification ceremony, a grand procession was held. The alliance has been formed against the backdrop of the recent youth-led Gen Z protests against corruption, nepotism and political disorder.

The unified party will be called the Nepali Communist Party, with a five-pointed star as its election symbol.

CPN (Maoist Centre) chairperson and former Prime Minister Pushpakamal Dahal 'Prachanda' will act as coordinator of the new party, while CPN (Unified Socialist) chief Madhav Kumar Nepal will serve as co-coordinator.

**The party will be called the Nepali Communist Party, with a five-pointed star as its symbol**

The party will follow Marxism-Leninism as its guiding ideology and convene its national convention within six months.

"This day, Nov. 5, 2025, has been registered as an important historic day for the Nepalese communist movement. Today, not one or two, but ten communist parties have been united to form a grand organisation with the name 'Nepali Communist Party'," Mr. Prachanda said, addressing the unity conference.

Mr. Prachanda also expressed gratitude to the Gen-Z youth for opening the eyes of political parties and highlighting their weaknesses by voicing against corruption.

The CPN-UML did not join the unification process.

# Dhaka offers reward for return of stolen guns before elections

**Agence France-Presse**
DHAKA

Bangladesh announced on Wednesday a new cash reward programme encouraging the surrender of machine guns, rifles, and pistols looted during an uprising last year, in an effort to recover hundreds of weapons ahead of crucial elections.

An estimated 6,000 firearms were stolen from police armouries during the deadly August 2024 unrest that toppled the hardline rule of then-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. More than 1,300 are still reported as missing, police spokesperson AHM Shahadat Hossaine said.

Police issued a list of rewards for their return, ranging from just over $4,000 for a light machine gun to $800 for an assault rifle, and $400 for a shotgun or pistol. Cash will also be given for ammunition.

"Bangladesh Police guarantee full confidentiality," Mr. Hossaine said, urging people to hand them in.

# Sport

# Liverpool and Bayern claim statement victories

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

**Associated Press**
LONDON



**Get in:** Mac Allister heads in Liverpool's winner over Real Madrid. REUTERS

Bayern Munich and Liverpool won the blockbuster match-ups in the Champions League. Micky van de Ven might have already scored the competition's goal of the season.

With a 2-1 win against defending champion Paris Saint-Germain, Bayern made it 16 straight victories in all competitions to underline its status as perhaps the new leading force in European football.

Real Madrid came unstuck at Anfield for the second straight season, losing 0-1 to Liverpool as Trent Alexander-Arnold – jeered on his every touch – endured a miserable return to his long-time former club. Midway through the fourth round of league-stage games, only Bayern and Arsenal are on a maximum 12 points. Arsenal swept to a 3-0 win at Slavia Prague, bringing 15-year-old Max Dowman off the bench to make him the youngest player in Champions League history.

The moment of the night fell to Van de Ven, the lanky Tottenham defender who set off on a mazy, 90-metre run from the edge of his own area to score the team's third goal in a 4-0 win over FC Copenhagen.

At Anfield, Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois produced save after save to defy Liverpool but was finally beaten by Alexis Mac Allister's header off a free-kick in the 61st minute.

**The results:** Napoli 0 drew with Eintracht Frankfurt 0; Slavia Prague 0 lost to Arsenal 3 (Saka 32-pen, Merino 46, 68). Atletico Madrid 3 (Alvarez 39, Gallagher 72, Llorente 90+6) bt Union Saint-Gilloise 1 (Sykes 80). Bodo/ Glimt 0 lost to Monaco 1 (Balogun 43); Juventus 1 (Vlahovic 34) drew with Sporting Lisbon 1 (Araujo 12); Liverpool 1 (Mac Allister 61) bt Real Madrid 0. Olympiacos 1 (Martins 17) drew with PSV 1 (Pepi 90+3); PSG 1 (Neves 74) lost to Bayern Munich 2 (Diaz 4, 32); Tottenham 4 (Johnson 19, Odobert 51, van de ven 64, Palhinha 67) bt Copenhagen 0.

# Punjab FC knocks out Bengaluru FC on penalties

SUPER CUP

**Neeladri Bhattacharjee**
MARGAO

It was Inter Kashi last season, and this time, it was Punjab. The penalty shootout continued to be Bengaluru FC's Achilles heel in the Super Cup as it lost 4-5 in the tie-break to get knocked out of the AIFF Super Cup, at the PJN Stadium here on Wednesday.

BFC star Ryan Williams' penalty was saved while Vinit Rai converted the decisive kick for the Shers, taking them into the semifinals.

Punjab began as the better side in attack, but its new forward Nsungusi Effiong's poor finishing in his first start saw his side miss out on three clear chances to break the deadlock.

Bengaluru's reply came in the 35th minute when Braian Sanchez's cross, after a deflection off Muhammed Uvais, almost got into the net when Muheet Shabir palmed it out. Five minutes later, Chinglensana Singh headed Vinith Venkatesh's corner over the net.

Ten minutes later, Bengaluru had the same agonising outcome: Williams' through ball found Ashique Kuruniyan on the left, whose low cross was struck just off-target by Sunil Chhetri.

With the score 0-0 at the end of regulation time, Rahul Bheke almost headed a winner from a free-kick in stoppage time. However, a deciding strike eluded the contest, taking it to a penalty shootout, where Vinit won it for Punjab.

Dilmperis' side will face East Bengal in the semifinal.

Earlier, Gokulam Kerala ended its Super Cup campaign on a high with a 3-0 win over Mohammedan Sporting at the GMC Athletic Stadium in Bambolim. Albert Torras opened the scoring for the Malabarians before Samuel Kynshi and Juan Carlos Rico Azorín put the competition to bed in the second half.

**The results:** Gokulam Kerala 3 (Torras 28, Kynshi 56, Azorin 86) bt Mohammedan Sporting 0. Bengaluru FC 0 drew with Punjab FC 0; *Punjab won 5-4 on penalties.*

BEST FOOT FORWARD

## Work hard and be ready when the opportunity arises: Morkel



FILE PHOTO: ANI

With only 10 T20Is to go after the series against Australia, India's bowling coach Morne Morkel and the coaching staff's only advice to players is to put their best foot forward in pressure situations "For us, from our side, we just keep on asking them to work hard and be ready for when they do get the opportunity," Morkel said.

TEAM MAN

## 'Arshdeep knows that we are looking at the bigger picture'



AP

Arshdeep is experienced, and he knows that we are looking at the bigger picture and trying out different combinations. He knows he is a world-class bowler and has taken most wickets in the PowerPlay. We know how valuable he is to the team, but we also needed to look at other combinations — India bowling coach Morne Morkel.

BIG CHALLENGE

## 'Varun has been hard to figure out, but we are trying to decipher him'



AFP

Australia batter Matthew Short conceded that India spinner Varun Chakaravarthy has been hard to figure out but the team is doing all it can to decipher him before next year's T20 World Cup. "We've obviously watched a lot of footage and what not. But, yeah, that's probably going to be the other challenge heading to India."

TOP TALENT

## Watson backs Gill to make adjustments to navigate formats



AP

Shubman Gill is "ridiculously talented" and he should be able to make adjustments while navigating his way through the different formats and score big runs for India, feels former Australia all-rounder Shane Watson. "But Gill is a ridiculously talented batter. He's got an amazing technique," Watson said of Gill.

# Inspired Diptayan stuns Nepomniachtchi; So loses

The little-known Indian enters third round, terms it the best victory of his career; Stremavicius shocks the fifth-seeded American; star attractions Gukesh and Arjun enter the next round

CHESS WORLD CUP

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**
ARPORA (GOA)




**Big scalp:** Diptayan got the better of Nepomniachtchi with black pieces. P.K. AJITH KUMAR

It is only the second round, and the chess World Cup has already hotted up.

On a dramatic Wednesday evening at Resort Rio here, two seeds were knocked out. One of those giant-killers was an Indian. Diptayan Ghosh stunned 12th-seeded Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi with black pieces to secure a place in the third round. The Kolkatan had drawn the round's first game and won the match 1.5-0.5.

That was also the score by which Titas Stremavicius of Lithuania shocked the fifth-seeded American Wesley So. The top two seeds, D. Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi, however, advanced. Gukesh bounced back to form, with black pieces, against Kazakhstan's Kazybek Nogerbek, who had held him to a draw in the opening game. Arjun posted his second win against Bulgarian Martin Petrov for a 2-0 score.

P. Harikrishna, who beat Arseniy Nesterov of Russia (1.5-0.5), Karthik Venkataraman, who overcame the much higher-rated Aravindh Chithambaram in an all-Indian battle, have also entered the third round, where five from the host have assured their places.

Eight Indians will play in Thursday's tie-breakers – third seed R. Praggnanandhaa, Vidit Gujrathi, Nihal Sarin, V. Pranav, S.L. Narayanan, M. Pranesh, Karthikeyan Murali and Raunak Sadhwani.

The day also saw the end of the campaigns for Surya Shekhar Ganguly, Aronyak Ghosh and Pa. Iniyan. But Diptayan ensured there was much to cheer about for India.

"To beat a player like Nepomniachtchi, who has been a challenger for the World title, was great," he said. "It is the best win of my career."

**Important results (second round):**

Kazybek Nogerbek (Kaz) 0.5 lost to D. Gukesh 1.5; Arjun Erigaisi 2 bt Martin Petrov (Bul) 0; Temur Kuybokarov (Aus) 1 drew with R. Praggnanandhaa 1; Anish Giri (Ned) 1.5 bt Bojan Maksimovic (Bih) 0.5; Titas Stremavicius (Lit) 1.5 bt Wesley So (USA) 0.5; Grergely Kantor (Hun) 1 bt Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze) 1; Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb) Dennis Makhnev (Kaz); Vincent Keymer (Ger) 2 bt Vladislav Kovalev (Blr) 0; Kacper Piorun (Pol) 0 lost to Wei Yi (Chn) 2; Hans Niemann (USA) 1 drew with Lorenzo Lodici (Ita) 1; Surya Shekhar Ganguly 0 lost to Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) 2. Richard Rapport (Hun) 2 bt Lorenzo Luis Supi (Bra) 0; Baadur Jobava (Geo) lost to Le Quang Liem (Vie) ); Aronyak Ghosh 0.5 drew with Levon Aronian (USA) 1.5; Lorenzo Lodici (Ita) 1 drew with Hans Niemann (USA) 1; Ian Nepomniachtchi 0.5 (Rus) lost to Diptayan Ghosh 1.5; Faustino Oro (Arg) 1 drew with Vidit Gujrathi 1; Aravindh Chithambaram 0.5 lost to Karthik Venkataraman 1.5.

Nihal Sarin 1 drew with Stamatis Kourkoulos-Arditis (Gre) 1.

V. Pranav 1 lost to Aryan Tari (Nor) 1; P. Harikrishna 1.5 bt Arseniy Nesterov (Rus) 0.5.

M. Pranesh 1 drew with Dmitrij Kollars (Ger) 1; Pa. Iniyan 0.5 lost to Thai Dai Van Nguyen (Cze) 1.5. Karthikeyan Murali 1 drew with Pouya Idani (Ira) 1; Raunak Sadhwani 1 drew with Robert Hovhannisyan (Arm) 1.

# Opener Gill eyes return to form as Men in Blue chase series lead

INDIA IN AUSTRALIA

**Press Trust of India**
CARRARA (GOLD COAST)



**Need to fire:** Gill's modest returns are a concern for the Indian team. AP

Shubman Gill will be looking to turn the tables with a big knock after what has been an underwhelming tour when a confident India aims to secure the series lead against a depleted Australia in the fourth T20 International here on Thursday.

The series is locked at 1-1 after three games and the absence of Josh Hazlewood in the previous game did make a difference to Australia's defence of a total of 186. Going into the fourth game, there won't be any Travis Head for Australia as the opener is set to play Sheffield Shield to prepare for the Ashes.

With two pillars of the rival team unavailable, this is the best chance for India to go 2-1 up.

In the last game, India finally did look to get their combination right within their ambit of having an all-rounder at No. 8.

However, what will slightly bother the Indian team management is Shubman Gill's form in the series as he has now played six games without a half-century.

The sequence of scores since the start of the ODI series reads 10, 9, 24, 37 not out, 5, and 15. The only time he looked in good nick was at Canberra when he stitched a nice little stand with skipper Suryakumar Yadav.

At the other end, Abhishek Sharma has done his reputation no harm as the world's No. 1 T20 batter with a fine half-century and two quick starts in the series. Skipper Suryakumar Yadav has shown some glimpses of his vintage self in the first and third matches with good starts. But he would also like to get some runs under the belt now that there will be a month-long break before the next series against South Africa.

The bowling department, with the inclusion of Arshdeep Singh, looks way more compact even as Kuldeep Yadav has been sent back to prepare for the Test series against the Proteas.

The team management's main issue has always been that both Kuldeep and Arshdeep can't be played together.

If Kuldeep plays in these conditions, then Harshit Rana, with better batting skills, needs to be fitted in.

When Arshdeep plays, they have to somehow get a Washington Sundar inducted and one saw the result as his 23-ball 49 decisively swung the third game in favour of India.

The Australian side will depend a lot on skipper Mitchell Marsh and Tim David for the firepower in batting. However, it is the bowling department where Australia need to do some rejigging as Sean Abbott certainly didn't look the part and one among Ben Dwarshuis or Mahli Beardman might come in in his place.

**The teams (from): Australia:** Mitchell Marsh (Capt.), Matthew Short, Josh Inglis (wk), Josh Phillippe (wk), Mitchell Owen, Glenn Maxwell, Matt Kuhnemann, Adam Zampa, Mahli Beardman, Benn Dwarshuis,Xavier Bartlett, Nathan Ellis, Marcus Stoinis.

**India:** Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Abhishek Sharma, Shubman Gill (Vice-capt.), Tilak Varma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Varun Chakaravarthy, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Washington Sundar.

*Match starts at 1:45 p.m.*

# Evergreen Adams keeps turning the clock back

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**
ARPORA (GOA)



**Going strong:** Adams remains as competitive as ever. FIDE

Back in 1998, Viswanathan Anand and Michael Adams contested the match that would decide the challenger for Anatoly Karpov in the FIDE World chess championship. The Indian was the winner, in sudden death.

Both the men are here – Anand as FIDE's deputy president and Adams as a player.

The Englishman, in fact, moved into the second round of the Word Cup.

He is a former World No. 4, and in 2004 came close to becoming the World champion before losing to Rustam Kasimdzanov in the final, which was decided in tie-breakers. He is 53 now, and is ranked No. 90 in the world.

**Last World Cup**

"I guess this would almost certainly be my last World Cup," Adams told the *The Hindu* after scoring his second win in as many days over Ahmed Abdullah Alrehaili.

"Never say never, but so it was really just a question if I wanted to try one more time." Adams, who turned the clock in style to win the London Chess Classic two years ago ahead of the likes of D. Gukesh, is glad that there is more chess activity back home.

"It was when practically everything was shut down during the (COVID-19) pandemic that I decided I wanted to play a lot and try and do a few more years."

> I think there is too much publicity for cheating and is very bad for chess: 99.99% of players are very honest

Adams is glad that he took that decision. Apart from the London Classic, he also won the World senior (over-50) championship in 2023.

Adams is saddened by the tragic death of Daniel Naroditsky.

"It is just totally shocking and horrible," he said.

"You can't make accusations against people publicly.

"I think there is too much publicity for cheating and is very bad for chess: 99.99% of players are very honest in a game where everyone has the capacity to cheat.

"And yet there is such a big fuss."

## Rybakina sails into the last-four stage

WTA FINALS

**Agence France-Presse**
RIYADH

Elena Rybakina maintained her undefeated record at the WTA Finals with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Russian alternate Ekaterina Alexandrova in Riyadh on Wednesday.

Later, Amanda Anisimova, the fourth seed, rallied to beat World No. 2 Iga Swiatek 6-7(3), 6-4, 6-2 to secure a spot in the semifinals.

The Kazakh World No. 6 extended her current winning streak to nine, and will face one of Aryna Sabalenka, Jessica Pegula or Coco Gauff in Friday's semifinals.

Alexandrova was brought in as a replacement for American Madison Keys, who withdrew ahead of the match due to a viral illness.

The Australian Open champion suffered two defeats in round-robin play this week, to Swiatek and compatriot Anisimova, and had no chance of advancing to the knockout stage.

## Pant back in India squad for SA Tests

**N. Sudarshan**
BENGALURU



Pant. K. MURALI KUMAR

Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant made an expected return to the India Test roster as he was named in the squad that will take on the visiting South African side in the two-match series starting in Kolkata on November 14.

Pant, who had injured his foot in the fourth Test against England in Manchester this summer, had made a successful return to fitness last week when he led India-A to a three-wicket victory over South Africa-A at the BCCI Centre of Excellence near here.

The 28-year-old was also given back his vice-captaincy responsibilities, which star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja had taken up in his absence. Apart from Pant replacing N. Jagadeesan in the party that competed against the West Indies last month, the only other change is the entry of the fit-again pacer Akash Deep in place of Prasidh Krishna.

The selectors, on Wednesday, also chose Tilak Varma as the India-A skipper for the three one-day matches against South Africa-A to be held in Rajkot on November 13, 16 and 19.

**The squads: Test:** Shubman Gill (Capt.), Rishabh Pant (Vice-capt., wk), Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.L. Rahul, B. Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav & Akash Deep.
**The schedule: First:** Kolkata, Nov. 14 to 18; **Second:** Guwahati, Nov. 22 to 26.
**India-A (three one-dayers):** Tilak Varma (capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad (Vice-capt.), Abhishek Sharma, Riyan Parag, Ishan Kishan (wk), Ayush Badoni, Nishant Sindhu, Vipraj Nigam, Manav Suthar, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed & Prabhsimran Singh (wk).

# RCB ownership may change hands; USL to review investment

**Mini Tejaswi**
BENGALURU

> RCSPL has been a valuable and strategic asset for USL; however, it's non-core to our alcobev business
> **PRAVEEN SOMESHWAR**
> Managing Director & CEO, USL

United Spirits Ltd. (USL), the Indian arm of London-based Diageo, is initiating a strategic review of investment in its wholly owned subsidiary, Royal Challengers Sports Pvt. Ltd. (RCSPL), the company that owns the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), the firm said in a regulatory filing on Wednesday.

Praveen Someshwar, Managing Director & CEO, USL said: "RCSPL has been a valuable and strategic asset for USL; however, it's non-core to our alcobev business."

"This step would reinforce USL's & Diageo's commitment to continue reviewing its India enterprise portfolio to enable sustained delivery of long-term value to all its stakeholders, while keeping RCSPL's best interest in mind," Someshwar added.

According to the statutory document, RCSPL's business comprises ownership of both the men's and women's RCB teams, which compete in the Indian Premier League and Women's Premier League, respectively. While the men's team won the IPL title this year, the women were crowned champions in 2024.

**Speculation**

Speculation that RCB would be up for sale has been rife since the June 4 stampede outside the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium that killed 11 people during the franchise's title-winning celebrations.

USL's strategic review process is expected to conclude by March 31, 2026.

## INBRIEF



### Santner's brilliance in vain as NZ loses to WI

A brilliant bowling performance secured the West Indies an unlikely seven-run win in the first T20I against New Zealand on Wednesday, despite a stunning solo effort from Mitchell Santner.

**The scores:** West Indies 164/6 in 20 overs (Hope 53) bt New Zealand 157/9 in 20 overs (Santner 55 n.o, Seales 3/32, Chase 3/26). **Toss:** New Zealand; **PoM:** Chase.

### Haria, Paras go down in the pre-quarterfinals

India's Dhvaj Haria and Paras Gupta suffered narrow defeats in the first stage of the IBSF World snooker championships in Doha late on Tuesday. Haria lost to Thor Chuan Leong of Malaysia 3-4. Paras went down 2-4 to Pakistan's Shahid Aftab. Haria, Paras, Malkeet Singh and Hussian Khan were given first-round byes in the second of the two-event first stage.

### Weatherald in Australia's squad for first Ashes Test

Uncapped opener Jake Weatherald was named on Wednesday in Australia's squad for the first Ashes Test (in Perth from Nov. 21) against England, with Brendan Doggett and Sean Abbott included as back-up fast bowlers. While Weatherald was included in the 15-man squad, chief selector George Bailey refused to confirm whether he would make his debut in Perth. Steve Smith will captain the team in the absence of Pat Cummins, who has not played since picking up a lower back injury against the West Indies more than three months ago. Cummins is tentatively targeting a return for the day-night second Test.

**The squad**: Steve Smith (Capt.), Sean Abbott, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Brendan Doggett, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Starc, Jake Weatherald, Beau Webster.

# India-A brings in the big guns for second 'Test' against South Africa-A

The match looks like a main event in itself, with the host's roster boasting eight players from the squad that will meet the Proteas in the two-Test series

INDIA-A VS SA-A

**N. Sudarshan**
BENGALURU

The 'A' tours that countries embark on are like shadow sojourns. Shadow because these teams are filled with National-team wannabes and players who mirror the qualities of the nation's first-choice XI, with the expectation being that they are ready to jump in when the eventual call-up for National duty comes.

However, the second of the two multi-day matches between India-A and South Africa-A, which commences at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in the city outskirts on Thursday, appears to have deviated from this norm.

It looks like a main event in itself, for the Indian roster has as many as eight members from the Test squad that will take on South Africa in the two-match Test series from November 14, and the visiting party has in its ranks the World Test Championship-winning captain Temba Bavuma.

The hope is now for the on-field action to match the quality on paper.



**Ready to rumble:** SA skipper Bavuma and India star Pant are some of the big names featuring in the match. K. MURALI KUMAR

India-A won the exciting first tie by three wickets, with off-spinner Tanush Kotian finishing with a match-haul of eight wickets (four for 83 and four for 26).

But the biggest positive was the return of Rishabh Pant, who had been out of action with a foot injury since the fourth Test against England in Manchester in July.

The swashbuckling wicketkeeper-batter made a typically brisk second-innings 90 and kept wickets, thus announcing his readiness for the rigours of five-day cricket.

Another game before the first Test in Kolkata against the Proteas will be useful to sharpen his skills further.

The likes of B. Sai Sudharsan – who opened the batting in last week's contest – and Devdutt Padikkal – who played at No. 3 – will look for some runs after accounting for just 55 across both innings.

### Keenly watched

The South Africa-A side isn't as heavily loaded as the Indians', but Bavuma's return after a two-month injury lay-off will be keenly watched.

Conditions wise, only Bengaluru's unusually warm weather might imitate Kolkata's.

# Bavuma sees 'massive opportunity' in Test series

**Sports Bureau**
BENGALURU

India has been such a dominant force at home - but for the 0-3 loss to New Zealand last year - that visiting sides generally have nothing to lose.

But South Africa, this November, is coming in as the World Test Champion, and it has a standard to live up to and pedigree to protect.

"There's expectation, but for us, it's really to focus on what we've been doing as a team," said skipper Temba Bavuma, on the eve of South Africa-A's second multi-day match against India-A at the BCCI Centre of Excellence here.

"I don't think we've won a Test series here [in India] for a long time, if I'm not mistaken. So I think there's a massive opportunity there."

To excel in the sub-continent, good quality spin bowlers are essential.

### Confident

Bavuma is confident that the likes of Keshav Maharaj, Simon Harmer and Senuran Muthusamy can deliver as the Proteas look for their first series triumph in India since March 2000. "Bowling has always been a strength of ours. Now, we're probably even better poised with these spin resources. We have Tristan Stubbs as well, if we need another off-spinner.

### Resources ready

"If the conditions are saying that spin is the threat, then we have the resources.

"Everything else also needs to come into play. You need the batters to score the runs. We need that cushion to allow our spinners to really get into the game."

# Chhetri missing in India's probables against Bangladesh

ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

The Indian football team head coach Khalid Jamil on Wednesday announced 23 probables for the inconsequential Asian Cup Qualifiers match against Bangladesh in Dhaka on November 18 and talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri's name is missing from the list. India is already out of contention for a berth in the main tournament to be held in Saudi Arabia in 2027 after losing its previous match against Singapore in Margao last month.

More players are likely to be added later for the national camp, starting in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The Indian team will travel to Dhaka on November 15. Meanwhile, the semifinals of the Super Cup are unlikely to be held before November 26 as FC Goa plays Al Zawraa SC of Iraq in Baghdad in its AFC Champions League Two group match on the date.

**India probables:**
**Goalkeepers:** Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Hrithik Tiwari, Sahil.
**Defenders:** Akash Mishra, Anwar Ali, Bikash Yumnam, Hmingthanmawia Ralte, Muhammed Uvais, Pramveer, Rahul Bheke, Sandesh Jhingan.
**Midfielders:** Ashique Kuruniyan, Brison Fernandes, Lalremtluanga Fanai, Macarton Louis Nickson, Mahesh Singh Naorem, Nikhil Prabhu, Suresh Singh Wangjam.
**Forwards:** Irfan Yadwad, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Mohammed Sanan, Rahim Ali, Vikram Partap Singh.

LIVE TELECAST

**NZ vs WI:** 2nd T20I, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 11.45 a.m.
**Australia vs India:** 4th T20I, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 1.45 p.m.
**Chess:** World Cup, FIDE YouTube channel, 3 p.m.
**Europa League**: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & LIV, 11.15 p.m.

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A VJ-VJE



AFP

# The 'A' matches conundrum: to play or not is the question

**The 'shadow' tours are invariably seen as preparatory exercises for the visiting team but in the case of India-A vs. South Africa-A, the hosts will benefit equally; there has been a raging debate about the purpose of these games**

R. Kaushik

These are extremely busy times in Indian cricket. Just a couple of days back, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led women's side rewrote history with their maiden 50-over World Cup triumph. The men's team, under the stewardship of Suryakumar Yadav, is engaged in a pitched battle for honours against Australia in a five-match Twenty20 International series that's coming on the back of a three-game One-Day International showdown.

A Rising Stars outfit will leave next week for Qatar to play in the T20 Asia Cup for emerging players while domestically, the Ranji Trophy is in full swing. The men's Under-19 Challenger Trophy, which assumes significance owing to the World Cup next year, kicked off in Hyderabad on Wednesday, while the senior women as well as the men's and women's outfits in different age-groups are also simultaneously in action.

## Big faceoff

The big faceoff is a little over a week away. For the first time since they were crowned World Test Champions, South Africa will challenge India in two Tests, in Kolkata from November 14 and in Guwahati, which will host its first ever Test, from November 22. The promise of a stirring contest lingers; for a decade and a half from 1996, South Africa were the most competitive overseas group on Indian soil before going off the boil, but armed with their first solid piece of global silverware, Temba Bavuma's men will be confident of reprising New Zealand's heroics of last year.

While a weakened South African side is currently in Pakistan playing white-ball cricket, some of the Test stars, including Bavuma himself (returning from injury), are in Bengaluru with the 'A' team. In the first of two unofficial 'Tests' that ended on Sunday, India 'A' pulled off a three-wicket heist in Rishabh Pant's comeback to competitive action.

The ebullient wicketkeeper-batter showed no signs of rust while slamming a fluent 90 in the second innings, reiterating that he has recovered completely from the fracture sustained when he inside-edged a Chris Woakes reverse sweep on to his right foot in Manchester in July.

The second and final 'Test' will begin at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence ground, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, on Thursday (November 6). While it will allow Bavuma to ease into gameplay and get used to Indian conditions to the extent that Bengaluru can reprise Kolkata and Guwahati, it will also facilitate several of the Indian Test regulars refamiliarising themselves with red-ball action ahead of the vitally crucial Test series.

Predictably, there were no surprises when Ajit Agarkar's panel named the Test squad on Wednesday evening. Except N. Jagadeesan and Prasidh Krishna, everyone who was part of the 2-0 sweep of West Indies last month has been picked again.

In the three weeks since the Delhi Test ended on October 14, some of those who were part of the West Indies series have played for their respective states in the Ranji Trophy - Ravindra Jadeja for Saurashtra, Yashasvi Jaiswal for Mumbai (on his return from Australia, where he was in the ODI squad without getting a game), Devdutt Padikkal for Karnataka. Others, like opener K.L. Rahul, took a break. Some others travelled to Australia as part of either the ODI or the T20I squads or both.

Those who haven't had any taste of the longer format in the last three weeks and who are not currently in Australia will form a majority of the Pant-helmed squad for the second 'Test'. That makes sense; for all the familiarity with home conditions, it is imperative to get into red-ball mode before the actual Tests, which therefore explains the inclusion in the side for this game of Rahul, Dhruv Jurel (who kept wickets in the West Indies Tests when Pant was unavailable) and the pace duo of Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh, who played in the ODIs Down Under.

## Late inclusion

A late inclusion is Kuldeep Yadav, the left-arm wrist-spinner who was one of the bowling heroes in the rout of the Caribbeans. In his first Test match in 50 weeks, Kuldeep took four wickets in the innings victory in Ahmedabad, then brought all his guile and craft to bear against a more resilient batting unit in the next outing at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. On a singularly unresponsive surface that went to sleep on the first morning, never to wake up for the next 100 hours, Kuldeep found ways and means to outwit the batters, snaffling five wickets in the first innings and adding three more in the second to win the Player of the Match award.

Kuldeep was released from the T20I squad after India's comfortable, series-levelling victory in the third game in Hobart, an outing for which he was benched. In the previous fixture in Melbourne, he had been taken for 45 runs in 3.2 overs. With Varun Chakaravarthy, Washington Sundar and Axar Patel available for selection, the Indian team management decided Kuldeep would be better off getting several red-ball overs under his belt, given the pre-eminent role they expect him to play over the next three weeks.

All of this makes so much sense. These 'shadow' tours are invariably seen as preparatory exercises for the visiting team but in this instance, the hosts will benefit equally, at the very least.

The squad for the first 'Test' in Bengaluru wore a different look, with young Mumbai opener Ayush Mhatre, the Under-19 captain, featuring alongside Tamil Nadu wicketkeeper Jagadeesan, Madhya Pradesh's Rajat Patidar, Ayush Badoni of Delhi, the pace duo of Anshul Kamboj (Haryana) and Yash Thakur (Vidarbha), and Madhya Pradesh off-spinner Saransh Jain. Realistically, and with no disrespect, none of them can aspire to make it to the Indian side for the South Africa Tests. Patidar (against England at home last year) and Kamboj (disappointing on debut in Manchester) already boast Test caps and Jagadeesan flew out to London as the reserve stumper to Dhruv Jurel for the decider at the Oval in July. But they, and many of the rest who were part of the squad for the first encounter against South Africa 'A', would have known that even a double-hundred or a seven-wicket haul wouldn't have counted for much when it came to Test selection.

Which begs the question: Would it have made more practical sense for them to have represented their respective states in the Ranji Trophy, where potentially, the stakes are higher and the race for qualification to the next phase is gradually beginning to hot up?

This isn't a one-answer-satisfies-all query. One is not even sure what the protagonists concerned themselves feel about this.

To play/be picked for India 'A' is generally considered the ultimate evidence that one isn't far away from making the next step up, to the national team *per se*. Before the 'A' structure was concretised, that privilege lay with the Duleep Trophy and the Irani Cup, both of which now sadly are struggling for relevance.

The Duleep Trophy, in particular, has undergone so many revamps that it is hard to keep track of what format is being used which year. The timing of the Irani Cup would indicate that it is often viewed as a formality that must be gone through and not the one-time marquee event that pitted the Ranji Trophy champions against the best of the rest in the country.



R.V. MOORTHY

**Kuldeep was released from the T20I squad as it was felt he would be better off getting several red-ball overs under his belt**

To break into the 'A' team isn't just an acknowledgement of one's performances domestically but also a message to stay fit and relevant because... But that because isn't going to come in a hurry, owing to the fact that after the South Africa Tests, India's next assignment in the current WTC cycle isn't until August in Sri Lanka. Admittedly, there is talk of a one-off Test against Afghanistan at home sometime next summer, possibly after the IPL, but even that is unlikely to see a profusion of new faces, given again the pressing need to put white-ball instincts in cold storage with a first visit in nine years to Sri Lanka looming.

How does playing (or being in the extended squad but not playing) for India 'A' weigh against certainly playing for their states in the Ranji Trophy? Again, it's the players themselves who will be able to give the best answer, and again, it is unlikely that everyone will have the same answer. The states themselves would have loved having their superstars back - Tamil Nadu are struggling to stay afloat in Group A, with just four points from three outings, though Madhya Pradesh and Delhi are slightly better off in Groups B and D respectively with nine and seven apiece.

The unavailability at crucial stages of key players affects state outfits in more ways than just the obvious. It not only deprives them of class, quality and pedigree, it throws their balance off kilter and forces personnel changes that wouldn't have emanated otherwise. Some teams that don't have depth are affected more badly than the others and while states generally don't grudge their players playing at a higher level even if it hurts their own prospects, it's not hard to see why they might occasionally feel hard done by.

## Big debate

There's been a raging debate about the purpose of these 'A' games. One group is of the firm belief that it shouldn't just be an opportunity for the internationals to turn up and use it as a means of preparation, because that will undermine, if not belittle, the achievements in domestic cricket over a sustained period of those knocking on the doors of national selection.

What is the incentive, this group asks with justification, of putting in the hard yards at the domestic level where, beyond the immediate stakeholders and the well-wishers of the players themselves, no one is around to watch them plug away uncompromisingly? To be picked for India 'A' is an endorsement of their accomplishments, a recognition of their successes for their states.

This isn't a state versus country debate and maybe this conundrum will not be commonplace going forward, but it has nevertheless thrown up an interesting talking point. To be allowed to play for one's state with high collective stakes, or to be picked to represent India 'A' to further their individual cause? What say you?

## THE GIST

- For the first time since they were crowned World Test champions, South Africa will challenge India in two Tests, in Kolkata from November 14 and in Guwahati from November 22
- To play/be picked for India 'A' is generally considered the ultimate evidence that one isn't far away from making the next step up, to the national team *per se*
- The unavailability at crucial stages of key players affects state outfits in more ways than just the obvious. It not only deprives them of class, quality and pedigree, it throws their balance off kilter and forces personnel changes that wouldn't have emanated otherwise

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As the clearest gravitational signal ever detected, GW250114 allowed researchers to draw conclusions about fundamental physics.; they analysed the frequencies of gravitational waves emitted by the merger to present the most compelling evidence to date of the black-hole area theorem

**Shreejaya Karantha**

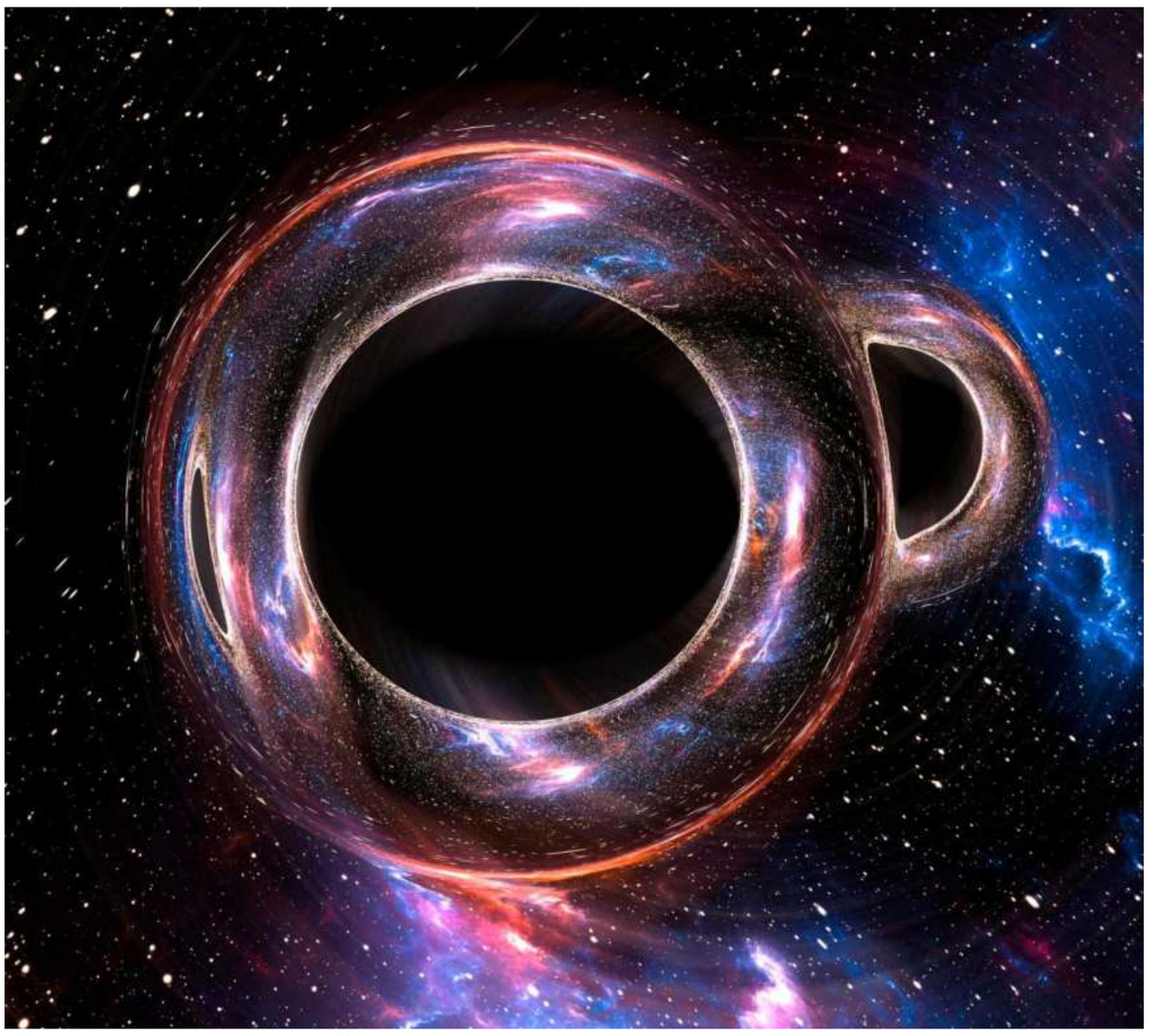
On September 14, 2015, researchers using a pair of giant detectors in the U.S. detected gravitational waves for the first time – a century after Albert Einstein predicted their existence in his general theory of relativity. For their contributions to building these detectors, called the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatories (LIGO), Rainer Weiss, Kip Thorne, and Barry Barish were awarded the Nobel Prize for physics in 2017.

According to the general theory of relativity, when any sufficiently massive object accelerates through spacetime, it will set off ripples of gravitational energy through its fabric. These gravitational waves can travel uninterrupted across billions of lightyears at the speed of light. The louder waves are produced by the most fierce cosmic events, including colliding neutron stars and black holes.

This year, as researchers worldwide celebrated the 10th anniversary of the first detection of gravitational waves, they also announced another groundbreaking discovery. A network of detectors – LIGO in the U.S., Virgo in Italy, and KAGRA in Japan – had detected a clearer gravitational wave signal from a pair of merging black holes. The event was named GW250114 as it was detected on January 14, 2025.

Notably, the researchers said this was the clearest gravitational wave signal detected to date, allowing them to use it to test some of the more elusive predictions of fundamental physics theories.

Their results were published in *Physical Review Letters* in September.



Artwork of a pair of merging black holes with differing masses. The gravity of the black holes bends and twists light around them. CARL KNOX, OZGRAV, SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

## Black-hole hunter

The twin LIGO detectors first detected GW250114. Each LIGO consists of two 4-km-long arms arranged in an L-shape. The arms have a vacuum. At the elbow, a highly stable laser beam is split into two beams and sent down the perpendicular arms, bouncing back and forth between mirrors about 300 times.

When no gravitational wave is passing through the detector, the two beams travel exactly the same distance and cancel each other out when they recombine at a photodetector at the elbow. But when a gravitational wave is passing through, it distorts spacetime there in minute ways, slightly stretching one arm while compressing the other, changing the distance each beam travels by a small fraction. This causes the laser light waves to shift out of phase and produce a measurable flicker of light at the photodetector.

Virgo and KAGRA work on similar principles. When a gravitational wave is detected, the teams operating these three detectors share their data and run joint analyses.

"We look for signals in the data from our detectors with several methods. Some are model-agnostic and others are model-independent," study coauthor, Virgo team member, and Gran Sasso Science Institute doctoral student Jacopo Tissino said.

Model-agnostic methods try to identify excess energy that appears simultaneously across all detectors, without making any assumptions about the nature of the signal. In contrast, model-dependent methods search the data specifically for signals that align with theoretical expectations for black-hole mergers.

The GW250114 signal, which came from about 1.3 billion lightyears away, was detected using both methods.

## Cosmic bell

The team found that the new signal was similar to the one detected in 2015.

"They are both pairs of nearly identical black holes, with small or no spin, masses just over 30-times that of the sun each, and revolving around each other in an orbit that's close to a circle," Mr. Tissino said.

Thanks to advances that increased the detectors' sensitivity, the new signal was also much clearer. According to Mr. Tissino, these advances include lower laser noise, cleaner mirror surfaces, and lower measurement uncertainty.

As the clearest gravitational signal ever detected, GW250114 allowed the researchers to draw important conclusions about fundamental physics. Notably, they analysed the frequencies of gravitational waves emitted by the merger to present the most compelling observational evidence to date of the black-hole area theorem, which Stephen Hawking proposed in 1971.

The theorem states that the total surface area of black holes should never decrease, referring to the sum of the areas of the event horizons.

> We look for signals in the data from our detectors with several methods. Some are model-agnostic and others are model-independent
>
> **JACOPO TISSINO**
>
> GRAN SASSO SCIENCE INSTITUTE

To this end, researchers independently analysed the signals from the early stages of the merger, when the black holes were relatively far apart, and from a later post-collision stage, when the merged black holes were settling into a single entity.

"With these two analyses, we could extract the areas of the initial two black holes and of the remnant left after the collision, and directly compare them to confirm that there was an increase as predicted," Mr. Tissino said.

## Growing catalogue

After the merger, the researchers also 'listened' to the new black hole's vibrations and identified two distinct modes of ringing. These frequencies indicated that the resulting black hole behaved like a rotating black hole. Such black holes are expected to emit gravitational waves at specific frequencies and these waves are expected to fade at a certain rate.

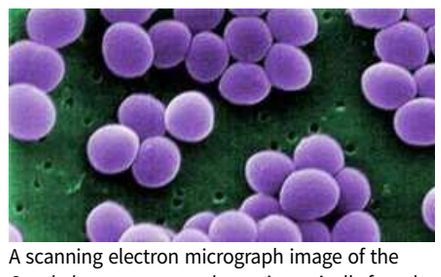
As a result, the new study was also able to empirically verify a solution that New Zealander mathematician Roy Kerr had proposed for rotating black holes in 1963.

Mr. Tissino said that for signals like GW250114, the main sources of error are well-understood and can be controlled. Researchers carefully selected data from different points of time before and after the merger and tested different assumptions, like whether the black holes' orbits were circular or eccentric. In the process, they checked potential issues in the detectors' calibration and confirmed they didn't affect their analyses.

The continuing detection of merging black holes is helping astrophysicists build a steadily growing catalogue that's helping them fine-tune their understanding of black hole formation and test more and more intricate predictions.

As the authors wrote in their paper, "The gravitational-wave signal GW250114 is a milestone in the decade-long history of gravitational-wave science. ... The next decade of gravitational-wave science is bound to enhance our view of these highly dynamical, relativistic systems."

*(Shreejaya Karantha is a freelance science writer. shreejayakaranth@gmail.com)*



A scanning electron micrograph image of the *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria, typically found in the upper respiratory tract. US CDC

# *New physics-based model shows healthy guts resist microbial chaos*

**Vasudevan Mukunth**

The human gut is a vast ecosystem of microbes whose balance is central to health. When this balance, known as eubiosis, is disturbed, the result is dysbiosis, which is linked to conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease. Traditional models of microbial communities tend to focus on how many species are present and how abundant they are, but they rarely capture how these species interact. Yet the web of microbial interactions defines whether a community is stable or prone to collapse.

In a new study in *eLife*, researchers from the University of Padova in Italy, ETH Zurich in Switzerland, and Paris Cité University in France sought to fill this gap by using the tools of statistical physics to study microbial ecosystems. Specifically, they borrowed ideas from the theory of disordered systems, which was originally developed to understand complex materials like spin glasses. Their goal was to connect measurable data from metagenomic sequencing to theoretical models that describe how thousands of species interact. By doing so, they hoped to identify mathematical fingerprints that could distinguish healthy from unhealthy gut microbiomes.

The researchers used the disordered generalised Lotka-Volterra model (dgLV) – a framework that describes how populations of species change over time based on random interactions. Each microbial species' growth rate depends on its own capacity to thrive and on the positive or negative effects of other species. The interaction strengths, which are impossible to measure directly, were treated as random variables.

Using cross-sectional gut microbiome data from 91 healthy and 202 diseased samples, they extracted a set of numbers that they used to summarise each community's behaviour. Then, an algorithm adjusted the dgLV parameters so that the model's predictions matched the empirical data. This allowed the researchers to infer the statistical structure of inter-species interactions and to quantify how ecological stability differed between the healthy and diseased samples.

**The study revealed that healthy communities had stronger but more heterogeneous interactions that absorbed fluctuations without destabilising the system**

The analysis revealed that healthy and diseased microbiomes occupy distinct zones in the model's parameter space. That is to say, healthy communities had stronger but more heterogenous interactions, reflecting a balanced network where fluctuations are absorbed without destabilising the system. Diseased microbiomes had lower interaction diversity and higher randomness, indicating instability and loss of resilience.

Mathematically, the diseased systems were found to lie closer to a critical line that marks the transition to chaotic or unstable dynamics. This suggests that while healthy microbiomes operate in a stable equilibrium, diseased ones hover near disorder.

The new framework reframes gut health as a problem of statistical structure rather than a matter of simple composition. It implies that dysbiosis is less about which microbes are missing and more about how their interactions have weakened or become erratic. As a result, the study suggests that by examining collective behaviour, one might predict or even correct unstable microbial states. The authors also acknowledged limitations in their effort. For one, their model assumes a static set of interactions while real microbes evolve and respond to changing environments in different ways. They suggest future studies might allow interactions to fluctuate, capturing their dynamics more realistically.

## THE SCIENCE QUIZ

# The infinite wonders of space

**Vasudevan Mukunth**

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

**QUESTION 1**

Which rare kind of compact remnant of a dead star spins once every few seconds and sometimes experiences "starquakes" that trigger intense bursts of X-rays and gamma rays, often seen as repeating high-energy flares? This object is also famous for possessing the strongest magnetic fields known in the universe.

**QUESTION 2**

What do astronomers call worlds of mass comparable to that of a planet but which drift through interstellar space without orbiting any star? They are usually detected using microlensing or a faint infrared glow. Scientists believe they may have been ejected from young systems or formed alone in collapsing clouds.

**QUESTION 3**

Sometimes a star can be flung from the centre of a galaxy after it interacts with a supermassive black hole, which accelerates it. This star can be flung at lakhs of kilometers per second. What are these stars called?

**QUESTION 4**

In 2019, astronomers using long-wavelength maps noticed enormous yet faint ring-like structures around distant galaxies, far larger than supernova remnants and unlike known galaxy shapes. What did they call these mysterious features? Hint: the acronym is the name of a fictitious race in the work of JRR Tolkien.

**QUESTION 5**

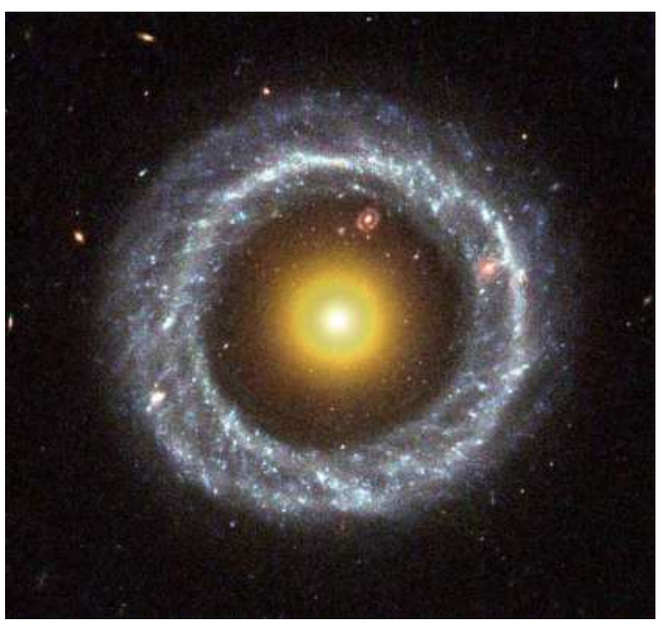
What hypothetical type of extremely dense star is proposed to be made of the particles that also make up protons and neutrons? But instead of forming protons or neutrons in the star, their high-energy environs cause them to be "deconfined." The star's density is expected to be between that of a neutron star and a black hole.

**Answers to November 4 quiz**:

1. Standardised naming system in biology – **Ans: Binomial nomenclature**
2. Physical specimen designated as the name-bearing reference – **Ans: Holotype**
3. Evolutionary tree branch denoting all descendants from that ancestor – **Ans: Clade**
4. When distant lineages independent acquire similar traits – **Ans: Convergent evolution**
5. Method to identify species by sequencing a standard DNA stretch – **Ans: Barcoding**

Visual: **Alfred Russel Wallace**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Anmol Agrawal | Mahima Sajani Jacob | Joe V.R.



Visual: Name this galaxy in the constellation Serpens Caput that's famed for being nearly symmetrical. It was identified in the mid-20th century. NASA/ESA

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

# Text&Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### Number of left parties that have merged ahead of polls in Nepal

**9** Nine left-wing parties in Nepal, including the CPN (Maoist Centre) and the CPN (Unified Socialist), have merged to form the Nepali Communist Party ahead of the March 2026 elections. The merger is seen as a response to growing youth-led protests against corruption and political disorder. PTI

### Number of Palestinian bodies received under ceasefire deal

**15** Gaza's Nasser Hospital said that it received the bodies of 15 Palestinian prisoners as part of the ongoing U.S.-brokered ceasefire exchange deal between Israel and Hamas. With this, the total number of bodies handed over under the agreement has reached 285. AFP

### Value of hybrid ganja seized by Thane police in narcotics raid

**76** In lakh. Thane police confiscated hybrid ganja worth over ₹76 lakh and arrested one person during an anti-narcotics operation near a housing complex under the Kapurbawdi police station. Officers recovered 755 grams of hybrid ganja along with mobile phones. PTI

### Illegal hawkers evicted from Mumbai's Colaba Causeway

**67** The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has evicted 67 illegal hawkers from Colaba Causeway, one of south Mumbai's busiest shopping hubs, during a civic drive. The action aimed to remove encroachments that were obstructing pedestrian and vehicular movement. PTI

### Number of booth level officers deployed for SIR exercise in T.N.

**68,467** The authorities have deployed 68,467 Booth Level Officers and 7,234 supervisors in Tamil Nadu for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls that began on November 4. PTI

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# Challenges facing the upcoming income survey

The upcoming Household Income Survey promises to provide a detailed snapshot of India's households — their incomes, expenses, and changing dynamics. Yet, collecting accurate income data remains a challenge due to the sensitive nature of the questions, which many respondents may find intrusive or difficult to answer

ECONOMIC NOTES

**Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

The upcoming Household Income Survey, 2026, which is going to be the first of its kind, could offer the clearest picture yet of India's households, revealing how they are coping, changing, and moving towards the future. However, the challenge with such an exercise lies in the sensitive nature of questions about individual income, which many respondents may be reluctant to answer. While the survey design is valuable from a policymaker's perspective, for respondents, such questions can feel intrusive and, in many cases, difficult to answer accurately from memory.

**On past surveys**

Indian policymakers lack actionable information about household income. While surveys like the Periodic Labour Force Survey attempts to capture earnings, it views wages and salaries through the lens of labour market dynamics, and falls short of offering detailed insights into household characteristics. The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) relies on spending patterns to infer household income. While this survey is considered more reliable, using consumption data as a proxy for income involves a leap that may not always hold up in practice. Then there is the RBI's Consumer Confidence Survey which tracks how income levels rise or fall over time among urban and rural consumers. Put together, these survey tools have either captured broad trends in income changes, relied on proxies to gauge them, or examined income through specific analytical lenses.

The upcoming Household Income Survey, however, aims to collect income data to understand income itself and its interplay with other household characteristics. The new survey gathers detailed information on social group, religion, and occupation – covering whether households are engaged in agriculture or other economic activities. It also records land ownership and use, property details such as the size and type of dwelling, and loans taken.



GETTY IMAGES

This survey, for the very first time, collects detailed information on regular salaries, including allowances such as overtime pay, performance-based bonuses, stock options, leave encashments, and severance payments. For casual workers, the survey will record the number of days worked, average daily wages earned, and even tips received. In the case of self-employed respondents, it will gather details on the type of crops sold, the quantity, and the value of those sales. For those engaged in non-agricultural work, the survey will note down the sector of business and the gross value of receipts earned.

By combining such information, the survey will make it easier to understand class dynamics across different types of employment and whether certain jobs are concentrated within specific social groups. It may also shed light on what share of a household's total income goes toward loan repayments – an important metric in an economy driven by EMI-based spending, particularly among urban households. When it comes to agriculture, the detailed questions make this survey an excellent direct tool to test claims like "doubling farmers' income", and assess related government schemes.

**Expenses recorded**

While measuring income is important, considering spending patterns is equally essential. Therefore, this survey repeats some questions from the HCES. For instance, the survey asks farmers to report input costs for each item, including seeds, labour, and transport. For those engaged in self-employment in other sectors, it seeks details on raw material costs, rental payments, and repair and maintenance expenses. By gathering both cost and income data from the same households, the survey enables accurate measurement of profit margins.

Additionally, it measures pension payments, family support transfers such as alimony or child support, and remittances. More importantly, for the first time, the survey collects data on funds received through State-specific schemes such as the *Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam* in Tamil Nadu, along with several Union government schemes.

**Testing troubles**

In August this year, the proposed survey was pilot-tested by randomly selecting households across India to answer its questions. This exercise generated some concerning feedback. Close to 95% of the respondents considered the information to be sensitive and felt uncomfortable disclosing income from different sources. A majority of them refused to answer questions about income taxes paid. Most respondents thus are likely to feel cautious when answering these questions. The survey team is aware of this challenge and is addressing it by increasing public awareness, dispelling misconceptions, and planning outreach across various media. They also aim to deploy field staff familiar with local languages to build trust. The testing team observed that respondents in rural areas sought fewer clarifications, whereas those in affluent households asked for more. Due to this hesitation, unusually, the government is considering introducing a self-compilation system exclusively for affluent and gated communities. Under this system, respondents would receive a written request explaining the survey's objectives and the importance of providing accurate income data.

Moreover, during field visits, many households overstated their expenses or misunderstood their income levels. Respondents also found it difficult to recall details about their financial assets and were often unaware of the interest earned from savings or fixed deposits.

### THE GIST

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- In August this year, the proposed survey was pilot-tested by randomly selecting households across India to answer its questions. This exercise generated some concerning feedback.
- A majority of them refused to answer questions about income taxes paid.

# What constitutes as contempt of court in India?

How does the Constitution define courts of record? What are the two types of contempt?

**C. B. P. Srivastava**

The recent controversy over the alleged contemptuous and derogatory remarks against the Chief Justice of India and the Supreme Court has not only raised eyebrows, but can also be considered an act of diminishing the 'authority' of India's top court. Moreover, such remarks being spread through media and social media may also be seen as an act of interfering and obstructing the administration of justice, thereby directly damaging the edifice of constitutional morality. This has been the basis for the demand to initiate contempt proceedings.

**Understanding contempt**

The phrase 'contempt of court' is used in Article 19(2) as one of the grounds for imposing reasonable restriction on fundamental freedoms yet the Constitution does not give guidelines on how to initiate such proceedings. In India, the Supreme Court and High Court have been designated as courts of record under Article 129 and 215 respectively. A court of record is one whose decisions are kept in reserve for future references and inherently it also has the power to punish for its contempt. This implicit constitutional provision is explained in the Contempt of Court Act, 1971.

The Act classifies contempt into civil and criminal. Section 2(b) of the Act defines civil contempt as wilful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court. On the other hand, criminal contempt is defined in Section 2(c) of the Act, as the publication (whether by words spoken or written or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any act which – (i) scandalises or lowers the authority of any court; or (ii) prejudices or interferes or tends to interfere with, the due course of any judicial proceeding; or (iii) interferes or tends to interfere with the administration of justice in any other manner. This makes it clear that contempt is different from mere disrespect. It is beyond just covering disobedience and disruption in the working of the justice system. The Act further states that the High Court or Supreme Court may initiate contempt proceedings *suo moto*. It may also be initiated by a third party provided the petition has consent from the Attorney General or Advocate General for the Supreme Court and High Court respectively.

**The mode of criticism**

It is now a settled principle that fair criticism of a decided case is not contempt, but criticism that transgresses the limits of fair commentary may be considered contemptuous as held in *Ashwini Kumar Ghosh versus Arabinda Bose* (1952). Further, in *Anil Ratan Sarkar versus Hirak Ghosh* (2002), it was held that the power to punish for contempt must be exercised with caution and shall only be exercised when there is a clear violation of an order. One of the landmark cases is of *M. V. Jayarajan versus High Court of Kerala* (2015) in which the top court upheld a contempt finding against an individual for using abusive language in a public speech while criticising a High Court order, establishing that such actions could be considered criminal contempt for undermining the judiciary's authority and disrupting the administration of justice. The top Court recently in *Shanmugam @ Lakshminarayanan vs. High Court of Madras* (2025) has held that the very purpose to punish for contempt is to ensure administration of justice.

Criticising the Courts' action democratically is not wrong; however, one needs to consider that the judiciary is playing a crucial role by contributing to setting the priorities for the state so that the sanctity of administration of justice is maintained. Both the state and the citizens need to understand that any kind of misrepresentation would not only amount to contempt, it would also be detrimental to democratic principles, affecting the delivery of substantive justice (elimination of injustices).

*The author is President, Centre for Applied Research in Governance, Delhi.*

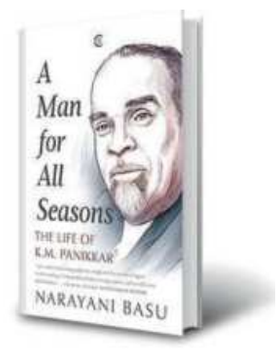
### THE GIST

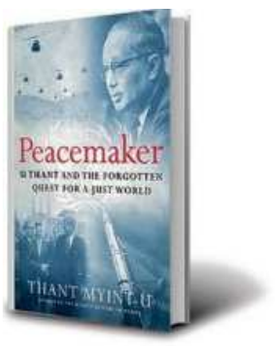
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BIBLIOGRAPHY



**Globalist:** K. M. Panikkar presenting his credentials to Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of People's Republic of China, as the Ambassador of India to China in 1950. HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES




# Forgotten men: the story of two peacemakers and their ideas of the world

Their paths didn't cross but U Thant, the UN's first Secretary General from the global south in 1961, and K.M. Panikkar, India's first ambassador to China in 1947, were both internationalists. Their roles in history have been largely airbrushed, and two biographies try to make amends

**Suhasini Haidar**

With elections for the next United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) due in 2026, expect the next few months in global politics to be dominated by discussions on what or whom the world body needs, to stave off predictions about the UN's imminent death. That threat comes not just from the conflicts and calamities the world faces, but from a slew of populist leaders worldwide taking their countries down an uber-nationalist path that diverges from the multilateral global system and the international rules-based order.

At such a time, it may be useful, even comforting to recall the words of U Thant, the UN's first Secretary General from the global south (Third World as it was called then). In his farewell speech Thant, a former Burmese school teacher who switched careers to become a diplomat, said he was proud of the fact that the flame of internationalism kept burning through his tenure (1961-1971). "Patriotism is good, but an additional allegiance to the entire world community is now essential. We have to get rid of the concept of 'my country, right or wrong'," Thant told an eclectic audience, that included Jackie Kennedy, John D. Rockefeller, Jacques Cousteau, John Lennon and Yoko Ono.

**A new lens**

The farewell story begins the vividly recounted biography of Thant, *Peacemaker: U Thant and the Forgotten Quest for a Just World* (Juggernaut), written by his grandson Thant Myint-U. Thant took over the uneasy mantle of UNSG suddenly after his predecessor Dag Hammarskjöld was killed in a plane crash in the Congo. Hammarskjöld was Swedish, and Trygve Lie before him was Norwegian, but Thant was undaunted by the realisation that "no one who looked like him had negotiated with big powers", and set out to purposefully bring an Afro-Asian lens to his brand of peace-making.

He cajoled those powers into committing funding for the UN and ensured the defeat of colonialist powers in Congo and Algiers. He often pitched himself into conflict, but his shuttle diplomacy between Washington and Moscow and mediation to end the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, as well as between Delhi and Islamabad during the 1965 war earned him respect. In a Gallup poll survey in 1967, Thant was named the sixth "most admired person" in the U.S., behind Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, but ahead of Nixon.

Thant Myint-U, himself a former UN official, and now an acclaimed writer of a number of books on Myanmar, such as *The Hidden History of Burma: Race, Capitalism, and the Crisis of Democracy in the 21st Century* (Juggernaut) and *Where China Meets India: Burma and the New Crossroads of Asia* (Faber), brings to life not only his grandfather's work and the amazing times he lived in, but also the inner labyrinthine and often frustrating workings of the United Nations.

Like many UN Secretary-Generals, Thant was backed by the U.S. and its allies when he came to office, but fell out with those same Western forces when he questioned their actions. The book recounts his futile but unrelenting quest to end the U.S. war in Vietnam, including his run-in with U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk who asked him, "Who, do you think you are, a country?", as well as the acrimony he faced from U.S. newspapers for ordering UN Peacekeepers to stand down during the Six-Day War. The U.S. also opposed his push to recognise communist China rather than Taiwan for the UN seat, but eventually Beijing won its place in 1971, just before Thant demitted office. The biography, that is based mainly on archival material and Thant's correspondence, is not a personal one. It is a dispassionate account of the peacemaker's successes, and the setbacks he faced. Where he does voice his disappointment, is in the manner Thant's record has been "airbrushed" from history.

**'Renaissance' men**

The airbrushing of inconvenient legacies and internationalism are themes in another biography of an Indian diplomat, K.M. Panikkar (*A Man for All Seasons: The Life of K.M. Panikkar*/Westland Books by Narayani Basu). The first Ambassador to China, Panikkar never crossed paths with Thant but grappled with many of the same global issues.

Panikkar, like Thant, was not educated in global elite institutions, but was an internationalist in his ideas. In today's times he would be seen as a "Renaissance man", a thinker and writer, the founding Editor of *The Hindustan Times*, whose treatise on Indian maritime power is a textbook, a freedom fighter who also fought for the rights of princes in the soon-to-be independent India, earning the moniker "Sardar Panikkar".

Through a dizzying series of friendships and associations in Kerala, to Aligarh's Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College (later Aligarh Muslim University), to Oxford and Paris, which are expertly stitched together by Basu, makes the 800-page tome a delightfully easy read. As India's diplomat at the United Nations, Panikkar worked with Vijayalakshmi Pandit on India's decision to oppose the creation of Israel at the UNGA in 1948, although he himself was personally close to Chaim Weizmann and other Zionist leaders. He later persevered, unsuccessfully at the time, in pushing for India's recognition of Israel, especially when he was India's ambassador to Egypt, concurrently accredited to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. He also helped shape India's leadership during the Suez Canal crisis.

**China stint**

The most intense period of Panikkar's career, was no doubt, his stint in China (1948-1955). Nehru first decided to send him as Ambassador to Peking under the Kuomintang, as someone who shared his belief in India's civilisational heritage as well as to "consolidate its position as a postcolonial power", but then unconventionally returned him as Ambassador under the Communist government. The Panikkars were equally well regarded by Chiang Kai-Shek as by Mao and Chou Enlai, but the continued assignment was bitterly controversial, first over Panikkar's recommendations on recognising the communist government before other countries had, in 1949, and then his failure to predict China's occupation of Tibet in 1950. Mr. Panikkar came in for sharp criticism from Home Minister Sardar Patel, who wrote to Nehru his disappointment that India's Ambassador had been blindsided and unnecessarily obsequious to the communist government. The assignment ended long before the 1962 war, but Panikkar's reputation for having "gone native" in Beijing with a belief in an India-China compact for Asia, overshadowed his legacy. It is to Basu's credit that she chose a character with such a troubled reputation, and shone a kinder and more comprehensive light on his larger, brilliant body of work.

Like Thant, Panikkar's contributions demanded a re-look, even as present-day conflicts call for a debate on the global order that both men made their mark in first building decades ago.



# *Language in conversation*

**Vaishali R. Venkat**

"Dear Moon, why are you crying?"

"Genie, my brother says his math homework is such a pain in the neck. It must be hurting him so badly! Shall we take him to the doctor?"

Genie chuckled, swirling like a whirlwind as he emerged from his lamp. "Ah, my dear Moon! Your brother doesn't need a doctor for his neck. It's you who need a doctor of English idioms!"

"Genie! How can you mercilessly laugh at someone's pain?" shouted Moon, pouting. "And what has English got to do with it? It's math homework, not English!"

"Ah, Moon, it's not your brother's neck that suffers! Pain in the neck is a way of saying that something or someone is terribly annoying. Your poor brother's homework is merely irritating him. It tests his patience, not his cervical vertebrae!"

"So my brother's neck is perfectly fine and not hurting?" Moon giggled.

"Exactly, Moon! And if you want to help him, you'll have to stick your neck out and dash across the busy, rickety street to borrow his friend's notebook so that your brother can copy it!"

"Genie... What do you mean by stick my neck out? Is it like in a cartoon or a ghost story, wherein characters or monsters might tie sticks around their necks to scare people?"

Genie puffed up his chest and wagged a finger. "No, Moon! No sticks, no ghosts, no monsters. To stick your neck out means to take a risk to do something brave. By crossing the busy street to fetch your brother's notebook, you are taking a risk. That is exactly what it means to stick your neck out!"

"Interesting, Genie... but I will not stick my neck out by going alone. You have to accompany me!"

Genie twirled in the air, wiggling his eyebrows. "Certainly, Moon, but where is your brother's friend? Ah, yes, I remember now, he is in the neck of the woods!"

"Genie, you've become a zombie with too many 'necks' around, but my brother's friend is not in the forest; he is just two streets away."

"It just means the 'neighbourhood' where he lives, Moon."

"Is that so, Genie? You know, whenever my brother and his friend start their homework, they always write at the same speed and finish at the same time. Both are really fast at writing!"

"Then they are neck and neck – exactly equal or have equal chance of winning!"

"Wow, Genie! Are there many more such 'neck' words in English?"

"Yes, Moon! But I'll tell you just two more – an albatross around one's neck; and be like a millstone around someone's neck. An albatross around one's neck means a big, heavy problem that troubles someone. For example, mounting debt is an albatross around Alice's neck. Likewise, to be like a millstone around someone's neck means to be a responsibility that is hard to bear and causes problems or worries. For example, the high EMI on Michael's new bungalow has become a millstone around his neck."

"Wow, Genie! I think I can spot neck words everywhere from now on!"

THE DAILY QUIZ

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

# Virat Kohli was born on November 5, 1988. Here is a quiz on the legendary cricketer

**Sindhu Nagaraj**

**QUESTION 1**
Which team does Kohli represent in domestic cricket?

**QUESTION 2**
Sachin Tendulkar has scored the most number of international centuries (100). How many has Kohli scored?

**QUESTION 3**
Kohli's first half-century in domestic cricket happened at Feroze Shah Kotla, where he scored 70 runs against which team?

**QUESTION 4**
Kohli came into the limelight when he led the team to victory in the U-19 World Cup in Malaysia. This happened in which year?

**QUESTION 5**
Kohli's international career began when the 19-year-old had a "surprise call-up" to the ODI squad for a tour of which country?

**QUESTION 6**
In which country did Kohli score his maiden Test century?



**Visual question:** This has been considered as Kohli's signature stroke. Name it.
GETTY IMAGES

**Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. Name the Scotland-born monarch that the Gunpowder Plot targeted in 1605. **Ans: James VI**
2. Identify the man born in Midland who devised the Gunpowder Plot. **Ans: Robert Catesby**
3. The conspirators intended to destroy this specific chamber of Parliament. **Ans: House of Lords**
4. Name the statute swiftly passed after the plot's discovery that ordered an annual church service and day of gratitude on November 5. **Ans: Thanksgiving Act 1605**
5. This graphic novel and its later film adaptation popularised a particular mask as a modern symbol of resistance. **Ans: *V for Vendetta***
Visual: Name this princess whom the conspirators wished to install on the throne. **Ans: Elizabeth, 'The Winter Queen'**
**Early Birds:** Piyali Tuli| Dodo Jayaditya| Mahima Sajani Jacob| Sachin Dandekar| Siddhartha Viswanathan

## Word of the day

**Obsequious:**
attempting to win favour from influential people by flattery; attentive in an ingratiating or servile manner

Synonyms: bootlicking, fawning, sycophantic

Usage: *His obsequious assistant agreed with whatever he said.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/obsequiouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əbˈsiːkwi.əs/

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