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'MEET IN NEAR FUTURE'

Netanyahu speaks to Modi, hints at visit

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Bethell gives England a fighting chance

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NEARBY



CM for statutory protection to capital Amaravati

VIJAYAWADA
Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and sought a Bill in Parliament that would give statutory protection to Amaravati as capital of Andhra Pradesh. » Page 4

Water projects are within A.P.'s territory: Lokesh

VISAKHAPATNAM
Asserting that all water projects undertaken by the government are within the State's territory, IT Minister N. Lokesh said that lifting surplus water flowing into the sea would benefit A.P. and entire South India. » Page 4

Govt. pegs FY26 growth at 7.4% amid tariff concerns

Higher estimate comes amid uncertainties and 50% U.S. tariffs hitting labour-intensive sectors hard; with Q1 and Q2 growing at 7.8% and 8.2%, second half will see average growth slow to 6.8%

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

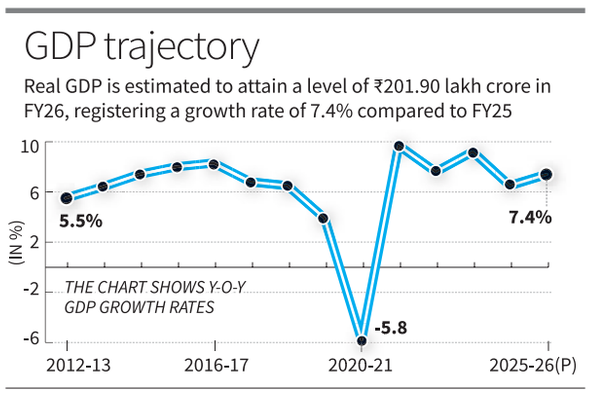
The Union government has estimated that real growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country will stand at 7.4% in the current financial year 2025-26, up from 6.5% recorded the previous year.

In the First Advance Estimates (FAE) of GDP for 2025-26, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Wednesday, the government said that nominal growth for the year would be 8%.

The FAE for any year is important as it forms the basis for various calculations and ratios used in preparing the Union Budget.

The First Advance Estimates, and the Second Advance Estimates, which will be released on February 27, are forecasts of the full year's growth based on data available up to that point. The Provisional Estimates for 2025-26, based on the full-year's data, will be released on May 30.

Based on the Centre's assessment that the full year's growth would be 7.4%, and the fact that Q1 and Q2 saw 7.8% and 8.2% growth respectively, the second half of the year would see average growth slow to 6.8%.



Braving headwinds

In December, the Reserve Bank of India had said that GDP growth in 2025-26 would be 7.3%, with Q3 growing at 7% and Q4 at 6.5%.

These projections come at a time when India's economy is facing several headwinds. The 50% tariff levied by the U.S. on imports from India has hit several labour-intensive sectors such as apparel, textiles, and engineering goods. The government has tried to boost consumer demand through both direct tax and indirect tax rate cuts, but the data show it nevertheless expects Private Final Consumption Expenditure, a metric that captures consumer spending, to grow at 7% in 2025-26, marginally slower than the 7.2% recorded last year.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

SC in 'disagreement' with Justice Varma's claims on LS Speaker

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said on Wednesday that it *prima facie* disagreed with Justice Yashwant Varma's claim that Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had overstepped the statutory rigour of the Judges (Inquiry) Act by "unilaterally" constituting a committee to examine allegations about the sacks of half-burnt currency found on the premises of the judge's official residence in Delhi in March 2025.

The Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and S.C. Sharma orally expressed its *prima facie* disagreement with the contention raised by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Justice Varma, that the Deputy Chairman had no authority to "step into the shoes" of the Rajya Sabha Chairman and reject the notice of motion submitted in the Upper House.


Justice Yashwant Varma

Justice Varma is currently a sitting judge of the Allahabad High Court. After a notice of motion was submitted by over 140 Lok Sabha MPs for the removal of Justice Varma in July 2025, Mr. Birla had constituted a three-member inquiry committee under the Act on August 12, 2025.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Mori-5 blowout a geological surprise, says ONGC official

The Hindu Bureau
RAZOLE

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) National Crisis Management Team Head G. Srihari on Wednesday concluded that the Mori-5 blowout of natural gas was a "geological surprise."

On January 5, the blowout of natural gas was reported in the Mori-5 well during the workover activity aimed at increasing the flow of natural gas at Irusumanda village.

Mr. Srihari, who had earlier served in the Krishna-Godavari Basin for 19 years, is heading the Mori blowout action plan, which includes containing the fire and capping, before "killing the well for further assessment" on the state of the natural gas reservoir.

DETAILED REPORT ON
» PAGE 4

Polavaram project will be completed before Godavari Pushkarams, says Naidu

The Hindu Bureau
POLAVARAM (ELURU DISTRICT)

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday said that the Polavaram irrigation project would be completed before the Godavari Pushkarams. The goal is to make it fully operational by December 2027, he said.

The Chief Minister conducted an on-site review of the Polavaram irrigation project works and held a review meeting with the contractors and officials at the project site. He directed the officials to complete the remaining works within the stipulated timeline.

Ministers Nimmala Ramanaidu (Water Resources Development), Kolusu Parthasarathy (I&PR), Nadendla Manohar (Civil Supplies), Mega Engineering & Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) Managing Director P.V. Krishna Reddy, the local MLAs and the officials from the Water Resources Department participated in the review meeting.

During the inspection, the officials informed the Chief Minister that nearly 87 per cent of the civil works of the project have been completed.

Emphasising the strategic importance of Polavaram project for Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Naidu instructed the executing agencies to expedite the works without any compromise on quality.

Addressing the media later, Mr. Naidu said efforts were being made to complete both the construction works and the rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) package within the stipulated timeframe.


Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu conducting an aerial survey of the Polavaram irrigation project on Wednesday.

Mr. Naidu asked the officials to fast-track the construction of the Polavaram Left Canal. He suggested that plans be drawn up to ensure that water from the right canal reaches the Kolleru region, benefiting the ayacut areas there.

Dig at YSRCP

Saying that the project had 'suffered severe setbacks during the YSRCP's tenure', causing delays of six to seven years and a sharp escalation in costs.

He stated that had the diaphragm wall been completed earlier, it could have been executed at a cost of ₹440 crore. Due to delays and damage to the diaphragm wall, an additional burden of nearly ₹1,000 crore was incurred.

He announced that the diaphragm wall construction would be completed by February 15. "The Polavaram main dam is almost finished. Embankment works are targeted for completion by June, and the ECRF Dam Gap-2 works by March next year," he said.

Mr. Naidu said R&R works would be completed within 12 months and directed officials to expedite land acquisition for rehabilitation.

He outlined plans to create the country's largest inland waterway, improve tunnel connectivity for the Polavaram right and left canals, and take Polavaram waters up to Visakhapatnam, benefitting Visakhapatnam and Anakapalli districts.

The Godavari waters flowing through the canals would also fill minor irrigation tanks and checkdams along the route, he said.

He claimed that while the previous government completed only 2% of the works in five years, the TDP government between 2014 and 2019 had completed 72%.

Referring to the Rayalaseema Lift irrigation project, Mr. Naidu alleged that the YSRCP was misleading the public. He said that the YSRCP commenced the project without having proper permissions, with an estimated cost of ₹3,528 crore. "The NGT imposed a penalty on the project," he said.

Mr. Naidu said he would inspect the progress of the Polavaram project again in the first week of May.

Temperature at G. Madugula drops to 2.7°C

The Hindu Bureau
PADERU

After a brief lull, temperatures in the Alluri Sitharama Raju district plummeted sharply in the early hours of Wednesday, recording the lowest minimums so far in the current season across several parts of the Agency region.

G. Madugula registered a minimum temperature of 2.7° Celsius, the lowest so far recorded this season, according to data released by the Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS), Chintapalli. Earlier, the season's lowest minimum temperature was 3.2° Celsius, recorded at G. Madugula on December 12, 2024.

It may be noted that G. Madugula had recorded a minimum temperature of 9.7° Celsius on Tuesday, indicating a sudden and severe dip in temperatures in the Agency areas.

After G Madugula, Munchingputtu and Araku Valley recorded minimum temperatures of 3.5°C and 3.6°C espectively. The district headquarters Paderu registered a minimum of 4.4°C, while Pedabayalu recorded 5.8°C. Similarly, Chintapalli and Hukumpeta reported minimum temperatures of 6°C and 6.4°C respectively.

Since the beginning of this week, there had been a slight rise in temperatures, with most areas recording minimum temperatures ranging between 8°C and 13°C. However, the mercury once again dropped. Thick fog engulfing several areas in the Agency until 9 a.m., significantly affecting visibility on roads. Tribals living in interior hamlets have been relying on campfires to cope with the biting cold.



ANDHRA PRADESH GRAMEENA BANK
(Scheduled Bank owned by Government)
HEAD OFFICE : GUNTUR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for Supply of 1 mg Electronic Jewel Weighing Machines to our Branches with 3 Years warranty. Application forms shall be submitted through the GeM portal. The last date for submission of bids in the prescribed format is 29.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM. For further details, please contact: The General Manager (Services), Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank, Head Office, 2nd Floor, Services Department, 5/2th Lane, D.No.5-38-27/28, Opp. HP Petrol Bunk, Brodipet, Guntur-522002, Ph: 9490158007 or visit bank website https://apgb.bank.in or GeM Portal https://bidplus.gem.gov.in/all-bids, Bid Id: GEM/2026/B/7085703. The Bank reserves the right to modify any terms and conditions of the tender or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof. *Terms and Conditions apply

GENERAL MANAGER, HEAD OFFICE, ANDHRA PRADESH GRAMEENA BANK, GUNTUR.

SRIKAKULAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Rc. No: 116/2025-26/E1 Date: 06-01-2026

Interested contractors/agencies are invited to submit their bids for the following work:

"Development of Jawan Park at Shanthi Nagar in Srikakulam Municipal Corporation"
Est. Amount : Rs.74.00 Lakhs
Bid Closing Date and Time : 19-01-2026 04:30 PM

For any kind of queries, please contact the Assistant Engineer (Ph: 9849906968), O/o Srikakulam Municipal Corporation.

Please Visit : https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/

Sd/-Commissioner, Srikakulam Municipal Corporation

Government of Andhra Pradesh
Department of Mines and Geology

Sri Anjaneya Towers, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 521456
NIT No. 2796169/P-T8/2025 06.01.2026

TENDER NOTICE

Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Andhra Pradesh is conducting auction for grant of 09 Mining Leases for 06 Limestone, 02 Manganese and 01 Gold Blocks and 02 Composite licences for 01 Copper and 01 Limestone blocks through auction in the state of Andhra Pradesh through electronic auction (e-auction). Interested individuals/firms who are desirous to participate in the tenders may visit **https://www.mines.ap.gov.in/miningportal/** for further details. Tender documents are available on the website of AP e-Procurement portal **(https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/)** from **11 AM** on **08.01.2026** onwards. For further queries, please contact Sri.G.Srinivas Chowdhary, DD Mines, **Ph: 9100688811.**

DIPR 4730PP/CL, Dt.07/01/2026 BALA CHANDRA SEKHAR W, DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: 01/RJC/GP27/2026 Dt: 7-01-2026

Open Tenders are invited by the **Regional Joint Commissioner, Endowments Departments MZ-1, Rajamahendravaram,** through e-Procurement for Reconstruction and Improvement works of certain temples and Choultries (31 works with a total value of Rs.37.34 crores) in connection with **Godavari Pushkarams-2027** in **East Godavari, West Godavari and Dr. B.R. Konaseema Districts. Availability of Bid Documents, from 08-01-2026 at 10:00 AM to 22-01-2026 at 04:00 PM. Last Date for Bid Submission: 22-01-2026 at 04:30 PM.** Interested bidders may download the bid documents and submit bids through the e-Procurement portal: **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**

Cell: 9440147520 Regional Joint Commissioner, Endowments Department, MZ-1, Rajamahendravaram

AP MSME Development Corporation
2nd Floor, PVS Landmark, IT Park, Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh - 522503

Tender Notice for 4th Call Tender for Selection of Machinery Vendors for Schedules B,D,E,G & J for CFC in Printing Cluster, Tirupati

The Andhra Pradesh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Corporation (AP MSME DC) invites bids for the Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of Machinery for the Common Facility Centre (CFC) in Printing Cluster, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

Bids are invited from competent and eligible agencies that fulfill the prescribed eligibility criteria for the Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of Machinery for the CFC in Printing Cluster, Tirupati, being implemented by AP MSME DC, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The tender document and related details can be downloaded from the Central Public Procurement (CPP) Portal. Bids shall be submitted through the CPP Portal only.

Eligible bidders may submit their bids through the CPP portal on or before 22nd January 2026, 15:00 Hrs.

DIPR 4733PP/CL, Dt.07/01/2026 Sd/- Chief Executive Officer

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
COMMISSIONERATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
No.05, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600 005.

Roc.No.3732 /A&A/RIGHTS/2025 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated : 07.01.2026

Bids are invited from potential bidders for supply of Furniture to 17 sub divisional OSC's across the districts of Karur, Sivaganga, Theni, Tiruvarur, Chengalpattu, Ranipet, Kallakurichi and Tirupathur through the e-procurement portal. The complete details are available on the department website-**www.scd.tn.gov.in** as well as on the tender website-**tntenders.gov.in.**

Bids are to be uploaded through the e-procurement portal at **http://tntenders.gov.in**

Project Director – TN RIGHTS / Commissioner for Welfare the Differently Abled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

DIPR/ 94 /TENDER/2026 Project Director – RIGHTS / Commissioner for Welfare of the Differently Abled

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
COMMISSIONERATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
No.05, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600 005.

Roc.No.3733 /A&A/RIGHTS/2025 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated : 07.01.2026

Bids are invited from potential bidders for supply of Computers & Printers to 17 sub divisional OSC's across the districts of Karur, Sivaganga, Theni, Tiruvarur, Chengalpattu, Ranipet, Kallakurichi and Tirupathur through the e-procurement portal. The complete details are available on the department website-**www.scd.tn.gov.in** as well as on the tender website-**tntenders.gov.in.**

Bids are to be uploaded through the e-procurement portal at **http://tntenders.gov.in**

Project Director – TN RIGHTS / Commissioner for Welfare the Differently Abled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

DIPR/ 93 /TENDER/2026 Project Director – RIGHTS / Commissioner for Welfare of the Differently Abled

Govt. Of A.P. W.R.D.
CORRIGENDUM
for TENDER NOTIFICATION
No.06/2025-26, Date:23-06-2025

Tender Schedule issue Last Date: 19-01-2026, 03.00 PM. Submission Last Date: 19-01-2026, 05:00 PM	Opening of Technical Bid: 20-01-2026, 11:00 AM Opening of Price Bid: 20-01-2026, 03:00 PM

Sd/- EE/ID/Srikalahasthi

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The Visakhapatnam Co-operative Bank Ltd.,
MAIN BRANCH, VISAKHAPATNAM. Ph : 0891 - 2788460

APPENDEX IV [RULE 8(1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of The Visakhapatnam Co-operative Bank Ltd., Main Branch, Visakhapatnam under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers coferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 27-10-2025 calling upon the Borrowers / Co-obligant/ Guarantors **(1) M/S SINGAM MOTORS PRIVATE LIMITED, Managing Director: Sri Singamshetty Venkateswara Rao, (2) Sri Singamsetty Venkateswara Rao, S/o Singamshetty Koteswara rao (3) Sri Singamsetty Komal Deep (Director), S/o Singamshetty Venkateswara Rao, (4) Smt. Singamsetty Durga, W/o Singamshetty Venkateswara Rao, (5) Sri Singamsetty Sandeep Kumar (Died) S/o Singamshetty Venkateswara Rao,** to repay the loan amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 1,23,57,445/ - (Rupees One Crore Twenty Three Lakhs Fifty Seven thousand , Four hundred and Forty Five only) as on 30-09-2025 within sixty (60) days from the date of the s,aid notice.

The Borrower / Co-obligant / Guarantors having failed to repay the loan amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rule on this 2nd day of January of the year 2026.

The Borrower/ Co-obligant/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of The Visakhapatnam Co-operative Bank Ltd., Main Branch, Visakhapatnam, for an amount of Rs. 1,23,57,445/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Three Lakhs Fifty Seven thousand , Four hundred and Forty Five only) as on 30-09-2025, with further interest thereon from 01-10-2025 and costs.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Item No.1 - PROPERTY IN THE NAME OF SINGAMSHETTY VENKATESWARA RAO

The Property is R.C.C. Slab Apartment Flat bearing Door No. 4-21-31/3 (38), Flat No. E-6 & E-7, in Fourth Floor, measuring a plinth area of 2200 Sft and two car parking each measuring 100 sft in stilt floor of "B.R.'s EMPIRE" Situated at China Waltair, Visakhapatnam, within the limits of GVMC Visakhapatnam, Covered by S.No.40/2, under Registered Sale Deed bearing Document No. 3716/2009 dated 01-10-2009.

Boundaries :

	Building	Flat No. E-6 & E-7
East :	Land in S.No. 40/2C	: Common Corridor and Flat No. E-5
Souh :	Land in S.No. 40/2A belonging to I. Bangar Raju & Co and others	: Setback Open Space
West :	Land in S.No. 40/2A belonging to I. Bangar Raju & Co and others	: Setback Open Space
North :	Municipal Road	: Setback Open Space and Lift

Total Extent : 78 Sq. yards or 65.21 Sq. Meters being undivided and unspecified share in 114 Sq. Yards or 95.319 Sq. meters out total extent of 2213.87 Sq Yards or 1851.09 Sq. Meters.

Item No. 2 PROPERTY IN THE NAME OF SMT. SINGAMSHETTY DURGA

The Property is R.C.C. Slab House consisting of Ground and First Floor bearing Door No. 7-48, Plot No. 21, Approved Layout, (M.I.G-I), N.G.O's Colony, Situated at Kothavuru Village, Tummapala, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam, Covered by Survey No. 666/1, 667/1, 668/1,676/1,677/1 and 680/1 under Registered Sale Deed, bearing document No.3547/1996 dated 30-11-1996.

Boundaries : East : Plot No. 22, South : Plot No. 34, West : Plot No. 20, North : Layout Road **Total Extent : 352 Sq. Yards or 295.68 Sq. Meters**

Item No. 3 PROPERTY IN THE NAME OF SMT. SINGAMSHETTY DURGA

The Property is Vacant Site Situated at Nallapadu Village, Turakapalem Gram Panchaythi, Guntur District, Covered by D.No. 653/1C, under Registered Deed bearing Document No. 1856/2013 dated 27-02-2013..

Boundaries :

East : Property of Katta Sambayya South :Property of Sanakkayala Pullamma
West : Property of Singamsetty Durga North : Nagarjuna Sagar Canal
Total Extent : 2420 Sq. Yards or 2023.36 Sq. Meters

Item No. 4 PROPERTY IN THE NAME OF SINGAMSHETTY VENKATESWARA RAO

The Property is Vacant Site bearing Plot No.29, Situated at Bendapudi Gramam, Thondangi Mandal, East Godavari, Covered by Survey No. 304/2, under Registered Sale Deed bearing Document No. 1305/2004 dated 04-05-2004.

Boundaries : East : Plot No. 34, South : Plot No. 30, West : 30 feet Road, North : Plot No. 28, **Total Extent : 201.60 Sq. Yards or 169.34 Sq. Meters**

Place : Visakhapatnam Date : 07-01-2026 *Authorised Officer / Branch Manager* Main Branch

भारत सरकार अंतरिक्ष विभाग राष्ट्रीय सुदूर संवेदन केंद्र हैदराबाद -500 037, तेलंगाना भारत टेलीफोन : +040-23884173 / 74 फैक्स : +040-23884179 सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India Department of Space National Remote Sensing Centre Balanagar, Hyderabad – 500 037, Telangana, India Telephone: +040-23884173 / 74 Fax: +040-23884179

निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह / CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
ई-निविदा नोटिस / e-TENDER NOTICE

समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी, एनआरएससी, हैदराबाद द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ऑन–लाइन आइटम दर निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। Online item rate tenders are invited by the Gr. Head CMG, NRSC, Hyderabad for the following works:

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NRSC/CMG/NIT/ET/52/2508/2025-26	एनआरएससी, बालानगर परिसर में आरएसए ग्रुप की बैठने और कंप्यूटर प्रयोगशालाओं की सुविधा स्थापित करने के लिए प्रथम मंजिल पर स्थित फोटो लैब (भवन संख्या 8) में सुधार और संशोधन कार्य। (सिविल, फोटो और विद्युत कार्यों कार्यों के लिए संयुक्त अनुबंध)। Improvement and Modification works in photo lab (Bldg no. 8) at First Floor for establishing RSA Group sitting and computer labs facility at NRSC, Balanagar Campus, Hyderabad. (Composite Contract for Civil, PH and Electrical works).	₹ 141.00 लाख / Lakhs	From : 08.01.2026 से To : 27.01.2026 तक	Up to 29.01.2026 16:00बजे/ Hrs तक
NRSC/CMG/NIT/ET/51/2509/2025-26	हैदराबाद के बालानगर परिसर में एनआरएससी के प्रस्तावित निदेशक कार्यालय के लिए बाहरी बिजली आपूर्ति प्रदान करने हेतु सहायक कार्य। Ancillary Works for Providing External Power Supply for the Proposed Director's Office at NRSC Balanagar Campus, Hyderabad.	₹ 36.35 लाख / Lakhs	From : 08.01.2026 से To : 27.01.2026 तक	Up to 29.01.2026 16:00बजे/ Hrs तक

विस्तृत एनआईटी एवं पात्रता मानदंड ईएमडी बोली संबंधित प्रलेख आदि www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO पोर्टल से देखा/ डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। किसी प्रकार के संशोधन, समय विस्तार, स्पष्टीकरण आदि वेबसाइट पर अपलोड किया जाएगा और किसी समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित नहीं किया जाएगा। बोलीकर्ता अद्यतन जानकारी हेतु नियमित रुप से वेबसाइट देखें।

Detailed NIT and eligibility criteria, EMD bidding document, etc. can be viewed /download from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO portal. All amendments, time extension, clarifications, etc. will be uploaded on website and will not be published in newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

समूह प्रमुख सी.एम.जी./ Group Head CMG, निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह/ Construction & Maint. Group

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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.

DEPARTMENT FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED AND SENIOR CITIZENS

Podium Block, V.V.Tower, Ground Floor, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi Road, Bangalore 560 001. Telephone No. 080-22866066, 080-22866046
Email Address: **dirdwdscka@gmail.com, dir-dwds-ka@nic.in**

Tender Notification No: DEDASC/2025-26/IND0111 Dated: 06-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement only)

Tender is invited by the Director, Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, under e-Procurement platform/e-portal in two parts (i.e., Technical bid and Financial bid) from the original manufacturers or their authorized dealers for supply of 260 braille kits for the students with Visual Impairment for the year 2025-26 to the Department for Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens. The interested bidders may see further details and may login in website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

The tender can be submitted on or before **21-01-2026 till 5:00 PM.** The technical bid will be opened on **22-01-2026 at 5:30 PM** and the financial bid will be opened on **23-01-2026 at 04:30 PM.** Department reserves all rights to accept, reject, incorporate changes and retender without giving any reasons. The details can be obtained from the Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Podium Block, V.V.Tower, 6th floor, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, Phone No:080-22866066, 28860907. For more info please see department website **www.dwdsc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Director,
Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/4900/Zen/2025-26

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

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Tirupati & Kadapa : 97041 06892
Nellore & Anantapur : 98497 93093

THE HINDU South India's No.1 English Daily

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5th Floor, Stalin Corporate, Industrial Estate, Autonagar, Vijayawada-10.

Tender Notice No. APTDC/GMP/2026-27 Dt: 07-01-2026

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed Tenders are invite for renewal of Group Medical Insurance Program offered to the employees and their dependents of APTDC from IRDA LICENSED GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANIES OPERATING IN India.
Date & Time of Closing of Tenders : 3.00 PM on 19-01-2026.
The "Request for Quotation" (RFQ) document is available on APTDC website (www.tourism.ap.gov.in) in Tender Section.

Sd/- A.A.L. Padmavathi, Executive Director (OP)

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032.
Office: D.No: 3/10, 1st Floor, Stone Housepet, Nellore(Dt)-524002.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

We, M/s.Shriram Finance Limited (formerly known as "Shriram City Union Finance Limited" amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Limited and converted as Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited as per the orders of NCLT Bench-II Chennai dated 09.11.2022) and thereafter obtained the approval to rename as Shriram Finance Ltd (Ministry of Corporate Finance letter dated 30.11.2022), is a company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 and also registered with RBI to do Non-Banking Finance business having its registered office at Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032.

Where as, the undersigned being the authorized officer of Shriram Finance Limited (SFL) under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **5th January 2026.**

Borrower Name and Address	AMOUNT DUE AS PER DEMAND NOTICE :
1. Chinthapatla Naresh, S/o. Ch. Pullamanaidu, OCC:SN Jewellery, H.No. 20/6/123, Virat Nagar, Patha Municipal Office, Nellore Rural, Nellore(Dt)-524001. **2. Mandava Narasimha Rao,** S/o. Late M. Malakondaiah, R/o Thurpu Yarraballi, Kondapuram, Nellore(Dt)-524284. **3. Chinthapatla Sandhya,** W/o Naresh, R/o. H.No. 20/6/123, Virat Nagar, Patha Municipal Office, Nellore Rural, Nellore(Dt)-524001.	To pay **Rs. 2,91,36,438/-** (Two Crore Ninety One Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty Eight Rupees Only) under reference of **Loan A/c No: 1. NELL4TF1506270004 2. NELL4TF1608230004 Demand Notice Dated: 24.05.2024**

Description of Property: Guntur District, Mangalagiri Sub-District, Mangalagiri Municipality, Mangalagiri Village Accounts, Sy No.266/AB2 an extent of Ac.7.82 cents, Sy No.266/A1B an extent of Ac.1.28 cents and Sy.No.267/A1B an extent of Ac 7.85 cents out of that Plot No.6 near Door No.7-455, site measuring East to West 67 ft and North to South 45 ft total extent of 335 sq yards bounded on: **East:** Plot of Others, **West:** 30 ft wide Road, **North:** Plot No.5 sold to others, **South:** Plot No.7. All the above Schedule Properties are in the name of CHINTHAPATLA SANDHYA, W/O NARESH.

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of Shriram Finance Limited (SFL) is in the Lawful Symbolic Possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of Shriram Finance Limited (SFL).

Date: 05.01.2026 Authorized Officer
Place: Nellore Shriram Finance Limited

Indian Overseas Bank
Mangalagiri Branch, No.5-470 & 5-470A, Tenali Road, Mangalagiri
Ph: 08645-234208, Email Id: iob3798@iob.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E- AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Sale of immovable properties mortgaged to bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of **Indian Overseas Bank** has taken possession of the following property pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on **'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' and 'AS IS WHAT IS BASIS'** for realization of Bank's dues plus interest & costs as detailed here under and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Web Portal **https://baanknet.com.**

1) Name & Address of the Borrower : Mr. Bejjam Naresh Babu, S/o. Sambasiva Rao and Bejjam Neelamma Alias Lilamma, W/o. Bejjam Sambasiva Rao (Late), 6-39, Kantheru Village, Tadikonda Mandal, Guntur District - 522508.
Due Amount : Rs.12,23,643/- as on 05.01.2026; Date of NPA: 31.10.2019; Date of Demand Notice: 05.03.2020
Dues claimed in Demand Notice: Rs.7,32,560/- as on **29.02.2020** with further interest & costs thereon.
Date of Possession Notice: 24.11.2020
Dues Claimed in Possession Notice: Rs.7,96,711/- as on 24.11.2020 with further interest & costs thereon.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of vacant Residential Site area measuring 75 sq.yds situated at Survey No.232, Door No.6-35, Assessment No.913, Panchayat Bazar, Kantheru Village, Tadikonda Mandal, Guntur District standing in the name of Smt. Bejjam Neelamma Alias Lilamma, as per sale deed Document No.1677/1991, dated.05.10.1991. **Boundaries of the Property : East:** Site of B. Srinu - 45 Feet, **South:** Panchayat Bazar - 15 Feet, **West :** Site of Bejjam Satyanandam - 45 Feet, **North:** Bazaar - 15 Feet.
Reserve Price: Rs.5,40,000/- EMD: Rs.54,000/- Bid Increase Amount: Rs.25,000/-

2) Name & Address of the Borrower : M/s. Sai Vijaya Traders, Prop: Tallam Venkata Naga Bhanuprasad, 8-678, Main Bazar, Mangalagiri - 522503. **Mr. Tallam Venkata Naga Bhanu Prasad,** S/o. Lakshmi Narasimha Murthy, 8-678, Main Bazar, Mangalagiri - 522503. Borrower - M/s. Sai Vijaya Traders and Loan Against Property. **Mrs. Tallam Vijayalakshmi,** W/o. Lakshmi Narasimha Murthy, 8-678, Main Bazar, Mangalagiri - 522503. Borrower - Loan Against Property. **Mrs. Tallam Praveena,** W/o. Tallam Venkata Naga Bhanuprasad, 8-678, Main Bazar, Mangalagiri - 522503. Borrower - Loan Against Property. **Name & Address of the Mortgagors / Guarantors: Mr. Tallam Venkata Naga Bhanu Prasad,** S/o. Lakshmi Narasimha Murthy, 8-678, Main Bazar, Mangalagiri - 522503. Mortgagor - M/s. Sai Vijaya Traders and Loan Against Property. **Mrs. Tallam Vijayalakshmi,** W/o. Lakshmi Narasimha Murthy, 8-678, Main Bazar, Mangalagiri - 522503. Guarantor & Mortgagor - M/s. Sai Vijaya Traders. **Mrs. Tondepu Tanuja,** W/o. Sri Krishna Hari Prasad, 2-14, Arundathi Nagar, Rajaka Street, Kanchikacharla, Krishna District. Guarantor & Mortgagor: Sai Vijaya Traders and Loan Against Property.
Due Amount : Rs.1,32,47,316/- as on 05.01.2026; Date of NPA: 31.10.2019; Date of Demand Notice: 21.01.2021
Dues claimed in Demand Notice: Rs.74,13,789/- as on **31.12.2020** with further interest & costs thereon.
Date of Possession Notice: 09.03.2022
Dues Claimed in Possession Notice: Rs.84,84,235.51/- as on 09.03.2022 with further interest & costs thereon.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
1) All that part and parcel of vacant site area measuring 210 sq.yds or 175.58 sq.mts situated at Survey No.258/B, Door No.7-541, Ward No.7, Nannapaneni Kalyana Mandapam Back Side, Mangalagiri, Guntur District standing in the name of Mrs. Tallam Vijaya Kumari, W/o. Tallam Lakshmi Narasimha Murthy, Mr. Tallam Venkata Naga Bhanuprasad, S/o. Tallam Lakshmi Narasimha Murthy and Mrs. Tondepu Thanuja, W/o. Tondepu Sri Krishna Hari Prasad. **Boundaries of the Property: East :** Municipal Bazar - 30.6 Feet, **South:** Property of Saranam Rama Mohan Rao - 62 Feet, **West :** Municipal Bazar - 30.6 Feet, **North:** Property of Tallam Badari Narayana - 62 Feet.
2) All that part and parcel of vacant site area measuring 11 sq.yds or 9.19 sq.mts situated at Survey No.258/B, Door No.7-541, Ward No.7, Nannapaneni Kalyana Mandapam Back Side, Mangalagiri standing in the names of Mrs. Tallam Vijaya Kumari, W/o. Tallam Lakshmi Narasimha Murthy, Mr. Tallam Venkata Naga Bhanuprasad, S/o. Tallam Lakshmi Narasimha Murthy and Mrs. Tondepu Thanuja, W/o. Tondepu Sri Krishna Hari Prasad. **Boundaries of the Property: East :** Property of Tallam Badari Narayana - 6.6 Feet, **South:** Property of Tallam Badari Narayana - 15.5 Feet, **West :** Property of Saranam Rama Mohan Rao - 6.6 Feet, **North:** Municipal Bazar - 15.5 Feet.
3) All that part and parcel of vacant site area measuring 15.25 sq.yds or 12.75 sq.mts situated at Survey No.258/B, Door No.7-541, Ward No.7, Nannapaneni Kalyana Mandapam Back Side, Mangalagiri standing in the names of Mrs. Tallam Vijaya Kumari, W/o. Tallam Lakshmi Narasimha Murthy, Mr. Tallam Venkata Naga Bhanuprasad, S/o. Tallam Lakshmi Narasimha Murthy and Mrs. Tondepu Thanuja, W/o. Tondepu Sri Krishna Hari Prasad. **Boundaries of the Property: East :** Property of Tallam Badari Narayana, **South:** Property of Shaik Ramijunnisa, **West :** Property of Saranam Rama Mohan Rao, **North:** Site of Dandamudi Rajasekhar & Others.
Reserve Price: Rs.59,40,000/- EMD: Rs.5,94,000/- Bid Increase Amount: Rs.1,00,000/-

3) Name & Address of the Borrower : Mr. Shaik Khadar Basha, S/o. Shaik Alla Bhakshu, D.No.20-6-3, Dasaratha Ramaiah Street, Chinnacheruvu, Tenali, Guntur District - 522 201.
Due Amount : Rs.16,36,353/- as on 05.01.2026; Date of NPA: 31.12.2019; Date of Demand Notice: 05.03.2020
Dues claimed in Demand Notice: Rs.7,76,504/- as on **29.02.2020** with further interest & costs thereon.
Date of Possession Notice: 11.12.2020
Dues Claimed in Possession Notice: Rs.8,50,282/- as on 11.12.2020 with further interest & costs thereon.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of vacant Residential Site area measuring 102 Sq.yds situated at Survey No.211/3, Nearby Door No.24-6-10, Chinaravuru Village, Tenali Municipal extension area, Guntur District, standing in the name of Mr. Shaik Khadar Basha, S/o. Shaik Alla Bhakshu, as per sale deed document No.5836/2015, dated.01.10.2015. **Common Boundaries: East :** Property belongs to Thullimelli Samrajyam - 21 feet, **South:** 18 Feet wide Road - 44 feet, **West :** 15 Feet wide Bazar - 21 feet, **North:** Property belongs to Ramavath Balaji Nayak - 44 Feet.
Reserve Price: Rs.8,16,000/- EMD: Rs.81,600/- Bid Increase Amount: Rs.25,000/-

Date & Time of e-auction: 22.01.2026, Between 11.00 A.M to 01.00 P.M with auto extension of 10 minutes each till sale is completed at the platform of https://baanknet.com

EMD Remittance: The intending Bidders /Purchasers are requested to register on portal **https://baanknet.com** using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders /Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet account by **22-01-2026 before 1.00 p.m.**

Known Encumbrance if any: NIL
Inspection Date & Time: Dt. 08.01.2026 onwards with prior appointment with Bank
Submission of online application for bid with EMD: Dt. 08.01.2026 onwards
Last date for submission of online application for BID with EMD: Dt. 22-01-2026 BEFORE 1.00 P M
*** Outstanding dues of Local Self Government (Property Tax, Water sewerage, Electricity Bills etc) to be ascertained by the prospective bidders and to be paid by the successful bidders**
***Bank's dues have priority over the statutory dues**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in service provider's **website: https://baanknet.com or bank's website www.iob.in**
For further details please contact: The Branch Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, Mangalagiri Branch, Beside M P Kalyana Mandapam, Tenali Road, Mangalagiri -522503. Phone : 8925953798 ; Service Provider: M/s. Bank Asset Auction Network (BAANKNET) having Registered office at Unit -1, 3rd Floor, VIOS commercial tower, Near Wadala Truck terminal, Wadala East, Mumbai- 400037, email: support.baanknet @psballiance.com (Contact No: 8291220220, operation time of Help desk: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm).

Date : 06-01-2026, Place : Mangalagiri Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



DEATH

It is with great sadness we announce the passing away of our dear father



Mr. V. C. INDER KUMAR JOHN
Age: 75 years
Passed away peacefully at his residence on 04.01.2026.
Funeral Service on 10.01.2026, 10.30 AM at the Kilpauk Cemetery Chapel followed by burial at 11.30 AM.

Forever in our hearts
Sheena and Shiju
(+919841211241)

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



In loving memory of my Appa,
PRABHU RAMADAS,
on the fourth year since you left us.
We miss you everyday, da.

அழிவது உடல், அழிவற்றது உயிர்

- Mila Prabhu

DEATH

OBITUARY



Shri R KRISHNAN
92 years
son of late Shri R S Ramasubba Iyer (Rajakkalmangalam), attained shivalokaprapthi at 4 pm on 7.1.2026 - survived by Smt Chellamal, K Sriram, K Sridhar, Vidya and Srinath.
The final rites will commence from 10 30 AM, 8.1.26 at Flat No 11, Sreebagh Apartments, No 17, Baliah Avenue Mylapore Chennai - 4
9941835035, 9940633490, 9841022309

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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THE HINDU Classifieds
CAREER OPENINGS

All set for Amaravati Avakaya festival in city from today

The event will feature film screenings, literary discussions, music and dance, theatre shows, workshops, cultural lectures and art exhibitions

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA


Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh reviewing arrangements for the Amaravati Avakaya Festival at Haritha Berm Park on Wednesday.

The Haritha Berm Park developed by Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) on the banks of the Krishna River in Vijayawada, buzzed with activity on Wednesday as the three-day 'Amaravati Avakaya Festival' is scheduled to start on Thursday.

The Tourism Department, in collaboration with Teamwork Arts, is hosting the event that aims to showcase the richness of Telugu cinema, culture, arts, and literature.

Events will organised primarily at Punnami Ghat and Bhavani Island, with free entry for visitors who are encouraged to register online.

Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh, APTDC Managing Director Amrapali Kata, district officials, and organisers reviewed the arrangements.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, besides a host of other Ministers and VIPs, are expected to attend the inaugural, which includes a grand procession, leather puppet show, drum performances, musical events, river ferry rides, heritage walks, food festivals, and other cultural attractions.

The Chief Minister will launch houseboats and 'float-and-dine' romantic cruises and the plan is to expand such tourism facilities State-wide.

Playback singer Javed Ali will regale the audience at the festival. A video message promoting the Amaravati Avakaya Festival by the singer was released on Wednesday. "I am eagerly looking forward to presenting my music in the presence of the people of Andhra Pradesh and experiencing their love and affection," said Mr. Ali in the video message.

Programmes lined up

Over the three days of the festival, the visitors can view film screenings or become part of animated literary discussions, poetry readings, music and dance performances, theatre shows, workshops, cultural lectures and contemporary art exhibitions.

Notable features include workshops on martial arts, discussions on villain roles in cinema, storytelling sessions, training in leather puppet-making, Nagada percussion workshops and conversations on topics such as "OTT cinema, adaptation of novels" to films, and Indian mythology and narrative traditions.

Evening programmes will feature music concerts, Kuchipudi dramas, mushaira sessions and performances by renowned singers, including Javed Ali. Rich tributes would be paid to the legendary actor Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao on the final day of the festival, along with a musical theatre.

For-profit companies can set up medical colleges under PPP mode: NMC chief

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

National Medical Commission (NMC) Chairman Abhijat Chandrakant Sheth on Wednesday said that the regulation of allowing only non-profit companies to set up medical colleges has been shelved to enable both non-profit and for profit companies to run them.


NMC Chairperson Abhijat Chandrakant Sheth addressing the media at Dr. NTRUHS in Vijayawada. K.V.S. GIRI

Addressing the media at Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences, Mr. Sheth said, "Earlier, only non-profit Section 8 companies were allowed to set up medical colleges but a recent board meeting has removed this regulation, paving the way for both non-profit, and for-profit companies to set up medical colleges under Public Private Partnership," said Sheth, who met Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu today, in a release.

The NMC is of the belief that public and private entities teaming up together will enable the efficient utilisation of available resources for medical education, he said.

As hospitals run under PPP mechanism will be under State governments' purview, he said patients will receive treatment on either free or subsidised basis, he said.

As part of enhancing medical education quality, Sheth said clinical research has been made compulsory, including embracing AI, futuristic technologies and digital healthcare, among others.

He said that NMC is raising awareness among the public about preventive measures to check diseases and the mental well-being of students.

New PhD specialty and sub-specialty courses would be introduced and clinical research will be made mandatory to enhance the quality of medical education, he said, adding that the accreditation process for medical colleges would be simplified.

Later, Dr. NTRUHS Vice-Chancellor P. Chandrasekhar said steps are being taken to increase PG seats to match the MBBS seat numbers.

To address the shortage of doctors in taluk-level hospitals and hospitals with 50-100 beds, a new 'Family Medicine' initiative is being introduced, which will make approximately 500 seats available.

(With inputs from PTI)

'Net-zero' residential school inaugurated

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The government, in collaboration with Heartfulness, an educational non-profit organisation, launched a Net-Zero Residential School, a pilot project, at the A.P. Social Welfare Residential School at Kuntamukkala in Krishna district on Wednesday.

Participating in the programme, Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath said the initiative would result in vast ecosystems across Andhra Pradesh being cared for by students. "Nurturing a sense of responsibility towards nature at an early age will prepare them to become environmentally conscious future leaders," he said.

The pilot project aims to serve as a scalable model of an Integrated Ecological Campus, which will include green belts, a rainforest, wetlands, and microgreens, thereby closing the Net-Zero loop. It seeks to create an environment conducive to learning while grooming students to take responsibility for ecology through student-led green governance, with scope for scaling across Andhra Pradesh.

Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Venkata Krishna Prasad and District Collector G. Lakshmisha were present. APSWREIS secretary Prasanna Venkatesh said the project aims to achieve negative carbon emissions, improve soil health and biodiversity.

INBRIEF



Anitha encourages women to become job creators

Women are excelling in all fields across the world, and now time has come for them to rise to a level where they can create jobs for others, said Minister for Home Affairs Vangalapudi Anitha. Inaugurating the 6th Women's Fest being organised by Taruni Tarangalu at the Siddhartha Auditorium in Vijayawada on Wednesday, Ms. Anitha urged women to take challenges in their stride and move ahead with self-confidence. The Minister listed measures being taken by the government and the police for women's safety, and said these were instilling fear among troublemakers. A.P. State Women's Commission Chairperson Rayapati Sailaja was present.



NTR District Collector urges people to drive responsibly

NTR District Collector G. Lakshmisha urged the public to make collective efforts to make the district safest on the index of road safety. As part of the 37th National Road Safety Month, a walkathon was organised in Vijayawada on Wednesday. Along with district officials, police personnel and officials from the transport department also took part in the programme. Flagging off the walkathon, Mr. Lakshmisha emphasised that everyone must act responsibly to prevent road accidents.

Kondapalli rly. station to get a facelift with ₹10 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Central government has approved the development of Kondapalli Railway Station under the Amrit Bharat 2.0 scheme, Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivnath said on Wednesday. The station is slated for modernisation with proposed development works worth ₹10 crore.

Mr. Sivnath, along with MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad, inspected the station's infrastructure, platform height, and other passenger amenities. They examined drainage issues along the Kondapalli-Vijayawada railway track, particularly at the Kondapalli ST Colony, where annual rains cause water stagnation affecting nearby residents.

The officials visited the Gollapudi Bulb Line Station to explore the possibility of using it as an alternative station for Vijayawada Railway Station. Mr. Sivnath highlighted that approximately 150 acres of land between three railway tracks at Gollapudi would be suitable for the development of a functional station. The proposal was discussed with Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and would be evaluated with the railway authorities, he said.

Timings
VIJAYAWADA

THURSDAY, JAN. 08	
RISE	06:38 SET 17:50
RISE	22:39 SET 10:21
FRIDAY, JAN. 09	
RISE	06:38 SET 17:51
RISE	23:28 SET 10:55
SATURDAY, JAN. 10	
RISE	06:38 SET 17:52
RISE	00:00 SET 11:30

Vijayawada Weather	max	min
Machilipatnam	30	21
Guntur Town	30	17
Vijayawada City	29	20

Vijayawada City Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant and hazr.

Vijayawada City Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be sight cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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1,345 students from A.P. to get Reliance scholarships

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Students from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have topped the national list of Reliance Foundation's UG and PG scholarships for 2025-26, with 1,883 of them selected from the two States.

A statement said that out of 5,100 students selected nationwide, including 5,000 UG and 100 PG awardees, 1,345 are from A.P. and 538 from Telangana.

Selected undergraduate students will receive grants of up to ₹2 lakh, while postgraduate students will receive up to ₹6 lakh. They are provided with mentoring and leadership development opportunities and gain access to a global alumni network.

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
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Recruitment Notice-01/2026

State Infrastructure and Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited (SIIDCUL) is a Government of Uttarakhand enterprise engaged in industrial development activity in the State of Uttarakhand. Applications are invited from eligible candidates in the prescribed form for recruitment of following vacant posts in SIIDCUL:-

Sl.	Post	Pay Band and Grade Pay	Category	No. of Post
1.	Law Officer	15600-39100 (Grade Pay- 5400)	Gen	01
2.	Assistant Law Officer	9300-34800 (Grade Pay-4200)	Gen	01

The candidates must have attained minimum age of 21 years. The maximum age limit shall be 42 years as on 01.01.2026. **The last date for submission of application is 31.01.2026**
For details regarding qualification, experience, application format and other details and instructions please visit company website **www.siidcul.com.**

Managing Director, SIIDCUL

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT VISAKHAPATNAM
Gr. & 1st Floor, Sri Narayana Bhawan, Sai Baba Street, Dabagardens, Visakhapatnam-530020

O.A No.984 /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:
State Bank of India, Tanuku Main Branch, D.No.13-17/1, Yerramilli Vari Street, Tanuku, West Godavari Distict, Andhra Pradesh-534211, represented by its Chief Manager. ... Applicant
And :
Shri Pulidindi Nageswara Rao
To,
Shir Pulidindi Nageswara Rao, S/o Pulidindi Veeranna, H.No.13-80, Ramalayam Street, Near Govt.Boys Hostel, Undrajavaram, Undrajavaram Mandal, West Godavari-534216 ... Defendant

SUBSTITUTED SERIVCE OF SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANTS BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, **OA/ 984 /2025** is listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on **05/02/2026.**

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.36,81,150.68/-** (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 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 the Presiding Officer/ Registrar on **05/02/2026** 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 date: 07/01/2026
Sd/- Signature of the Officer
Authorised to issue summons
Registrar, Debts Recover Tribunal, Visakhapatnam

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INBRIEF

Minister launches LPS-II, announces debt waiver

Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana and Tadikonda MLA T. Sravan Kumar launched the Land Pooling Scheme-II at Vaddamanu village of Thullur Mandal in Guntur district on Wednesday. On the occasion, Mr. Narayana announced ₹1.50 lakh debt waiver for families who gave their lands for construction of the capital Amaravati. "Loans taken by the farmers till January 6, 2026, are eligible for waiver," he stated. He said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had agreed to increase the lease rent given to farmers and necessary action would be taken in the due course.

Naidu hails NHAI's Guinness world records in State

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said in a social media post that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) achieved two Guinness world records in Andhra Pradesh through Rajpath Infracon Private Limited by laying 28.95-km and 10,675 MT of bituminous concrete continuously in a span of 24 hours in Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Economic Corridor (NH-544G). He stated that it was an extraordinary achievement that reflects the vision of the Government of India and its sustained thrust on the creation of world-class highway infrastructure under the leadership of Nitin Gadkari.

Nod for staff recruitment in Piduguralla medical college

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday approved proposals put forth by the Department of Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare to facilitate admission of MBBS students in the Government Medical College at Piduguralla from the academic year 2026-27. According to a press release, the proposals that received the nod included recruitment of 237 doctors and other health staff for the medical college and 600 staffers for the teaching hospital Stating that former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had misled the people by claiming that construction began at 17 medical colleges, each offering 150 MBBS seats, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav clarified that the previous government had obtained permission for only 100 seats, and not 150, as was being said.

TDP subverted norms in Bommanahal MPP poll: Jagan

YRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has condemned the alleged undemocratic actions of TDP leaders during the recent Bommanahal MPP election. At a meeting with the MPTC members from Bommanahal in Rayadurgam constituency, at the party central office on Wednesday, Mr. Jagan was briefed about the incidents of alleged violence, intimidation, and forceful capture of the MPP post by the TDP supporters. The MPTCs described the attacks as a "direct subversion of democratic norms, severely undermining a process that should have been conducted freely and transparently." Mr. Jagan assured party representatives that he would take the matter up with the Election Commission and the High Court to seek justice. He personally enquired about the alleged assault on Rayadurgam YSRCP in-charge Mettu Govinda Reddy.



A.P.'s growth model inspiring, says Mauritius President

Drawing a parallel between tradition and transformation, President of the Republic of Mauritius Dharambeer Gokhool on Wednesday said his country was consciously shaping its development trajectory by drawing inspiration from Andhra Pradesh's model of growth, which harmoniously blends cultural heritage, civilisational values and modern technology. Addressing an impressive audience at the TTD's Sri Veda Vignana Peetam in Tirumala, Mr. Dharambeer Gokhool reflected on his own personal journey, noting that he rose from the teaching profession to the highest constitutional office in Mauritius. Commending Andhra Pradesh for its progress, he said the State stands out for advancing development without diluting its cultural and traditional foundations. "This balance between heritage and technology is what inspires Mauritius as well," he said. The President said Mauritius decided to establish a Vedic school at the Harihara temple, currently under construction. The initiative, he said, would be guided by the expertise of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), reflecting Mauritius' commitment to promoting ancient Indian knowledge systems.

'Water projects proposed are within A.P.'s territory'

Lifting surplus water flowing into the sea benefits A.P. and South India, and there is no intention to obstruct Telangana projects, says Lokesh, accusing YSRCP of raking up disputes for political gain

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM



IT Minister Nara Lokesh addressing the media after attending the cross-examination in the district court, in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. V. RAJU

Minister for IT and HRD Nara Lokesh on Wednesday observed that lifting surplus water flowing into the sea would not only benefit Andhra Pradesh but also the entire South India.

Reacting to the dispute over the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project, Mr. Lokesh, who was in the city to attend the cross-examination in the district court in the case pertaining to the defamation suit he had filed against 'Sakshi' Telugu daily, told the media that a few YSRCP leaders were raking up water disputes for political gain.

"The YSRCP had been in power in the year 2020, and the stay on the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project was imposed during the term of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy as Chief Minister," Mr. Lokesh said, and accused the YSRCP of falsely projecting it as a recent development.

"All the projects being taken up by the coalition government are within Andhra Pradesh's territory. The government's vision is to lift the Godavari waters only after they enter Andhra Pradesh and divert them to Rayalaseema," he said, and asserted that there was no intention to obstruct Telangana's projects.

"Thousands of TMCs of floodwater are flowing into the sea every year," he said. The government was exploring ways to lift the surplus waters and divert them to the drought-prone Rayalaseema region, he added.

"The initiative is not limited to Andhra Pradesh alone. The surplus waters can also be supplied to Tamil Nadu through the Telugu Ganga project, making it beneficial for the entire southern region of the country," Mr. Lokesh argued. Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who had once termed the Pattiseema project as a "waste," continued to operate it during his five-year term.

Women's safety

Referring to the safety of women and children, Mr. Lokesh said it was the primary responsibility of the State government to ensure the safety of women and children, and protect them from harassment and abuse on social media platforms. The Group of Ministers was deliberating on measures to effectively address the issue, he said.

"We will also examine and study the steps being taken by other countries to deal with the problem," the Minister said, citing the example of Australia, which had banned access to social media for children below the age of 16.

A final decision will be taken after discussing the issue with the Chief Minister and inviting suggestions from the public, he said.

Responding to the "credit fight" over the Bhogapuram international airport, Mr. Lokesh said "the NDA is not fighting for credit, but is only working for the people."

"Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy had once questioned the need for the airport," he reminded.

During the 2014-19, the NDA government had allotted 2,600 acres to the GMR Group for construction of the airport. But after to coming to power in 2019, the YSRCP had taken back 600 acres. The NDA government, after coming to power in 2024, returned the land to the GMR Group, he said, emphasising the need to develop a larger aviation ecosystem that would in turn generate employment for the local youth.

Naidu meets Shah, seeks statutory protection for Amaravati as capital

Seeking introduction of a Bill in Parliament to this effect, the Chief Minister tells the Union Home Minister that it is crucial for the State's development and stability, and for boosting investor confidence

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and sought the introduction of a Bill in Parliament that would give statutory protection to Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh, terming it as crucial for the State's development and stability.

Emphasising the need for policy certainty, the Chief Minister said a formal legislative recognition of Amaravati would accelerate development and fulfil the aspirations of the people of the State, while strengthening investor confidence.

Also, Mr. Naidu discussed the financial provisions of the recently introduced VB-G RAM G scheme and pointed out that the revised Centre-State funding ratio of 60:40 was placing an additional financial burden on Andhra Pradesh and was likely to adversely affect its implementation.

Seeking relief, he requested alternative financial support and flexibility, keeping in view the State's current fiscal situation.

The Chief Minister acknowledged the Centre's support in helping Andhra Pradesh recover from financial stress, and appealed for continued cooperation, and apprised Mr. Shah of the status of various ongoing development works, welfare schemes, and recent developments in the State.



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

Govt. betraying Rayalaseema interests: YSRCP

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The YSRCP has accused the TDP-led NDA government of adopting a "dictatorial approach, curbing freedom of speech and betraying the long-standing interests of Rayalaseema."

Addressing the media at the party central office at Tadepalli, near here, YSRCP State general secretary S.V. Satish Kumar Reddy condemned Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu's remarks allegedly questioning the need for the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme, and termed them as betrayal of Rayalaseema farmers. He accused the government of deliberately stalling the project.

"Nearly 85% of the scheme has been completed by the previous YSRCP government," he claimed, and accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of colluding with his Telangana counterpart A. Revanth Reddy to block the project.

Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham State Committee sought a clarification from Mr. Ramanaidu on his statement.

In a press release, rythu sangham State president V. Krishnayya and State secretary K. Prabhakar Reddy said the Minister's remarks were "highly objectionable and insensitive to the irrigation problems faced by the Rayalaseema region."

The scheme was conceived as part of widening the Pothireddypadu Head Regulator to meet the long-pending irrigation needs of drought-prone Rayalaseema districts. Several parts of Kurnool, Anantapur, Sri Sathya Sai, Kadapa, Annamayya and Chittoor districts continue to suffer from acute water scarcity. In such a situation, terming the scheme as unnecessary reflected a lack of understanding of ground realities, they said. Any decision affecting irrigation projects must be based on scientific assessment and needs of farmers, not arbitrary opinions, they said.

Blowout in Mori-5 well a geological surprise: official

The Hindu Bureau
RAZOLE



The blowout control plan succeeded in reducing fire intensity and ambient heat in the vicinity of the well by Wednesday, says ONGC.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) National Crisis Management Team Head G. Srihari on Wednesday concluded that the Mori-5 blowout of natural gas was a "geological surprise."

On January 5, the blowout of natural gas was reported in the Mori-5 well during the workover activity aimed at increasing the flow of natural gas at Irusumanda village.

Mr. Srihari, who had earlier served in the Krishna-Godavari Basin for 19 years, is heading the Mori blowout action plan, which includes containing the fire and capping, before "killing the well for further assessment" on the state of the natural gas reservoir.

Speaking to a section of the media on the sidelines of the blowout control exercise on the site, Mr. Srihari observed, "The well has pure natural gas and there is no deposit of oil. The blowout is absolutely a geological surprise, which happens due to the reservoir's parameters."

"The estimations of the natural gas reservoir and its flow may have been underestimated. However, there is no failure of the equipment installed in the well for the operations as found during the blowout action plan," said Mr. Srihari.

On deployment of the U.S.-based Wild Well experts to cap the well, the ONGC Rajahmundry Asset authorities confirmed to *The Hindu* that a decision was yet to be taken on engaging the experts, who were kept ready.

Vikram Saxena, Director (Technology & Field Services), ONGC, New Delhi, is also monitoring the execution of the blowout action plan.

'Evacuees return'

In an official release, the ONGC claimed that the execution of the approved blowout control plan succeeded in reducing fire intensity and ambient heat in the vicinity of the well by Wednesday, and that systematic removal of debris was in progress.

In a joint press conference attended by Mr. Vikram Saxena in Amalapuram, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District Collector R. Mahesh Kumar said that people evacuated from the three villages on January 5 returned to their habitations – Irusumanda, Gubbulavaripalem and Chintalapalli.

Tata Power to establish 10 GW facility in Nellore

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

In a major boost to India's solar and semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem, Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) will set up a greenfield 10-Gigawatt ingot and wafer manufacturing facility in Nellore with an investment of ₹6,675 crore. The project, according to a press release, is the largest ingot and wafer manufacturing unit in the country, and it reinforces Andhra Pradesh's position as a leading hub for advanced solar power manufacturing.

The facility will be developed at the IFFCO Kisan Special Economic Zone, where the State government has already earmarked 200 acres for the project, including 120 acres for the initial phase and 80 acres for future expansion. The ingots and wafers produced at the facility are critical inputs for solar cells, modules, and semiconductor applications, and the project aligns with the Government of India's push to strengthen domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependence for strategic components.

Captive green power

As part of its clean energy commitment, TPREL will also establish a 200 MW captive green power plant to supply renewable energy to the facility. Welcoming the investment, IT Minister Nara Lokesh called it "a strong vote of confidence in the State's policy stability, infrastructure readiness, and commitment to clean energy manufacturing."

Pawan for increasing green cover to 50% by 2047

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest & Environment K. Pawan Kalyan has said a target has been set to increase the green cover in State to 50% by 2047.

Addressing a review meeting on the activities undertaken to increase the green cover in the State, at the Secretariat on Wednesday, he said the government contemplated to develop the 'Great Green Wall of Andhra Pradesh' as a living ecological shield.

Collective efforts were required to achieve the goal, he said, and stressed the need for the horticulture and other departments to prepare plans to boost soil fertility and farmers' income. .

MP meets Dy. CM

Faggan Singh Kulaste, Mandla MP and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes, met Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan at the Secretariat on Wednesday and discussed various issues. Mr. Kulaste specifically mentioned that a few businessmen belonging to Madhya Pradesh (MP) had obtained legal permits for granite mining at Sadum village of Punganur Mandal in Annamayya district, but some local leaders were obstructing their mining operations on the ground that they were outsiders from another State. Responding, Mr. Pawan Kalyan said the government would take legal action against those obstructing work of the MP businessmen on the pretext that they hailed from another State in spite of their possession of permits for granite mining. "People from any State can work in any other State," he observed.

ISRO set to launch earth observation satellite on Jan. 12

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is scheduled to launch the PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission on January 12.

The launch of the earth observation satellite (EOS-N1) satellite along with other payloads will take place from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

Strategic use

EOS-N1 is an earth imaging satellite said to be built for strategic purposes. ISRO has not shared further details about the satellite. "The launch of PSLV-C62 Mission is scheduled on 12 January 2026 at 10:17 hrs IST," ISRO posted on X.

The PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission is the first launch for ISRO in 2026 and comes within a few days of successfully launching the U.S.'s BlueBird Block-2 satellite communication satellite in low earth orbit on December 24 onboard the LVM-3 launch vehicle.

Post glitch

The launch of the PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission will be the 105th launch from Sriharikota.

It is also an important launch for the space agency as the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV), which is ISRO's workhorse, had suffered a glitch during its previous attempt to launch a satellite.

On May 18, 2025, while ISRO attempted to launch the EOS-09 satellite aboard the PSLV-C61 it could not accomplish the mission due to an observation in the third stage of the rocket.

PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission will also launch payloads developed by start-up and academia from India and abroad.

Kerala's new language Bill is unconstitutional: Karnataka

Delegation urges Kerala Governor to reject Bill that makes Malayalam compulsory first language in all Kerala schools; it says draft law is against interests of Kannada-speaking minority in Kerala

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU



A team from the Karnataka Border Area Development Authority with Kerala Governor Rajendra Arlekar in Kasaragod on Wednesday.

In yet another thorn in the Karnataka-Kerala relationship, the Karnataka government has taken objection to the Malayalam Bhasha Bill, 2025, that makes Malayalam the compulsory first language in all schools across Kerala.

A delegation from Karnataka met Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and urged him to reject the Bill.

Karnataka has said that the Bill is "unconstitutional" and against the interest of the Kannada-speaking linguistic minority in Kerala, especially those living in the border district of Kasaragod.

A delegation from the Karnataka Border Area Development Authority, on behalf of the Karnataka government, met the Governor at Kasaragod on Wednesday and handed over a petition to reject the Bill.

A similar Bill passed in 2017 had been rejected by the President.

'Exempt Kasaragod'

"The Kerala Assembly recently has passed a Bill called Malayalam Bhasha Bill, 2025, and submitted for your assent, which is pending in your office. It is similar to the Bill of 2017," the authority's letter to the Governor pointed out.

"We want Kasaragod, where more than 70% of the population is Kannada speaking, to be excluded from the purview of the Bill. As per Article 350 and Article 350A, it is the duty of the State government to protect rights of linguistic minorities. This Bill violates constitutional rights," said authority secretary Prakash Mattihalli, who led the delegation.

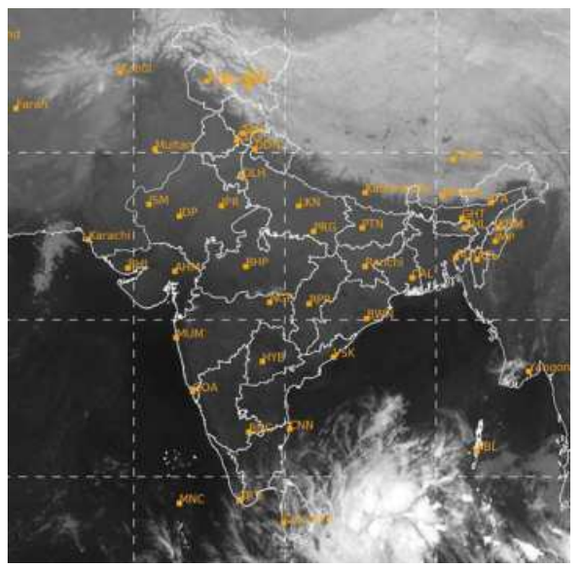
"Mr. Arlekar promised us that he would consider our plea," he said.

This comes close on the heels of Kogilu Layout demolition following which sparks flew between Karnataka and Kerala leaders, especially after Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan dubbed the demolition "brutal normalisation of bulldozer raj".

Pointing out the provisions of the Bill, the Karnataka government has said, "Section 2(6) defines that the first language Malayalam should be taught as compulsory subject in Kerala schools up to Class 10 in all government and aided schools. In Kasaragod and other Kannada-speaking areas of Kerala, linguistic minority students are studying Kannada as their first language and another language as second language."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.45 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	21.8	9.2	Kozhikode	—	33.2	23.4
Ahmedabad	—	25.8	13.8	Kurnool	—	30.5	17.9
Aizawl	—	22.8	8.5	Lucknow	—	16.6	9.6
Allahabad	—	17.0	9.2	Madurai	—	32.0	23.1
Bengaluru	—	26.4	17.0	Mangaluru	—	32.2	22.1
Bhopal	—	23.4	8.4	Mumbai	—	32.2	19.0
Bhubaneswar	—	26.1	10.2	Mysuru	—	28.4	17.4
Chandigarh	—	13.0	7.6	New Delhi	—	16.7	8.6
Chennai	—	28.8	23.6	Patna	—	16.2	9.8
Coimbatore	—	29.6	22.2	Port Blair	—	30.0	25.9
Dehradun	—	22.2	5.7	Puducherry	—	29.6	21.3
Gangtok	—	15.0	5.2	Pune	—	30.3	15.2
Goa	—	33.7	19.2	Raipur	—	27.7	10.9
Guwahati	—	23.0	12.1	Ranchi	—	23.2	6.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	14.0	Shillong	—	15.9	4.0
Hyderabad	—	28.2	12.9	Shimla	—	16.8	3.6
Imphal	—	23.0	7.6	Srinagar	—	10.0	-1.6
Jaipur	—	17.6	6.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.9	23.3
Kochi	—	31.4	22.8	Tiruchi	—	29.5	21.6
Kohima	—	14.8	4.6	Vijayawada	—	29.0	20.0
Kolkata	—	23.6	9.8	Visakhapatnam	—	27.1	20.6

(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	124	88	100	174	—	
Bengaluru	4	19	38	179	196	
Chennai	6	6	54	167	135	
Delhi	29	53	112	322	271	
Hyderabad	13	14	74	108	126	
Kolkata	14	74	49	311	254	
Lucknow	6	45	62	317	193	
Mumbai	26	90	29	186	129	
Pune	6	71	80	215	183	
Visakhapatnam	20	42	40	203	153	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 345 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

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

Webinar to offer insights on research-based career options

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A webinar focusing on the importance of developing research culture in higher education institutions will be organised by SASTRA University, Thanjavur in collaboration with *The Hindu Education Plus* on January 10 with experts from India's top educational institutions and government agencies. Titled 'Building a Research & Innovation Ecosystem', it is part of the Career X for Gen Z series.

Career insights

The session would offer students insights into research-oriented career options, interdisciplinary innovation, national science initiatives, and emerging opportunities across academia, industry, and government funded research and development programmes. It will highlight the importance of fostering research culture on campuses, strengthening innovation ecosystems, and equipping students to contribute meaningfully to the country's scientific and technological advancement.



Expert panel

The panel of speakers will include Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Institute Professor and Chairman, Immersive Technology and Entrepreneurship Labs, IIT Madras; Shivkumar Kalyanaraman, Chief Executive Officer, Anusandhan National Research Foundation, Government of India; Dhirendra S. Katti, Director, IIT Goa; Rajeev Ahuja, Director, IIT Ropar; and S. Swaminathan, Dean (P&D) and Director, Centre for Nanotechnology and Advanced Biomaterials, SASTRA University.

Registration details

The session will begin at 11 a.m. on January 10, 2026 and will be moderated by Soma Basu, journalist. For registration, students may visit https://newsth.live/THSASBE.

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పత్రికా ప్రకటన

మా క్లయింటు పల్నాడు జిల్లా, వినుకొండ టౌన్, కారంపూడి రోడ్డు నివాసి గోపు చిన్నపు రెడ్డి గారి భార్య ఎలిజబెత్ రాణి, సెల్: 7702754026 ఇచ్చిన నమాచారం మేరకు యావన్మందికి తెలియజేయునది ఏమనగా! గుంటూరు రిజిష్టర్ ఆఫీసు నందు మా క్లయింటు పేరుతో రిజిష్టరు కాబడిన ఈ క్రింది షెడ్యూలు దాఖలా విక్రయ దస్తావేజు ద.నెం. 16620/2006 కు లింకు దస్తావేజు అయిన ద.నెం.10108/1992 ను మా క్లయింటు తన ఇంటి నుండి ది.05-01-2026 న వినుకొండలోని లాయర్స్ స్ట్రీట్‌లోని ఫోటోస్టాట్ సెంటర్‌కు వెళ్ళుచుండగా పోగొట్టుకొనుట జరిగినది. తదుపరి ఈ దస్తావేజు కొరకు వెతికినను కనిపించలేదు. ఈ దస్తావేజు ఎవరికైనా దొరికిన యెడల క్రింద తెలిపిన నా అడ్రస్‌కు కానీ లేక మా క్లయింటు అడ్రస్‌కు కానీ వెంటనే అందజేయగలరు.
షెడ్యూలు: గుంటూరు జిల్లా, గుంటూరు ఆర్.డి, గుంటూరు సబ్.డి గోరంట్ల పంచాయతీ లోని గోరంట్ల డి.నెం. 413/1 లో ప్లాటు నెం.7 లోని చ.గ.232-0ల స్థలమునకు **హద్దులు: తూర్పు:** అ. 30ల వెడల్పుగల రోడ్డు, అ.40లు; **దక్షిణం:** జమ్ముల సరళ ప్లాటు నెం.6, అ. 51లు, **పడమర:** మా క్లయింటు తాలూకు ప్లాటు నెం.9 స్థలం, అ.40-0లు, **ఉత్తరం:** మా క్లయింటు తాలూకు ప్లాటు నెం.8 స్థలం, అ.53-6లు.

P. సైదారావు, బి.కామ్, బి.ఎల్, అడ్వకేట్, సెల్ : 9440825595
లాయర్స్ స్ట్రీట్, కొత్తపేట,
వినుకొండ టౌన్, పల్నాడు జిల్లా.
saidarao.potluri@gmail.com

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Harijana vetti Anil Kumar S/o Y.Sivanna R/o 1-194A Edulabalapuram (v). 515122, Sri Satya Sai Dist A.P., was changed my Name from **HARIJANA VETTI ANIL KUMAR (Old Name)** to **Y ANIL KUMAR (New Name)** due to personal reasons.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PINJARI MALAMBI (formerly D. MABBI), W/o Lalu Sab and D/o Pinjari Raghunath Bonsley, R/o 18/292, Guntakal, Ananthapur District, A.P.–515801, have changed my name from **D. MABBI to PINJARI MALAMBI** vide affidavit dated 07-01-2026.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MADRAS RACE CLUB
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Regd. Office : Post Box 2639
Guindy, Chennai – 600 032.
Website : www.madrasraceclub.com
Tel. No. 91-44 22351171/2/3/5 & 22350774
Email Id : secretary@madrasraceclub.com

NOTICE TO CLUB MEMBERS

We refer to the Notice dated 24th December 2025 convening the Extraordinary General Meeting (**"EGM"**) of the Club Members of the Madras Race Club (CIN No. U74999TN1922NPL001455) at **10.00 A.M.** on **Monday, 19th January 2026** at the Registered Office of the Club, situated at Guindy, Chennai – 600 032, and also through Video Conference ("VC") Facility / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") to transact Special Business in the matter relating to Dr. T. Dhevanathan Yadav.

In the background that Dr. T. Dhevanathan Yadav has submitted his resignation from the office of Member of the Committee of Management, Madras Race Club, with effect from 2nd January 2026 and his resignation having been accepted by the Committee of Management, Madras Race Club, from the said date and in view of that, the subject matter of the Special Business proposed to be transacted in the aforesaid EGM having been rendered infructuous, Members of the Madras Race Club are hereby notified that the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club Members of the Madras Race Club, **convened to be held at 10.00 A.M. on Monday, 19th January 2026** at the Registered Office of the Club, situated at Guindy, Chennai – 600 032, and also through Video Conference ("VC") Facility / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") **stands cancelled.**

This **Notice of Cancellation of the Extraordinary General Meeting convened** to be held at 10.00 A.M. on Monday, 19th January 2026 at the Registered Office of the Club, situated at Guindy, Chennai – 600 032, and also through Video Conference ("VC") Facility / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") is for the kind information of the Members of the Madras Race Club.

On behalf of the Committee of Management
For and on behalf of Madras Race Club

S. NIRMAL PRASAD
Secretary

Place : Chennai
Date : Tuesday, 6th January 2026

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ADMISSION IN UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES: 2026-27

For seeking admission in Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate (PG) programmes, the registration portals of CUET-UG and CUET-PG of the National Testing Agency (NTA) are open. Desirous and eligible applicants are requested to visit following links/websites for registration to get CUET scores.

S.N.	Programmes	Link/Website	Closing date
1.	For Undergraduate courses	https://cuet.nta.nic.in/registration-for-cuetug-2026-is-live/	30.01.2026
2	For Postgraduate courses	https://exams.nta.nic.in/registration-for-cuetpg-2026/	14.01.2026

For eligibility visit **www.dhsgsu.edu.in** Contact Ph. **07582-297123** Email: **admission@dhsgsu.edu.in**

Registrar

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.
email : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

Letter No : 82 / **1st Corrigendum** Date: 02/01/2026

In continuation to this office Bid Identification **No.CCERWCSBD-Online-32/2025-26** invited vide this office Notice No.6245 Dtd.28.11.2025, partial modification of NCB has been made as follows:-

1. **Availability of Tender online for bidding Extended up to Dtd.29.01.2026 at 5.00 PM**
2. **Date and Time of seeking tender clarification if any on or before Dtd.28.01.2026 up to 2.00 PM**
3. **Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid) on Dtd.30.01.2026 at 11.00 AM.**
4. **Date & Time of opening of tender (Price Bid) Will be intimated later**

All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered.

O-1959: **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.
e-mail : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

Letter No : 91 / **1st Corrigendum** Date: 02/01/2026

In continuation to this office Bid Identification **No.CCERWCSBD-Online-33/2025-26** invited vide this office Notice No.6329 Dtd.28.11.2025, partial modification of NCB has been made as follows:-

1. **Availability of Tender online for bidding Extended up to Dtd.29.01.2026 at 5.00 PM**
2. **Date and Time of seeking tender clarification if any on or before Dtd.28.01.2026 up to 2.00 PM**
3. **Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid) on Dtd.30.01.2026 at 11.00 AM.**
4. **Date & Time of opening of tender (Price Bid) Will be intimated later**

All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered.

O-1958: **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.**

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION (CHENNAI) LIMITED
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TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of MTC, e-tenders are invited for the **"Procurement, Supply, Operation and Maintenance of 20 Double Decker Air Conditioned Electric Buses and Development of Allied, Electric and Civil Infrastructure on Gross Cost Contracting (GCC) Model".**

TENDER SCHEDULE					
Tender document download date start from	Tender document submission start date & time	Tender document submission end date & time	Tender will be opened on (Date & Time)	EMD amount in Rs.	Pre-bid meeting date and time
08.01.2026	28.01.2026 12.00 Noon	07.02.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs	07.02.2026 at 16.30 Hrs	30,00,000/-	13.01.2026 at 15.00 Hrs

The tender documents are available in the tender websites : **https://tntenders.gov.in, https://mtcbus.tn.gov.in, https://tnidb.tn.gov.in.** Bidders are requested to upload their tender documents through the Government e-procurement portal **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** only. Any modification (if any) in tender terms and tender invitation period will be uploaded in the websites and the tenderers are requested to go through the above website periodically.

MTC (Chennai) Ltd reserves the right to Accept / Reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPR/ 109 /TENDER/2026 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

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VACANCY NOTICE NO.01/2026

No: K-RIDE/HR/195/Vacancy Notification/01/2026 **Date:08.01.2026.**

K-RIDE the Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka and Ministry of Railways is executing the flagship Bangalore Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) and other doubling projects. To meet its immediate requirement, K-RIDE invites applications for filling up the following posts on deputation/contract basis.

Vacancy Notice No	Post	No of Posts
01/2026	Assistant Manager [Public Relations)	01
02/2026	Assistant Manager (SAP PS & MM)	01
03/2026	Sr. Executive/Executive (FICO)	01
04/2026	Sr. Executive/ Executive (HR/HCM)	01

Last date for submitting applications is **09.02.2026.** For detailed eligibility conditions and other details please visit **https://kride.in/careers-in-k-ride/**

DIPR/CP/VCPL/4904/2025-26 **Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER/HR(I/c)**

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REGIONAL AYURVEDA RESEARCH INSTITUTE, VIJAYAWADA
(Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India)
New Rajiv Nagar, Payakapuram, Vijayawada-520015(A.P)
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This Institute intends to engage services of the following posts on contractual & co-terminus basis for the following projects and for any other upcoming projects.

1. Tribal Health Care Research Project (THCRP) under Tribal Sub Plan.
2. Ayurveda Mobile Health Care Programme Under SCSP
3. Efficacy and Safety of AYUSH SR in the management of Pre menstrual Syndrome A Randomized Double Blind Placebo Controlled Study
4. Dermatology in Ayurveda-A Comprehensive Review

These SRF's are engaged initially for a period of one year or till the project tenure, whichever is earlier. Further, engagement tenure may be extended at the discretion of the competant authority based on project tenure and performance of the concerned.

Name & No. of the Post	Qualification, experience and age limit	Monthly remuneration	Date and Time of Written Test/ Interview
Senior Research Fellow(Ay.) -06*	**Essential:** BAMS from any recognized University **Desirable:** 1.Preference will be given to those who possess higher qualification or who have previous Research experience i.e. having worked for any research project funded by the Ministry of AYUSH,ICMR, CSIR, DST or equivalent organization. 2.Skills of drafting, editing of scientific documents/articles/technical reports etc. 3.Publication in peer reviewed journals. 4.Working knowledge of computer applications. 5. Age not exceeding 35 years as on 01-01-2026.	Rs.42,000/- + HRA	28-01-2026 at 10.00 AM

* No.of posts may vary.

For further information and application form please see the CCRAS website **www.ccras.nic.in**

Sd/-
Assistant Director-In-Charge

Letter against spirit

The Election Commission's mandate is to ensure no Indian is disenfranchised

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has told the Supreme Court of India that it has a constitutional duty to ensure that only citizens are enrolled as voters, and that no foreigner makes it to the electoral rolls. Even a single foreigner cannot be allowed to exist on the voter list, the ECI argued before the Court on January 6. The ECI is defending its ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which has struck off millions of names of voters. The concerns raised by all Opposition parties, legal scholars and civil society relate to the evident burden and harassment being caused to ordinary citizens of the republic in having to prove their existence and identity. Nobody has argued for the inclusion of any foreigner, or for keeping electoral rolls as they are today – faulty and impossible to navigate. At the heart of this debate is the relation between the ECI's claims and the process. Over many decades, the ECI has consistently grown its institutional integrity – despite occasional slippages – by expanding the franchise not merely as a formality but also as a substantive right. The maxim that no amount of escaped criminals justifies the punishment of a single innocent person has resonance in this context. In a leap into the phantom world of foreigners taking over the country, the real challenges to the integrity of India's electoral process are being overlooked. Or, maybe, the foreigner paranoia is being whipped up as a facade for polarisation.

That Article 324 of the Constitution grants the ECI independent "control over the preparation of electoral rolls" is not contested. The concern is that the ECI is not acting independently and in a manner that boosts confidence in the electoral process. The litmus test of an electoral process – very much like a judicial process – is whether the side that loses still trusts the process. Unfortunately for India, the current ECI has its priorities turned on their head when it frames its constitutional duty as the removal of foreigners, and not the enrolment of every Indian citizen. While several authorities have a duty to look for foreigners, only the ECI has the duty to enrol Indian citizens as voters. Through changes in rules and their partisan application, the ECI has undermined its own stature and the sacred duty assigned to it by the Constitution in the recent past. Now, by unleashing avoidable suffering and inconvenience upon Indian citizens under the garb of chasing the last foreigner, it is misreading the letter and ignoring the spirit of its constitutional duty.

The middle path

The Assured Pension Scheme of Tamil Nadu is a good compromise

By formulating the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS), the DMK government has done its best to resist the temptation of returning to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for its employees. It has sought to strike a middle path in its implementation of a key electoral promise made before the 2021 Assembly election and the need for fiscal prudence. Apart from nearly two lakh employees under the OPS, there are around six lakh government staff under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) since April 2003. It is this section that has been urging the DMK to fulfil its electoral assurance – OPS restoration. The new scheme, which blends the OPS and the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) that is in force for central government staff for the last one year, assures pensioners 50% of the last drawn pay, while retaining the element of employees' contribution – a feature common to the CPS and UPS. One can make out that the basis for the determination of the pension – 50% of the last drawn pay in the last month of service – and the provision of a minimum assured payout, regardless of the duration of service, are in favour of the employees. Death-cum-retirement gratuity, an OPS feature, has been included.

The announcement has been made just before the Assembly poll in April-May. There has also been a debate on the State's outstanding debt – around 26.1% of GSDP, a ratio that has been declining over the last five years though not to the pre-COVID-19 pandemic level of around 21.5%. Besides, at least till 2033, when the last set of government staff covered under the OPS is expected to retire, the State government will have to provide for the retirement of OPS staff as well as its share of contribution for TAPS employees. The current financial year has not been very encouraging in terms of growth rate in the State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR), which generally accounts for about two-thirds of Tamil Nadu's revenue receipts. In the first half (April-September) of the current year, the SOTR's growth rate was 3.94% over the receipts in the corresponding period of the previous year, against the projected 22.6%. The State has its fingers crossed over the likely impact of the restructuring of GST (from September 22) on its finances. After the "successful" Bihar example where the ruling dispensation handed out election-eve doles, the managers of State finances now have limited space to counter any pressure from their political bosses to spend more. The employees should understand the circumstances in which the announcement has been made. The main factor against the OPS is the feature of pension reset with the implementation of recommendations of every Pay Commission. Though the principal Opposition party, the AIADMK, has pulled up the DMK for not having lived up to the poll promise, it has not promised to restore the OPS if it wins the Assembly poll. It appears that the leadership of the two Dravidian majors understand that the State should not be pushed into a perilous financial position.

'Natgrid', the search engine of digital authoritarianism



Apar Gupta

is a lawyer and the Founder Director of the Internet Freedom Foundation

We tend to quantify the tragedy of the terror attack in Mumbai in November 2008, by the over 160 lives lost. "26/11" was beamed into the living rooms of the country's elites for three days through broadcast television. The sounds of bullets and explosions, the dome of the Taj Hotel swallowed by smoke, and the valour of the Mumbai Police played out alongside a steady refrain in studios and by commentators of a "major intelligence failure". That charge was not conjured out of grief alone.

The report by the high-level inquiry committee on 26/11 and the material placed before Parliament pointed to lapses in the handling of intelligence alerts. This "intelligence failure", it was argued, was the inability to stitch scattered fragments into a coherent warning. David Coleman Headley, a key conspirator, travelled to India on several occasions, leaving a paper-and-pixel trail in visa applications, hotel registries and travel itineraries. Security hawks offered a seductive proposition. Would the lives lost been saved had those disparate data points been aggregated and analysed in time?

Evolution of a 'crown jewel'

Out of that psychological aftershock emerged institutional expansions, but the technological crown jewel was the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID). Its premise was a middleware interface that would allow 11 specified central agencies to query databases across 21 categories, routed through provider organisations spanning identity and assets, travel and movement, financial intelligence and telecommunications.

Even in its early days, the unease was visible. NATGRID was first publicly announced on December 23, 2009, in a speech by the Home Minister.'

The constitutional question that arose immediately was not whether the state may ever conduct surveillance, but on whether a project of this magnitude could operate without a statutory framework and independent oversight. This daily reported on February 10, 2010 ("'Big Brother' fears stall Chidambaram data plan") that "Ministers raised queries about safeguards and said there was a need for further study". Yet, on June 14, 2012, NATGRID was cleared not through an Act of Parliament, but by executive order and the Cabinet Committee on Security, with a first-phase allocation of ₹1,002.97 crore branded "Horizon-I".

For years, NATGRID's constant delays led people to believe it was 'vaporware'. A project that existed on paper but did not actually work as a massive search engine for tracking citizens that was only announced to calm public anger after the 26/11 attacks. Well, it is now becoming a reality that can no longer be ignored.

The shock of 26/11 continues to haunt India, but the remedy — the National Intelligence Grid — is cause for deep concern

Two recent reports in this daily ("National intelligence grid gains traction as Central agencies, police scour for information", December 8, 2025 and "Intel grid linked to NPR with details of 119 crore residents", December 26, 2025) reveal a quantitative and qualitative expansion of this mass surveillance project. First, following a national conference of Directors General of Police in Raipur in late November 2025, chaired by the Prime Minister, States were asked to "scale up" NATGRID usage. The first report also said that NATGRID receives around 45,000 requests every month. Worse, access, once presented as the preserve of central intelligence and investigative agencies, is being widened to police units, including officers down to the rank of Superintendent of Police.

An integration that unsettles

The second development that is even more unsettling is the reported integration of NATGRID with the National Population Register (NPR). The NPR is a repository with the details of 1.19 billion residents, with a relational cartography of households, lineages and identities. It is also politically volatile, repeatedly invoked in the acrimony surrounding the National Register of Citizens (NRC) as a prelude to citizenship filtering. Grafting a population register onto an intelligence query platform crosses a fundamental boundary. It shifts the paradigm from tracking discrete events as intelligence inputs to the mapping every Indian. NATGRID's evolution is not unfolding in the technological climate of 26/11, but in 2025, amid rapid advances in machine learning and large-scale analytics.

This daily has also highlighted the deployment of "Gandiva", an analytical engine capable of "entity resolution".

This is further explained as providing the triangulation that is required to decide whether fragmented records belong to the same individual. Paired with facial recognition that can trawl telecom Know Your Customer (KYC) databases and driving-licence records, this is no longer the state's "search bar". It is inference at scale and changes the nature of the risk. Here, intentions are subjectively determined by an algorithm.

Two features make this qualitatively different from older surveillance debates. First, the spectre of bias. Algorithms do not merely excavate truth but reproduce distortions embedded in the data they ingest and claim that they are objective determinations based on pattern recognition. If policing is already skewed by caste, religion or geography, analytics will harden those inequities and cloak them in an aura of objectivity. For the affluent, a false positive is an administrative nuisance. For a young Muslim man in a small town, already living under a pall of suspicion, an automated "hit" can trigger an ordeal and misidentification may carry a blood price.

Second, the tyranny of scale. The danger of modern analytics is not omniscience, but ubiquity. NATGRID reportedly classifies queries by sensitivity, and officials maintain that every access is logged and justified. Without independent scrutiny, these are facial safeguards. When tens of thousands of requests are processed each month, logging risks becoming a clerical ritual particularly in the absence of autonomous oversight, which is lacking even at the level of Parliament.

The lack of course correction

Defenders will fall back on the familiar claim that NATGRID is a matter of life and death. But is it so once it has drifted from counter-terror into everyday policing? Intelligence failures are rarely born of data droughts alone. They are more often the products of institutional weakness, perverse incentives and the rot of unaccountability – as we learned in 26/11 where the local police had not conducted any firearms training for over a year.

Tragically, a correction seems distant. Our constitutional courts have lapsed into deep slumber, allowing the expansive privacy doctrine in *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) & Anr. vs. Union of India & Ors.* (2017) to gather dust while the surveillance state expands. The legality of intelligence programmes that lack any clear statutory foundation or meaningful oversight has not been squarely adjudicated, despite multiple pending cases. In place of scrutiny, we have a martial public temper fanned by political rhetoric and cultural moulding, including mainstream cinema, that treats questioning the security establishment as heresy. The result is a near silence about accountability for acts of terrorism such as the New Delhi bombing of November 10, 2025, and the heartbreaking loss of 15 lives. Is it impolite to ask whether there was an "intelligence failure" even with NATGRID in place?

The shock of 26/11 continues to haunt us, but we have mistaken the remedy. If we genuinely care about prevention, we need professional investigation insulated from political whims, transparency about intelligence lapses, and oversight vested within the parliamentary and the judiciary. Without these, NATGRID is an architecture of suspicion, built in the name of safety and normalised through fear, but functioning in the service of digital authoritarianism.

Fine-tune this signal to sharpen India's AMR battle



Ramya Kannan

Will Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement on antimicrobial resistance, in his last 'Mann Ki Baat" broadcast for the year 2025 be the anagnorisis that we have been waiting for to galvanise action on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in India? Doctors feel that it might well be the one fell swoop to stop in its tracks what could easily be the biggest emerging health crisis of India.

In his address (129th edition) on December 28, Mr. Modi mentioned antimicrobial resistance as a "matter of concern for us." Quoting from the Indian Council for Medical Research's (ICMR) dataset, he mentioned that antibiotics are proving to be less effective against pneumonia and urinary tract infections. He went on to hit at the heart of the AMR crisis in India – "thoughtless and indiscriminate use of antibiotics by people". These were not medicines to be taken casually or without the advice of doctors, the Prime Minister stressed. "People have started believing that popping a pill will solve everything. But it is because of this that diseases and infections are overpowering antibiotics." Appreciably, he ended with a piece of advice that his listeners and followers will do well to religiously practise: "Avoid taking medicines by yourself, particularly antibiotics."

Mainstreaming the subject

It is, by now, common knowledge that while there are many prongs that contribute to the galloping AMR in the country, the biggest contributor is the irrational use of antibiotics. Commonly known as the 'misuse and overuse' problem, AMR however, has remained in the preserve of the infectious diseases experts and the corridors of hospitals, and in policy circles. Until now. That is where Mr. Modi's remarks will make a difference, coaxing AMR out of the rarefied domain into the mainstream, where there is awareness of the public risk it poses, along with the links to everyday behaviour.

By invoking national data and appealing directly to citizens to avoid over-the-counter antibiotics, the speech translates lab-based warnings into a public call to action, from the pulpit by the head of the government. This is why it is reasonable to expect it to have an impact on the population in a manner that no other intervention in the past in the sector – the first National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance or the ban on colistin use as a growth factor, for instance – has managed. Striking at the broadest base is where the success of this appeal lies, and public awareness will be absolutely key in deciding whether the AMR numbers see an upper trajectory or whether they go down south in the future.

The 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast of December 2025 will increase awareness, but expanding the surveillance network for AMR is crucial

But, merely at hitting the base will no longer be sufficient, at this stage of the AMR pathway in India. It has grown like a hydra-headed beast and it is a One Health approach that can behead the monster effectively. The need for a One Health approach has become current by force of circumstances where cognition of the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health now actively shapes solutions.

Most non-urban centres left out

At this juncture, enhancing the number of surveillance sites is a critical aspect to marking and following the trail of AMR in India, experts point out. They contend, that currently, while the network is steadily expanding, there is still no exhaustive dataset for India as a whole, representative of the wide variance in the country.

Surveillance sites are located largely in urban centres and tertiary care centres, and may drive up the average as the bulk of the non-urban centres are not even accounted for. The urgent need now is to expand the surveillance network in a manner that will provide a reasonably accurate position of community prevalence of AMR in India.

India's National AMR surveillance network (NARS-Net), which provides data to the World Health Organization's Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS), currently stands at 60 sentinel medical college laboratories.

However, for the recent GLASS report (reporting period January to December 2023), information was gathered from 41 sites in 31 States/Union Territories. NARS-Net was established in 2013 to determine the magnitude and trends of AMR in different geographical regions of the country, and laboratories under this network include government medical colleges. These labs are required to submit AMR surveillance data on nine priority bacterial pathogens of 'public health importance' and some fungal pathogens as well.

'Include private hospitals'

Recently, in a letter to the Director of the National Centre for Disease Control, Professor, (Dr.) Ranjan Das, the nodal agency for AMR surveillance in the country, Dr. Abdul Ghafur, of the Chennai Declaration on AMR and an infectious diseases specialist, said, "... the only credible approach is to present true national data – data not limited to tertiary care hospitals, but inclusive of secondary and primary care centres across the country. If such data are included, the national resistance picture will naturally be more balanced and representative." He also makes the case for including private hospitals in the network too.

The 2015 WHO Global Plan on AMR recommended a blueprint addressing five objectives: raising awareness, strengthening surveillance and research, reducing infections, optimising antimicrobial use, and ensuring sustainable investment in new medicines, diagnostics and vaccines. Mr. Modi's speech will increase awareness, something that is essential, but expanding the surveillance network for AMR is a critical function that will require investments, strategies, monitoring and enforcement and as much political will.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Private diplomacy

It is perplexing that the sensitive issue of fixing high-profile dialogues and discussions with the Trump administration has been entrusted to unconnected firms especially when the Indian government has a range of diplomatic channels at its disposal (Front page, "Indian Embassy hired Trump aide's firm for talks on trade, bilateral ties during Operation Sindoor", January 7). How can unrelated entities be given the role of arranging for key discussions between two governments? Will this not amount to a transgression of established diplomatic norms and mandatory procedures governing such sensitive issues?

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

Trump's obtuse moves

It is as clear as daylight that the U.S. President, Donald Trump, is defying all norms to slake his thirst by doing obtuse things to achieve his aims and objectives. His moves against Venezuela are nothing but a clear violation of international law (Editorial and Editorial page, January 7). They also prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the American President has cast his eyes on the abundant crude oil in Venezuela. But what is eating President Trump?

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

The happenings in Venezuela expose the disturbing reality of today's global order. Even if such action violates international law and the UN Charter, strangely enough, U.S. courts may still assume jurisdiction under American domestic law, which permits judges to try an accused irrespective of how they were brought before the court. This peculiarity of U.S. law, when combined with overwhelming military power, effectively sidelines international norms. The inability of the UN, the ICJ and the wider international community to respond meaningfully underscores their growing irrelevance in restraining unilateral actions by powerful states. If global governance is to retain credibility, this episode should prompt reflection on strengthening multilateral institutions.

Dr. Thomas George,
Pala, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address

Youth leadership is key to Viksit Bharat



Mansukh Mandaviya
is the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, and Labour and Employment, Government of India

India's growth story will be written by those who are shaping its ideas today. Across the country, young Indians are thinking deeply about how India can grow faster, govern better and become developed by 2047. Their ideas are emerging from campuses and communities, start-ups and sports fields, classrooms and village meetings. The real question is no longer whether the youth have something to contribute, but whether their ideas are given a credible platform to influence the nation's direction. The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) is designed to provide that very platform.

India is home to the largest youth population in the world. It is therefore but natural that the direction of the nation's future will be shaped not merely by policies or institutions, but by the imagination, conviction and courage of its young citizens. This vast reservoir of *yuva shakti* is far more than a demographic advantage; it is India's greatest national asset, capable of driving innovation, strengthening democracy and propelling the country towards inclusive and sustainable development.

Lead the change

During my time as Youth Affairs and Sports Minister, I have had the opportunity to engage with young Indians in varied settings, on university campuses, in rural districts, at sports arenas and during youth-led community initiatives. What consistently stands out is the seriousness with which young people think about the nation's future. I recall meeting a group of rural youth volunteers who had organised informal learning centres in their villages. With limited resources but strong conviction, they were addressing gaps in education and skill development through locally designed solutions. Experiences like these reaffirm a simple truth: when young people are trusted and given space, they do not merely participate, they lead.

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call from the Red Fort to bring one lakh youth without political backgrounds into public life, the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue was launched in January 2025 reimagining the National Youth Festival in an entirely new format. Over 30 lakh young people engaged through the Viksit Bharat Challenge, more than two lakh essays were submitted, and thousands of youth presented their ideas at the State level. The journey culminated at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, where 3,000 youth leaders interacted in a free-flowing dialogue with the Prime Minister, who spent hours listening to their ideas and inspiring them to lead.

Shaping the India of 2047

Beyond the numbers, it was the nature of engagement that made the Dialogue truly historic. It recognised, both in letter and spirit, that the voices of India's youth matter in shaping the India of 2047. Young participants were encouraged to think critically about national challenges, propose solutions and align personal ambition with collective purpose.

The strength of the youth leadership platform lies not only in its scale, but in its design. Diversity of thought, language, culture and lived experience is embedded into the very structure of the initiative. Youth from urban and rural India, students and professionals, innovators and grassroots leaders come together on a common platform. Multiple stages of engagement ensure that ideas are refined through dialogue and exchange, not filtered out by geography, language or background. In doing so, the Dialogue ensures that every young person who participates has both a voice and a platform to amplify it.

India's youth have always been at the heart of the nation's defining moments, from the freedom struggle to the building of the institutions of an independent India. Today, the nation once again looks to its youth not just for participation, but for leadership and dynamism in co-creating India's growth story.

Building on the success of the first edition, VBYLD 2026, scheduled to be held from January 9-12, 2026, signals a decisive leap from a national youth convening to a platform with global resonance. With new initiatives such as Design for Bharat and Tech for Viksit Bharat, and the inclusion of the international Indian youth diaspora, the dialogue expands beyond borders.

More than 50 lakh young people participated in the Viksit Bharat Quiz, the first stage of selection for VBYLD 2026, making it one of the largest youth engagement exercises of its kind. Over four intensive days, participants from every corner of the country will engage with leading national and global voices, drawing upon practical insights, ideas, and visions that transcend disciplines and geographies.

Dialogue to Direction

What truly sets VBYLD 2026 apart, however, is that it gives our *yuva shakti* an opportunity not only to speak, but to be heard. On 12 January, observed nationwide as National Youth Day in commemoration of Swami Vivekananda, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will personally interact with the youth at Bharat Mandapam, listening to how they imagine, and intend to shape the future of Bharat.

More than a platform for dialogue, the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue is a movement that calls upon young Indians to lead from the front, confront national challenges, and channel their ambitions towards building a Viksit Bharat.

A Viksit Bharat will be built by those who have the confidence to lead and the commitment to serve. India's youth are ready. The nation must be ready to walk with them.

The vast reservoir of *yuva shakti* in the country is far more than a demographic advantage; it is India's greatest national asset

Cash politics, development paradox

Lakshmir Bhandar scheme has proved electorally transformative

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sahay Singh
shivsahay.s@thehindu.co.in

On January 3, a little-known Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader in West Bengal triggered a political row by asking husbands to "lock up their wives" who are beneficiaries of the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme to prevent them from voting for the Trinamool Congress during the elections.

The remark sparked outrage in the social and political circles of the State. The Trinamool Congress said it exposed the BJP's "anti-women" mindset. The BJP State committee leader Kalipada Sengupta was made to apologise for his statement. Yet the controversy also brought renewed attention to Lakshmir Bhandar, one of the largest cash incentive schemes of the West Bengal government.

Announced by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in February 2021, just months before the Assembly elections, the scheme proved electorally transformative. By January 2025, it had reached 2.21 crore beneficiaries – nearly half of the State's female population. Women aged 25 to 60 receive ₹1,000 per month under the general category and ₹1,200 under reserved categories.

Electoral edge

The political impact has been unmistakable. The scheme has helped keep large sections of the women electorate firmly aligned with the Trinamool Congress despite serious incidents of violence against women – including the rape and murder of a doctor at Kolkata's R.G Kar Medical College and Hospital in August 2025.



Data from the 2021 Assembly elections showed that nearly 50% of women voters backed the Trinamool, while only 37% voted for the BJP. The BJP leadership is acutely aware of this gender gap and of how cash incentive schemes help entrench it.

In December 2025, when Ms. Banerjee unveiled a report card titled 'Unnayaner Panchali' (The Song of Development), of her government's performance over the past 14 years, Lakshmir Bhandar featured prominently. Comparing it with a one-time cash benefit of ₹10,000 announced in Bihar before elections, the Trinamool chairperson argued that her government delivers sustained annual support rather than pre-poll handouts.

"They (NDA in Bihar) gave ₹10,000 before the election, and there is a bulldozer raj now after the polls," Ms. Banerjee said.

Cash-based welfare schemes catering to different social groups has become a defining feature of the Banerjee administration. By her own count, the State now runs 95 welfare schemes, with more promised in the next few months before elections are announced, taking the number of schemes well past three digits.

Even political opponents have tacitly acknowledged the impact of such schemes on the electorate. Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently assured voters in Kolkata that none of the Trinamool government's welfare schemes would be discontinued if the BJP came to power.

While these cash incentive schemes may provide a political advantage to the ruling party, it is also important to understand their overall economic and social impact on the population. West Bengal's multidimensional poverty rate stood at 11.89%, according to Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023. Although poverty declined faster than in Gujarat, the State ranked only 13th nationally, behind populous States such as U.P. and Bihar.

Real change

Cash transfers may help households stay just above the poverty line, but they often fail to generate lasting structural change.

The State's own Kanyashree scheme – designed to reduce child marriage through conditional cash transfers – illustrates this limitation. The scheme has about one crore beneficiaries on paper, but West Bengal continues to record highest number of child marriage almost a decade after the scheme was launched.

The latest Sample Registration System data shows that 6.3% of women in the State were married before the age of 18, compared to a national average of 2.1%.

There is little doubt that cash incentive schemes give Ms. Banerjee a decisive electoral edge. But while putting money directly into voters' hands may shape political outcomes, it does not automatically translate into durable social transformation. Over the past few years, West Bengal has emerged as a case study of this development paradox.

How every ₹100 is spent by Indian households

Indians are shifting from subsistence needs to aspirational and service-oriented spending

DATA POINT

K. Chandrasekar

The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoS&PI) captures spending pattern of Indian households across various consumption categories. Conducted every five years, the HCES provides granular estimates of Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) for both rural and urban populations, covering a wide range of goods and services.

The survey rounds for 2022-23 and 2023-24 represent the first comprehensive update to MPCE data in over a decade, offering valuable insights into India's shifting consumption landscape. These findings are central to revising poverty estimates, informing social sector policy, and understanding the lived realities of India's expanding middle-income population.

This article examines long-term MPCE trends from 1999-2000 to 2023-24, with a focus on six key expenditure categories. In this analysis, MPCE is expressed as the proportional expenditure on an item for every ₹100 of total spending.

Decline in MPCE share on food and beverages for both urban (from ₹48 to ₹39 per ₹100) and rural areas (from ₹59 to ₹47 per ₹100) confirms Engel's Law, which states that as real income rises, the proportion of income spent on food declines, even if absolute expenditure increases. **(Chart 1)**

Further, a fall in expenditure on cereals, alongside higher spending on fruits, eggs, fish, and processed foods, signals a shift from staple-heavy diets to more varied, protein-rich diets – albeit unequally.

Despite marginal increases, particularly in rural areas, spending on pan, tobacco, and other intoxicants remains a low share of MPCE, accounting for under ₹3.8 per ₹100 of spending. From a public health perspective, the trend calls for targeted awareness programs in rural belts. **(Chart 2)**

The reduction in per capita fuel spending reflects policy successes, such as Saubhagya (rural electrification) and PM Ujjwala Yojana (LPG access). Lower urban spending may also reflect the use of energy-efficient appliances and access to reliable power supply. Modern fuels, in place of biomass or kerosene, improve quality of life and are an example of expenditure substitution. **(Chart 3)**

The decline in spending on clothing, bedding and footwear is moderate and consistent with the transition from need-based consumption to periodic discretionary spending. Rising competition, fast fashion, and lower textile prices may also have contributed. Rural India's slightly higher or similar spending may indicate seasonal dependence and growing aspirations. **(Chart 4)**

The urban housing rent share rose significantly (₹4.46 to ₹6.58 per ₹100), aligning with urbanisation, rental stress, and migration to metropolitan hubs. Rural rent remains minimal due to widespread self-owned housing, informal tenure, or rent-free arrangements. **(Chart 5)**

The miscellaneous category includes aspirational expenses such as health, education, conveyance, consumer services, and other similar costs. Its rising share, particularly in rural MPCE (from ₹21.87 to ₹35.82 per ₹100), reflects a broadening of the consumption basket. This trend aligns with inclusive growth, deeper digital penetration, and echoes improved reach and quality of both public and market-based services. **(Chart 6)**

Taken together, these trends reflect that society is undergoing an economic transition, with consumption patterns gradually shifting away from subsistence needs toward more aspirational and service-oriented spending.

The views expressed are personal.

Changing consumption basket

The data for the charts were sourced from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoS&PI) for the period 1999-2000 to 2023-24.

The writer is a Deputy Director with the Ministry.



Chart 1: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on **Food & Beverages** (₹ per ₹100)

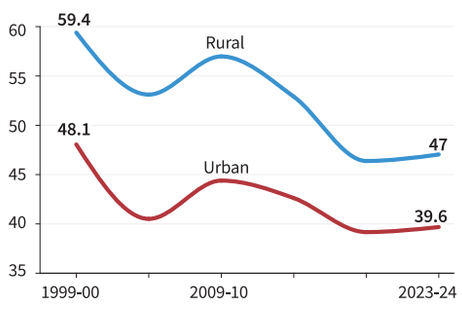


Chart 2: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on **Pan, Tobacco & Intoxicants** (₹ per ₹100)

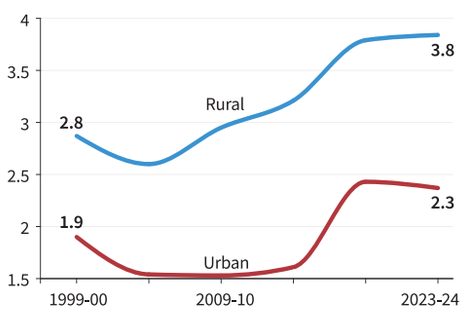


Chart 3: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on **Fuel & Light** (₹ per ₹100)

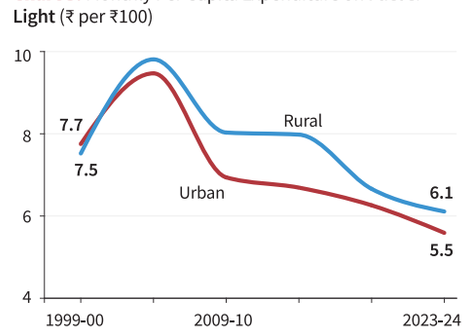


Chart 4: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on **Clothing, Bedding & Footwear** (₹ per ₹100)

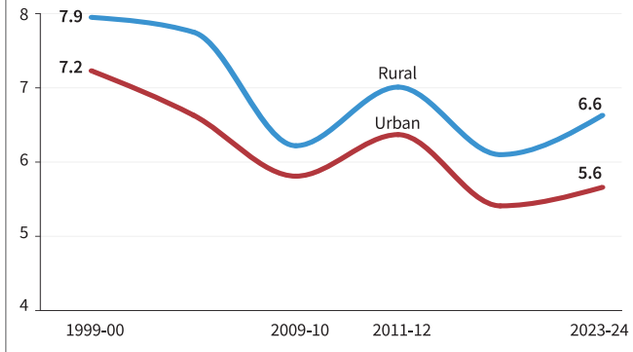


Chart 5: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on **Housing (Rent)** (₹ per ₹100)

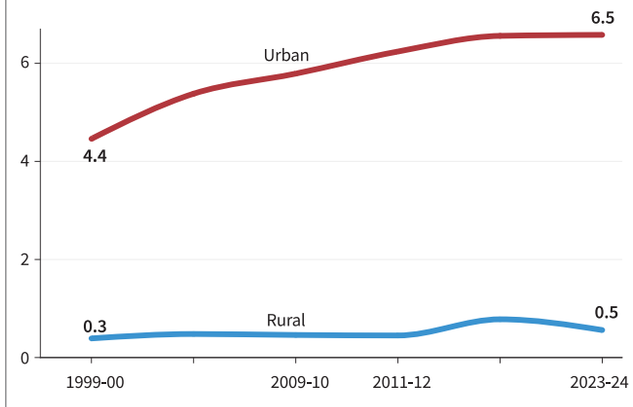
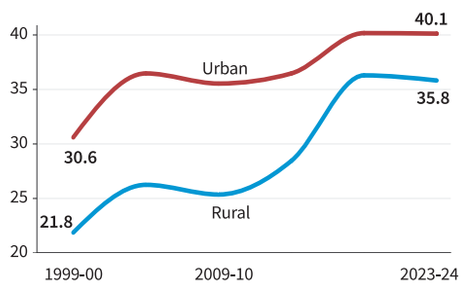


Chart 6: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on **Miscellaneous** (Health, education, conveyance, consumer services and other expenses) (₹ per ₹100)



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 8, 1976

World Bank aid for food godowns

MADRAS, Jan. 7: The Food Corporation of India, which is to build up a sizable buffer stock in the wake of plentiful food production and continuing imports, is facing a major problem, that of creating additional storage capacity, and is looking to the World Bank for aid.

The World Bank has shown interest in the programme, which the FCI has already initiated, and Sir John Crawford, Adviser to the Bank's President, Mr. Robert McNamara, is expected to visit India on January 16 for talks. The World Bank may give aid if it is convinced that the creation of such additional storage would lead to increased food production and more sales through the public distribution system.

Mr. A.K. Dutt, Managing Director of FCI, told newsmen that on the whole this year was going to be a year of plenty and "this creates a problem of storage for us because there is going to be very heavy procurement and imports will continue." The FCI hoped to build up a sizable buffer stock – 7.5 million tonnes at the end of March and anything between 11 and 12 million tonnes in the peak season July-August. With imports also continuing the FCI was faced with a "situation of emergency" with regard to storage, he said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 8, 1926

Indian Birds to Fiji Islands

Mr. J.C. Ward from Australia had been in Madras on an interesting mission. His mission is to secure for the Fiji Islands a large number of insecting birds. It would appear that the Fiji Islands was once infested with species of rats which proved pest in the Island for sugarcane plantations and in order to destroy this pest a large number of mongoose, was imported, which not only destroyed pests but also the birds of the Island. With extinction of birds the Fiji Island became infested with another kind of pests namely, moths and insects which are causing destruction to coconut plantations and consequently reducing a great source of revenue. To get rid of these pests, the Government of Fiji addressed the Government of Australia for their permission to import a large number of birds, but since Australian birds are mostly fruit eating birds this attempt also proved a failure.

From Page One

Govt. pegs FY26 growth at 7.4% despite tariffs

The mining and quarrying sector is estimated to contract in 2025-26 by 0.7%, as compared to a growth of 2.7% the previous year.

The tertiary sector, which comprises the service sectors, is expected to see growth quicken to 9.1% in 2025-26 from 7.2% in 2024-25. Within this, the 'financial, real estate and profession services', and the 'public administration, defence, and other services' sub-groupings are both expected to grow at 9.9% in 2025-26.

The 'trade, hotels, transport and communication' category is expected to grow at a relatively slower 7.5% in 2025-26, although this is faster than the 6.1% seen in 2024-25.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation, on the other hand, is expected to grow at 7.8% in 2025-26, faster than the 7.1% seen in 2024-25.

SC disagrees with Justice Varma's claims

The panel comprised Supreme Court judge, Justice Aravind Kumar; the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, M.M. Shrivastava; and senior advocate Vasudeva Acharya. The Speaker's decision came a day after the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha rejected a separate notice of motion submitted in the Upper House.

During the hearing, Mr. Rohatgi argued that the two notices of motion, one to the LS Speaker and the other to the RS Chairman, were given by the MPs on the same day, July 21. He referred to the first proviso of Section 3(2) of the Act, which mandates that in such cases, the inquiry committee had to be "constituted jointly by the Speaker and the Chairman" following the admission of the motions in both Houses. In this case, Mr. Rohatgi submitted that the LS Speaker had no authority to form the committee "unilaterally" on August 12.

"Under the proviso when notices of motion for removal of a judge are given in the two Houses on the same day, both Houses have to admit the motions and the inquiry committee should be formed jointly by the Chairman and the Speaker. The then Rajya Sabha Chairman did not admit the notice of motion," Mr. Rohatgi submitted.

'No bar on Speaker'

Justice Datta, however, asked whether there was any specific prohibition preventing the Speaker from constituting the panel after the rejection of the notice of motion given in the Upper House.

"But where is the bar on the Speaker from constituting a committee if the Rajya Sabha has rejected the motion... Are you saying if one House rejects the motion, it should be rejected in both Houses?" Justice Datta queried.

At this point, Mr. Rohatgi questioned the competency of the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha to reject the notice of motion, purportedly leaving the field open for the Speaker to constitute the inquiry committee. He said Section 2(2) of the statute specifically stated that 'Chairman' meant the 'Chairman of the Council of States'. The power to admit or reject the notice of motion was vested exclusively with the RS Chairman, and no one else, he said. He said the then-Rajya Sabha Chairman, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar, had resigned on July 21, after receiving the notice of motion without formally admitting it.

"If the office of the Chairman was vacant, somebody had to step in," Justice Datta responded.

"But he [Deputy Chairman] steps in only to regulate the House," Mr. Rohatgi submitted.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the respondent in the petition, said there was a difference between the office being 'vacant' and the occupant of the office being 'absent' for a few days. In case of vacancy, the House still has to function, and somebody has to take over the duties of the office of the Chairman.

Five held for attacking police during HC-ordered demolition drive in Delhi

Crowd protesting demolition throws stones at police, injuring several personnel; police have identified 15 more persons from bodycam footage; senior officer says meetings were held with local residents before demolition to prevent violence

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI



Damaged structures after a demolition drive conducted by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi in an 'illegal area' near Faiz-e-Elahi Masjid, close to Ramlila Maidan, on Wednesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

In the congested bylanes around Turkman Gate, as the hustle and bustle settled for Tuesday night, a posse of police personnel arrived with barricades and earthmovers to implement the Delhi High Court order directing the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to demolish encroachments around the Faiz-e-Ilahi Mosque.

Forty minutes past midnight, the authorities started the demolition drive, surrounded by a crowd that opposed it and threw stones, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Nidhin Valsan. He said the crowd had broken barricades, and snatched and damaged a megaphone. "Several police officers incurred head injuries and had to get stitches," he said.

Following the incident, the Delhi Police arrested five people and lodged an FIR at the Chandni Mahal police station. A senior officer told *The Hindu* that 15 more people identified from footage captured by body-worn cameras are yet to be arrested.

Officials demolished a dispensary, a guest house and a community hall. A remaining portion of the community hall was scheduled to be razed after the debris were cleared, which continued till late Wednesday evening.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Central range) Madhur Verma said that prior to the demolition, multiple meetings were held with members of the Aman Committee and other local stakeholders to prevent any untoward incident. "The entire area was meticulously divided into nine zones, each placed under the supervision of an officer of the rank of Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police," he said.

According to the police, at least five officers were injured during the altercation and were later shifted to the Lok Nayak Hospital.

According to the FIR accessed by *The Hindu*, constable Sandeep, in his complaint, said police made repeated announcements asking the crowd to disperse, but the group refused. "Police barricading had been put in place, and a crowd of 30 to 35 people had gathered at Turkman Gate, raising slogans against the police administration," the FIR read. He said the crowd "continued to raise slogans, broke barricades and began rioting".

In the subsequent hours, the situation escalated and the crowd started throwing stones at the police, the FIR said. "They obstructed police personnel in the discharge of their official duty, damaged government property, including the megaphone and barricades, and caused injuries to police staff," it read. The police identified the five arrested as Mohd. Kashif, Mohd. Kaif, Areeb, Mohd. Adnan and Saneer, residents of the area.

Centre seeks comments on draft Pesticides Bill

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Agriculture Ministry on Wednesday released the draft Pesticides Management Bill, 2025, seeking public comments on the legislation that aims at replacing the 57-year-old Insecticides Act, 1968, and the Insecticides Rules, 1971, with enhanced penalties for violations. The Ministry has invited feedback from all stakeholders by February 4, 2026, to refine the legislation before it is introduced in Parliament.

The proposed farmer-centric legislation introduces several reform measures.

The Bill incorporates digital methods and technology to streamline processes while imposing stricter controls on spurious pesticides through higher penalties. Key features include mandatory accreditation of testing laboratories to ensure quality pesticides reach farmers, and provisions for compounding of offences with enhanced penalties to be defined by State-level authorities.

Oxford Press apologises over content on Shivaji

Press Trust of India
PUNE

Oxford University Press (OUP) India has issued an apology to Udayanraje Bhosale, 13th descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, over certain "unverified statements" made about the legendary Maratha king in a book published more than two decades ago.

In a public notice that appeared in a newspaper, OUP India acknowledged that some statements contained on pages 31, 33, 34 and 93 of the book "Shivaji: Hindu King in Islamic India", published in 2003, were unverified.

The book, written by American author James Laine, had triggered a row after over 150 activists from Sambhaji Brigade ransacked the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune in January 2004 alleging that it helped the writer, who made 'objectionable' remarks about Shivaji Maharaj.

Will meet Modi in the 'near future', says Netanyahu after phone conversation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu, during his visit to India in 2018. AP

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he hoped to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi "in the near future", sparking speculation that his visit to India, cancelled in November, could be rescheduled soon.

Making the comment after a call to Mr. Modi on Wednesday, Mr. Netanyahu said the two leaders had discussed strengthening national security for India and Israel. This is the third call between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Modi in four months and they discussed the Gaza peace proposal backed by U.S. President Donald Trump.

"We discussed the strength of India-Israel relations and how we can unleash the boundless potential of this partnership for the benefit of our peoples. I look forward to meeting Prime Minister Modi in the near future to continue these discussions in person," Mr. Netanyahu said in a social media post, without giving details of where and when the meeting would be.

In another post, Mr. Modi said that the two leaders exchanged New Year greetings and discussed ways to "further strengthen the India-Israel Strategic Partnership". "We also exchanged views on the regional situation and reaffirmed our shared resolve to fight terrorism with greater determination," he added.

A press release from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) added that Mr. Netanyahu "briefed" Mr. Modi on the implementation of the Gaza peace plan. "PM Modi reaffirmed India's consistent support for efforts towards a just and durable peace in the region," it added.

India has consistently backed a "two-state solution" to the Israel-Palestine conflict, something Mr. Netanyahu's government opposes.

SC rejects petition seeking probe into CLAT paper leak

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI



The top court questioned the need for judicial intervention at such a belated stage. PTI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a petition seeking a court-monitored investigation into the alleged leak of the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT), 2026 question paper on the eve of the examination.

A Bench comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe declined to entertain the plea, noting that the examination process had already concluded.

Addressing advocate Malvika Kapila, appearing for the petitioners, the Bench questioned why the court had not been approached before the declaration of results on December 16, 2025. "You say the paper was leaked on December 6. Why did you wait until December 16 to approach this court? Had the petition been filed before the declaration of results, we would have appreciated it," the Bench observed.

The plea, filed by a group of law aspirants from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, alleged that screen recordings and screenshots of the question paper began circulating on social media platforms around 10.15 p.m. on December 6 – nearly 15 hours before the examination was scheduled to begin. Ms. Kapila submitted that the plea had been filed within a reasonable time and clarified that the petitioners were not seeking a direction to conduct the examination afresh.

Veiled, masked? Bihar jewellers will not let you purchase gold ornaments

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA



The federation says that this directive is for everyone, not against any particular community or religion. FILE PHOTO

With prices of precious metals shooting up, jewellery shops in Bihar may for security reasons refuse entry and sale of gold to customers with their faces covered in hijab, naqab, burkha, scarf, mask, helmets, and so on, the All India Jewellers and Gold Federation State chapter said on Wednesday.

"Unless the customers' faces are visible for identification at the time of purchase, their entry into the shop will be restricted," Ashok Kumar Verma, president of the AIJGF chapter, said, adding the decision was "purely driven by security considerations, and does not target any particular community or religious group".

"The federation is not imposing a ban on hijab or burkha but is requesting customers to show their faces while shopping for identification," he said. The rule, he said, "applies equally to men who cover their faces either with scarves or helmets".

"Today, the price of 10 grams of gold is around ₹1.4 lakh, while one kilogram of silver costs ₹2.5 lakh, and the issue arises when people come into shops hiding their faces. They wear full helmets or veils in groups of three or four persons and commit robberies. Lately, several incidents of robbery and theft have been committed by masked men and women wearing a veil. This decision is purely aimed at preventing such crimes," Mr. Verma told pressperson in Patna.

"I have discussed with senior police officials in Patna, who raised no objection to implementing the rule, which many shops in the State have started to follow. Our intention is not discrimination," Mr. Verma said, adding, "Similar measures are being followed in some districts of other States but Bihar is the first to adhere to the directive across the State."

State spokesperson of the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal Ejaz Ahmed objected to the development. "The move is unconstitutional and against India's secular and Constitutional traditions," he said.

SC defers hearing on Sonam Wangchuk's detention by a day

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Sonam Wangchuk

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave itself a day's time to enable Justice P.B. Varale, the puisne judge on the Division Bench headed by Justice Aravind Kumar, to read the case records of a challenge launched by Gitanjali J. Angmo against the Centre for detaining her husband and climate activist, Sonam Wangchuk, under the National Security Act.

The case was earlier heard by a Bench of Justices Kumar and N.V. Anjaria. However, the Bench combination changed post the winter vacations, with Justice Varale replacing Justice Anjaria.

Mr. Wangchuk was detained under the National Security Act (NSA), 1980 following violent protests in Leh on September 24. He was detained on September 26 and shifted to the Jodhpur Central Jail in Rajasthan.

Ms. Angmo alleged the Ministry of Home Affairs had nursed "strong reservations" about Mr. Wangchuk's inclusion in the High Powered Committee delegation of Apex Body Leh and Kargil Democratic Alliance formed to hold talks with the government on issues of Statehood and Sixth Schedule safeguards.

She has denied that Mr. Wangchuk used the platform of protest to target the government. She accused the detaining authority of "malicious intent".

"The brazen allegation that Mr. Sonam Wangchuk has acted as chief provocateur in the violent protest that took place on 24 September 2025 is false, malicious and fabricated and entirely contrary to the material on record... On the contrary, Mr. Sonam Wangchuk has made significant contributions in support of national security and the Armed Forces," Ms. Angmo argued.

She has said the complete grounds of detention were shared with Mr. Wangchuk after a "flagrant delay" of 28 days despite his repeated representations to his detainers.

AICC names observers for States ahead of elections

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday announced a team of All India Congress Committee observers for poll-bound States.

While D.K. Shivakumar, Bhupesh Baghel and Bandhu Tirkey have been appointed for Assam, Sachin Pilot, Kanhaiya Kumar, Imran Pratapgarhi, and K.J. George are observers for Kerala. Mukul Wasnik, Uttam Kumar Reddy and Qazi Mohammad Nizamuddin have been appointed for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Sudip Roy Barman, Shakeel Ahmad Khan and Prakash Joshi have been named for West Bengal.

All these States are scheduled to have elections in the next few months.

Centre moves to restore govt. in Manipur, holds review meetings

It conducts two security meetings in a week, discusses 'pros and cons' of extending President's Rule, and security deployment in Manipur; Kuki-Zo groups opposed to govt. formation remain firm on demand for separate administration

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Centre is holding talks to restore the popular government in Manipur which will complete a year under President's Rule on February 13, government sources told *The Hindu*.

The Manipur Assembly is in suspended animation.

Over the past one week, two security review meetings were held under Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan. At the meeting with Mr. Shah in Delhi on January 2, in which Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla was present, the "pros and cons" of continuing with President's Rule were discussed but no decision was conveyed, a senior government official said.

The rehabilitation of internally displaced persons and free movement of people from Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities through National Highways were discussed. Over the past one month, around 9,000 displaced people have returned to their homes from relief camps where they had been staying for over two years, another official said.



Next step: Union Minister Amit Shah and Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla were present at a meeting on January 2. FILE PHOTO

On January 5, Mr. Mohan held another meeting where the Director-General of Military Operations was present along with the State's Director-General of Police and Chief Secretary, and the Security Adviser. The deployment of security forces in the State was discussed.

On January 14, BJP MLAs are likely to meet B.L. Santhosh, the party's national general secretary in Guwahati, another official said.

Since there is no provision to extend President's Rule beyond a year without moving a Constitution amendment Bill in Parliament, the government is inclined to exercise all options to restore the government, bringing the Meitei and the Kuki-Zo legislators on the same table, the senior government official said.

On August 5, 2025, Parliament approved the extension of President's Rule in Manipur for another six months till February 13.

"If President's Rule is extended, a Bill will have to be introduced in Parliament. The future course of action will depend on the events over the next few days as several meetings are planned. The attempt is to form the government," the official said.

The attempts are on even as the Kuki-Zo civil society groups have opposed the government formation, insisting on a separate administration instead. The Meitei civil society groups have opposed any move to change the boundaries of the State.

On January 6, the Kuki-Zo Council, a conglomerate of Kuki-Zo-Hmar tribal groups, reiterating its resolution passed on December 30, said that "Kuki-Zo people cannot and shall not participate in the formation of the Government of Manipur under the present circumstances".

"Forming a government without the Kuki-Zo MLAs will be futile. Though no major violence was reported in the past six months, the movement of people from both the communities is affected in valley and hill districts. The government is weighing all options before a decision is taken to form the government," the senior official said.

Forward entire audio clip 'linked' to Biren Singh to forensic lab: SC to Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Union government to forward to the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in Gujarat the entire audio clip submitted by a Kuki rights organisation which has alleged that the leaked voice recording points to the role played by former Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in the 2023 ethnic violence.

A Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kumar questioned the government, represented by Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, about the reason for not sending the audio clip in its entirety.

Ms. Bhati said the government had received the 48-minute recording only after the last court hearing in December. The law officer said the clip had not been forthcoming despite enquiries for it.



The court also asked for the submission of NFSU report in a sealed cover. FILE PHOTO

Advocates Prashant Bhushan and Cheryl d'Souza, for Kuki Organisation for Human Rights Trust (KOHUR), said this case was listed at least 10 times in the past, and the government had known that the transcript of the entire 48-minute recording was placed on record before the court along with the petition.

The Bench asked the petitioner to forward the entire recording to the government, and told the government to forward it to the NFSU for expedited action and submission of report in a sealed cover.

'Only select clips sent'

In December, during the last hearing, the Bench was visibly "disturbed" by an affidavit filed on behalf of the petitioner in November that "only select clippings were sent" for forensics. The NFSU had virtually given a clean chit, saying the leaked audio clip was "tampered with".

Mr. Bhushan had said that probably the full audio clips filed by them were not sent to the NFSU. He had briefed the court that the total audio tapes were of roughly 56 minutes and the petitioners had filed 48 minutes in the court. He said the remaining part of the audio clip identified the whistleblower. Parting with that portion would endanger his life, he said.

KOHUR has sought an independent SIT probe into the contents of the audio clip.

Understand the difference: Rahul takes swipe at PM over remarks by Trump

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday attacked the Union government in the wake of U.S. President Donald Trump's recent remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and tariffs, invoking a contrast with former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's handling of U.S. pressure during the 1971 war.

Mr. Trump, speaking at the House Republicans retreat on Tuesday, had said Mr. Modi was "not that happy with me" over tariffs imposed by Washington on New Delhi, particularly the tariffs that have been linked to India's purchases of Russian oil.

Claiming a close personal relationship with the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Trump said that Mr. Modi had come to meet him and acknowledged that India was now paying "a lot of tariffs", though it had reduced oil imports from Russia "very substantially".



Rahul Gandhi

Reacting to these remarks, Mr. Gandhi posted, "*Farq samjho*, sir *ji*! [Understand the difference, sir]", on X and shared an old video clip of himself in which he had alleged that Mr. Modi had "surrendered" after a call from Mr. Trump during an India-Pakistan military stand-off.

Video clip shared

In the same video, Mr. Gandhi had contrasted this with Indira Gandhi's leadership in 1971, when, he said, she did not budge despite the United States sending its Seventh Fleet. "This is the difference," he remarked.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh also took a dig at the Prime Minister, sharing a clip of Mr. Trump's remarks. "From Namaste Trump to Howdy Modi to Donald *bhai* and now this. What next?" Mr. Ramesh wrote on X.

Mr. Trump had announced 50% tariffs on India, including a 25% levy linked to India's purchases of Russian oil.

He also referred to delays in defence supplies, saying India had been waiting for five years for Apache helicopters. "We're changing it. We're changing it. India ordered 68 Apaches," the U.S. President said.

The Congress had earlier criticised the government over Mr. Trump's assertion that Washington could raise tariffs on India "very quickly", arguing that high-profile events such as "Namaste Trump" and "Howdy Modi", public displays of bonhomie, and social media praise for the U.S. President had delivered little tangible benefit for India.

BJP, Congress spar over Nehru's role in reconstruction of Somnath temple

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress on Wednesday engaged in a sharp war of words over the role of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in the reconstruction and inauguration of the Somnath temple. The ruling party accused Nehru of "appeasement politics", and the Opposition rejected the charge as being based on "lies and half-truths".

At a press conference, BJP MP and spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the former Prime Minister was not merely a political leader but a symbol of an ideology. "It is necessary today to understand how truly terrifying and horrifying that ideology was for India, and how a massive veil was drawn over its true face," he said.

Refers to 1951 letter

Referring to a letter written by Nehru in April 1951 to then Pakistan Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, Mr. Trivedi said the former Prime Minister addressed him as "My Dear Nawabzada", and stated that what was happening at the Somnath temple was "wrong" and there should be no malicious propaganda about it. He quoted the letter as saying that claims about temple doors being brought back from Afghanistan were completely false.



War of words: A file photo of the Somnath temple located in Gujarat. VIJAY SONEJI

The BJP leader pointed out a publication by the previous Congress government – L.S. Bakshi's book on Maharaja Ranjit Singh – which states that after conquering Kabul, Maharaja Ranjit Singh had included a condition in a treaty that the doors of the Somnath temple looted by Mahmud of Ghazni be returned to India.

"Now, the question arises whether Nehru Ji, who was engaged in flattering Liaquat Ali, was speaking the truth, or whether the statement published by a Ministry of the Government of India is true," he said, adding, "What was Pandit Nehru's fear that compelled him to write such a letter?"

The Congress strongly rejected the allegations. Party leader Piyush Babele said the BJP was selectively quoting Nehru's correspondence while ignoring its broader context.

"They are serving lies and half-truths by cherry-picking letters," he said in a video shared by Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh.

Use of govt. funds

Mr. Babele argued that Nehru's consistent position was opposition to the use of government funds for religious purposes, in line with Mahatma Gandhi's views, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's assurances, and constitutional principles.

He referred to multiple letters from 1951 in which Nehru clarified that while he objected to state funding, he did not prevent then President Rajendra Prasad from attending the inauguration in his personal capacity.

The Congress leader also questioned why Presidents Ram Nath Kovind and Droupadi Murmu were not invited to events related to the Ram temple events in Ayodhya, accusing the BJP of political double standards.

Jairam recalls Delcy's 2023 meeting with Dhankhar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With Delcy Rodriguez being sworn in as Venezuela's interim President, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday drew attention to a meeting in August 2023 between Ms. Rodriguez and India's then Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, saying "sadly nothing is heard of [him] these days".

Ms. Rodriguez, who was the Vice-President under Nicolás Maduro, took oath as Venezuela's interim President earlier this week after Mr. Maduro was captured and taken to the United States by forces in a dramatic military operation.

In a post on X, Mr. Ramesh noted that Ms. Rodriguez had visited India multiple times and, like Mr. Maduro, she has been a follower of spiritual leader Satya Sai Baba. He also invoked Venezuelan national hero Simon Bolivar, whose statue stands in Delhi's Chanakyapuri, underscoring Caracas's historical ties with India.

Congress will place legal teams in every district, says Singhvi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The All India Congress Committee's Law, Human Rights and RTI Department will be expanded to the district level across the country as part of a wider organisational strengthening exercise, the Congress announced on Tuesday.

Every administrative district in the country will have a unit of the department comprising at least five active and prominent lawyers, the department's chairman Abhishek Singhvi said.

These district-level teams will coordinate legal activities and handle litigation on behalf of the party.

"They will be our eyes and ears on the ground," Mr. Singhvi said. He added that the move was part of the Congress's expansion programme being driven by the party's senior leadership, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

'Rapid response force'

He said the department would form a "rapid response force" comprising leading lawyers in each State. The decisions were taken at a meet of the department held on Tuesday.

Mr. Singhvi also announced the launch of an internship programme aimed at individuals aged between 21 and 28 who are not currently associated with the Congress.

SIR hearing notice issued to Nobel laureate Amartya Sen

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Economist and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has been served a hearing notice by the Election Commission in connection with the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal.

The notice states that the age difference between Professor Sen and his parents is less than 15 years and that a hearing will be held at his residence in Birbhum on January 16.

Professor Sen is a voter in the Bolpur Assembly segment in Birbhum.

On Wednesday morning, the booth-level officer of the ward where Professor Sen is enrolled visited his residence, Pratichi, in Santiniketan and served the notice. Professor Sen is currently not in India.



Amartya Sen

"As per your declaration, the age difference between you and your parents is less than 15 years, which is not generally expected and this needs to be clarified through documentation in light of the voter list of the last SIR," the notice, written in Bengali, said.

The notice further stated that Professor Sen was requested to appear before the undersigned on January 16, at noon, "at your residence along with the original documents prescribed by the Election Commission of India (which are attached to this notice and mentioned in the information sheet at the back of the counting form), for the maintenance of your name in the final electoral roll".

Similar notice to others

Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Tuesday said it had come to his notice that Professor Sen, who has brought global recognition to the country, had been served a hearing notice under the SIR. He said similar notices had been issued to Bengali actor Dev and cricketer Mohammed Shami.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE DIVISION
LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE (LPSC)
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
VALIAMALA P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA
Ph: 0471 – 256 7445/ 7326/ 7577 e-mail: contracts_cmg@lpsc.gov.in

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

On behalf of the President of India, online **EPC tenders** are invited through e-tendering for the following work:

Description	Details
Title of work	Planning, Design and Construction of NFAT Facility for NGLV at LPSC, ISRO, Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala (Civil, Electrical, AC, Mechanical and allied works) in EPC Mode-1
E-NIT No. and Date	LPSC-V/CMD/CS/01/1145/TE-023/2025-26 dated 05.01.2026
Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 8075 Lakh
Period of completion	Twenty (20) months
Earnest money deposit (EMD)	₹ 90,75,000/- (Rupees Ninety lakh and seventy five thousand)
Period during which the tender document can be requested.	From: 17.30 hrs on 08.01.2026 To: 23.30 hrs on 04.02.2026
Period during which the tender documents can be downloaded.	From: 17.31 hrs on 08.01.2026 To: 23.59 hrs on 04.02.2026
Bid Clarifications	From: 18.00 hrs on 08.01.2026 To: 09.00 hrs on 16.02.2026
Reply to Bid Clarifications	Upto 17.00 hrs on 18.02.2026
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Upto 14.30 hrs on 02.03.2026
Due date and time of opening of tenders	15.00 hrs on 02.03.2026

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi - English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html**, **https://www.lpsc.gov.in/tender.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro**

Sd/- Head, CMD/LPSC (V)

INBRIEF



Maharashtra Congress leader dies of stab wounds in Akola

Maharashtra Congress vice-president Hidayatullah Patel, who was stabbed at a mosque in Akola district, died of injuries during treatment on Wednesday morning, the police said. The alleged attacker, who is the main accused, has been arrested, while five more persons have been named as suspects in the first information report (FIR), they said. An IPS-rank officer will probe the murder case, said District Superintendent of Police Archit Chandak. Mr. Patel, 66, was attacked with a sharp weapon by the main accused, Ubed Khan Kalu Khan, alias Razik Khan Patel, 22, over an old enmity at around 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the police said. PTI

Rogue elephant kills 13 in two days in Jharkhand villages

An elephant killed 13 people in two days in separate attacks in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, creating panic in the region, a senior forest official said on Wednesday. Four others were also injured in the attack, Chaibasa Divisional Forest Officer Aditya Narayan told *PTI*. The tusker, which had attacked several people in the last few days, entered the Noamundi and Hatgamariah police station areas late on Tuesday and trampled the six people to death, he said. The same pachyderm claimed the lives of seven people in the Kolhan region on the previous day, he added. The official said that forest officials with experts have been deployed. PTI

Norms issued to compound minor drug violations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a bid to make compliance easier, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has released guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) related to the compounding of offences under the Drugs and Cosmetics (Compounding of Offences) Rules, 2025, which will be a guide to drug manufacturing companies and individuals on how to settle offences under the relevant provisions of the regulation under the Compounding Authority.

"Any stakeholder desirous of applying for compounding of offences under the Rules may submit the application in the prescribed form in physical copy along with advance copy through email as specified under Rule 4 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Compounding of Offences) Rules, 2025, to the Compounding Authority," the CDSCO said.

A senior Health official explained that the new rules exempt pharma firms from appearing in court in case of "certain minor contraventions" and allow them to seek the provision of paying a monetary penalty instead, subject to conditions.

Census first phase to be held from April 1 to Sept. 30 this year

The houselisting phase will be conducted in each State over a 30-day period; second phase of the count will be carried out in February 2027

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The first phase of Census 2027, the houselisting operations (HLO) phase, will be conducted from April 1 to September 30 across all States and Union Territories, the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India said in a notification on Wednesday.

This phase will be conducted in each State over a 30-day period, with the specific dates to be notified by the States.

The self-enumeration option will be available 15 days before the start of the phase.

"The houselisting operations of the Census of India 2027 shall take place between 1st April, 2026 and 30th September, 2026 in all States and Union territories in India during the period of thirty days specified by each State and Union territory. There shall also be an option for self enumeration which shall be conducted in fifteen days' time period just before the start of house to house houselisting operations of thirty days," Census Commissioner Mritunjay Kumar Narayan said in a Gazette notification.



The pre-test for the first phase of the Census was held from November 10 to 30 in select areas across the country. FILE PHOTO

This will be the first digital Census and the first to enumerate caste in Independent India.

Household queries

The second phase of the Census is the population enumeration phase in February 2027.

Caste identities will be enumerated during this phase.

The pre-test or the preparatory exercise for the first phase of the Census was held from November 10 to 30 last year in select areas across the country. It had sought household responses to 35 questions, including the composition of the floor and roof of the house, main cereal consumed, source of drinking water and cooking fuel, and the number of married couples in the house.

About 30 lakh field functionaries – including enumerators, supervisors, master trainers, charge officers, and Principal/District Census Officers – will be deployed for data collection, and supervision of Census operations.

X tells IT Ministry it is 'in compliance' with Indian law

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Ministry says X has not shared specific details, and that it will stay in touch with X Corp.

X Corp., which runs the social media platform X, has submitted a written response to the Union government's notice to the firm on the rampant generation of non-consensual sexual content by its Grok artificial intelligence chatbot, a senior official said on Wednesday.

The firm insisted that it was "in compliance" with Indian law, the official said.

Spokespersons of X and the IT Ministry did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

"They have not given us specifics, so we're going to get down to specifics," the official said, describing the social media firm's response. "[They say] we've taken down content, we've blocked content. But we want more specifics, so we'll be in communication with them ... They're saying that they'll comply with Indian law."

In a letter on January 2, the IT Ministry had taken note of Grok "being misused by users to create fake accounts to host, generate, publish or share obscene images or videos of women in a derogatory or vulgar manner in order to indecently denigrate them". The letter demanded that the behaviour stop, and that a detailed technical audit be performed on Grok's systems, and that the result of that audit be shared with the IT Ministry. A 72-hour deadline was extended to 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

It is unclear if xAI, which develops Grok and is a separate subsidiary under X Corp., will institute further safeguards. The official did not describe any specific commitment to that end from X.

Elon Musk, X's owner, has frequently vaunted the relative lack of safeguards and limits on Grok's outputs, emphasising it as a key differentiator from services such as ChatGPT and Google's Gemini. Instead, Mr. Musk said, "Anyone using Grok to make illegal content will suffer the same consequences as if they upload illegal content." (xAI's media contact email address automatically returns a response stating that "Legacy Media Lies" to any enquiry.)

Congress flags bid to 'privatise forest management' after Ministry circular

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday alleged that amendments made to the Forest (Conservation) Act in 2023 had opened the door for the privatisation of forest management, days after the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change changed terms and conditions for the assignment of forest land on lease.



The Congress has said that the move will facilitate leasing of forest land to private entities for plantations. FILE PHOTO

Congress general secretary and former Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh took to X to condemn the recent changes, alleging the move will facilitate leasing of forest land to private entities. "In August 2023, the Modi Government had bulldozed amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 through Parliament. Apart from renaming this law as the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, these amendments had introduced far-reaching changes in the legal regime for the governance of forests in the country," Mr. Ramesh said. He further said it was pointed out at the time that the amendments had opened the door for the privatisation of forest management.

"This is exactly what has happened – as evidenced from the circular issued by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change on Jan 2, 2026," he added.

As per the circular issued by the Ministry, the amendments in the Forest (Conservation) Act in 2023 were based on recommendations of the Advisory Committee. The new amendments assisted natural regeneration, including afforestation and plantation, for purposes mutually agreed between the States/Union Territories and government and non-government entities.

The circular allowed the States to devise an appropriate framework "for the utilisation of such plantations and for revenue-sharing thereof, on a case-to-case basis".

"Activities undertaken in accordance with the provisions of an approved Working Plan/Management Plan, applicable in such cases and under the supervision of the State Forest Department shall be deemed to constitute forestry activities and hence the requirements of Compensatory Afforestation and payment of Net Present Value shall not be applicable to such activities," the circular read.

Top court says presence of strays in public institutions poses a 'danger'

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that the presence of stray dogs on the premises of public institutions posed a "danger", even as animal welfare groups contended that its November 7 order directing their removal ran contrary to the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, framed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

A three-judge Bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and N.V. Anjaria said that a recent spike in dog-bite incidents highlighted the need to ensure that high-footfall public institutions were made "dog-free". The Bench also flagged the failure of municipal authorities to effectively implement the ABC Rules and comply with its earlier directives.



The Bench said that a recent spike in dog-bite incidents prompted the need to make public institutions 'dog-free'. FILE PHOTO

"As far as institutions are concerned, they are not streets. Why do you need dogs on court premises, schools?.... It is not only the dog bites but also the roaming of stray animals on roads that are proving dangerous and causing accidents. No one knows which dog is in what mood in the morning," the Bench said.

Justice Mehta further pointed out that two judges of the Rajasthan High Court had met with accidents in the past 20 days, and one of the judges was still suffering from spinal injuries. "It's a serious issue," he told lawyers appearing in the matter.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for an animal welfare organisation, however, contended that isolated incidents could not justify the *en masse* capture and removal of stray dogs, particularly when such measures were not supported by scientific methodology accepted worldwide for reducing animal-human conflict.

"First of all, this is not an adversarial issue, and we are here as dog lovers. If one tiger is a man-eater, we don't kill all tigers. We must make sure that sterilisation takes place, and the population must come down," he said.

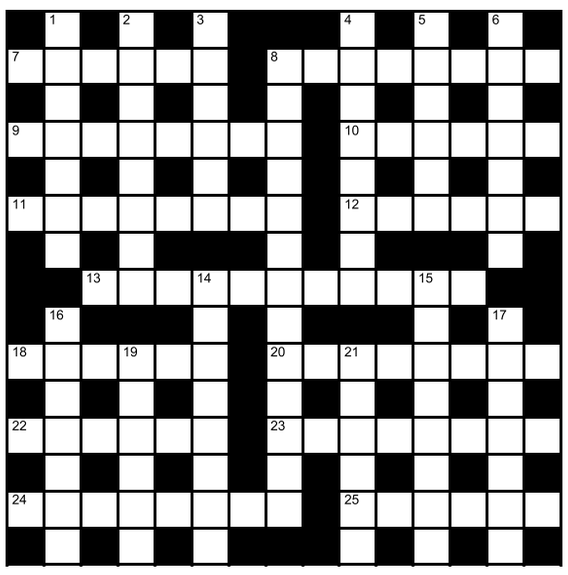
The observations were made during the top court's ongoing *suo motu* proceedings aimed at framing a national framework for stray dog management and ensuring compliance with existing statutory regulations.

TH CROSSWORD + 14686

(set by Pixie Dust)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Difficult and incorrigible in conversation (6)
8 Nag, i.e in humour? (8)
9 Sybarite professor involved in larceny (8)
10 Fate exposed Nora, Adam & Mina (6)
11 Restore extremely rare electronic device (8)
12 A company is basically monitoring prejudice (6)
13 So, this annihilator unfortunately took fishes. Sad! (4,2,5)
18 Faceless pitcher follows nationalist for a bite (6)
20 One who just made a veiled promise? (8)
22 Petty snub (6)
23 Intrude bird cycling around a croc in confusion (8)
24 Hits back on curt ones angrily (8)
25 Throwing son out in climax (6)

Down

1 At home greet amazing figure (7)
2 Boil & stir bananas and cones (8)
3 Countless parts of humid, airy motors capsizing (6)
4 Recommend Bill's chartered accountant to be admitted by referendum (8)
5 Some swooned getting nervous (2,4)
6 Opposing saga in stereotypical packaging (7)
8 Repeatedly used fibre stung one apt to drop things (13)
14 Climber's second little brew packs bit of punch (8)
15 Your archaic designer uplifted small hormone producers (8)
16 Prophet of Doom Spooner declares, "Jack's partner's shrinking!" (7)
17 Fall of French essence (7)
19 Kicks off business enterprises, global investments & networking schemes from the beginning (6)
21 Wait! Cake ends bitten off evenly? Sinful! (6)

SUDOKU

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

No.SS6755 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

	P		W		H				H		P		R	
L	A	R	E	D	O		H	A	Y	F	E	V	E	R
	N		L		O		Y		S		N		N	
L	O	L	L	I	P	O	P		T	E	T	H	E	R
	P		T		L		N		E		U		W	
E	L	D	O	R	A	D	O		R	I	P	S	A	W
	Y		D				A		I				L	
		C	O	N	T	I	N	U	A	N	C	E		
	H				R		A				H		S	
S	A	L	A	M	I			L	A	D	Y	L	I	K	E
	N		U		F		Y		O		O		I	
J	O	Y	F	U	L		S	T	I	R	R	U	P	S
	V		A		I		I		N		I		P	
D	E	V	I	A	N	T	S		G	I	N	G	E	R
	R		T		G				S		E		R	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Realisation of God

Some may ask who created the world and human beings. Scriptures declare that God is the Creator, though He is not visible to our physical eyes. Therefore, we must accept the truths revealed by elders, the Sastras, and Acharyas. One should not reject the existence of the Creator merely because He is not perceptible to ordinary senses, nor should one argue against Him using limited human logic.

Acharya Ramanuja declares that the realisation of God and the experience of the Divine are possible only through the authority of the Sastras. In his work "Sri Bhashyam", he refers to *Sastra-yonitvat*, emphasising that the Sastras alone are the valid means to know that which is beyond the reach of our senses and intellect.

Dr. Venkatesh said in a discourse that the rishis and azhwars are spiritual scientists. Through the subtle microscope of "tapas", they conducted profound inner research and revealed their realisations in the form of the Sastras and the Divya Prabandham. We, on the other hand, are like small children in the realm of spirituality. By learning, reflecting, and practising more and more with proper guidance, we gradually reach a state in which we can realise God and experience His Divinity. Though the physical eyes cannot perceive God, He can be realised and experienced inwardly through pure insight or wisdom, and a heart sanctified by devotion.

Our Acharyas, through their illumined intellect and profound spirituality, have experienced the supreme divine bliss. When we walk in their footsteps with faith and discipline, we are also blessed to partake of that very same bliss.

INBRIEF



Gold drops as traders reassess U.S.-Venezuela relations

Gold prices fell on Wednesday as a stronger dollar and investors reassessing the recent developments in the U.S.-Venezuela situation weighed on the metal. Spot gold dropped 0.8% to $4,461.51 per ounce after briefly touching a more than one-week high earlier in the session. Bullion had hit a record high of $4,549.71 on December 26. U.S. gold futures for February delivery were down 0.5% at $4,471.30. REUTERS

Infosys partners with AWS for enterprise adoption of Gen AI

India's second-largest IT services company Infosys on Wednesday announced a strategic partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS), Amazon's cloud unit, to drive enterprise adoption of generative artificial intelligence (AI). The collaboration brings together Infosys Topaz and Amazon Q Developer to enhance Infosys' internal operations and drive innovation for clients in sectors including manufacturing, financial services and consumer goods. PTI

India scaled 54.51 GW wind energy capacity in 2025

India added 6.34 gigawatts (GW)-worth wind energy capacity in the calendar year 2025 with the total capacity in the country scaling 54.51 GW at the end of the year, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi informed on Wednesday. Notably, the capacity added in 2025 is approximately 85.4% higher than the capacity added in the preceding calendar year. India installed 3.42 GW worth capacity in 2024. It had closed 2024 with 48.16 GW wind capacity.

Carbon intensity tied to EVs' overall environmental benefits

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

While electric vehicles (EVs) offer zero emissions, the carbon intensity of electricity generation plays a decisive role in determining the overall environmental benefit of EVs, Managing Director of State-owned Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL) Kamal Kishore Chatiwal said on Wednesday. He was also referring to studies conducted by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and International Energy Agency (IEA).

Speaking at the launch of the study on 'Comparative Assessment of Vehicular Fuels in India's Green Energy Transition' of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and IGL, Mahanagar Gas Ltd., GAIL Gas, among others, Mr. Chatiwal emphasised, "Unless we green that, then the overall benefit may not accrue."

Separately in his address, with respect to electric vehicular technology, Mr. Chatiwal observed that electrifying vehicles with lower capacity is easy.

"As capacity increases, it becomes more complex and economically challenging to match other alternative fuels," he elaborated, whilst urging the researchers to look at the "economic angle" of the paradigm.

"In India, the economic angle will always be very important," he stated.

EV retail sales rose 16.37% YoY on 'strong adoption'

In 2025, a total number of 22,70,107 EV units were retailed as compared with 19,50,727 units retailed in 2024, data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association showed

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Electric vehicle (EV) retail sales grew double-digit in calendar year 2025 (CY25) backed by strong adoption.

In 2025, a total number of 22,70,107 EV units were retailed compared with 19,50,727 units retailed in 2024, up 16.37%, according to data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA) on Wednesday.

A total of 12.80 lakh electric two-wheelers were retailed in CY25, up 11.36% YoY). This accounted for 6.3% of the total two-wheelers sold during the year. Electric passenger vehicles grew sharply to 1,76,817 units, up 77.04% YoY, taking the EV share in total PV sales to 4% from 2.4% last year, data showed. The most decisive transformation continues to be in three-wheelers, where EVs now command 60.9% share, with EV 3W retails at 7,97,733 units, up 15.39% YoY, a strong endorsement of EV economics in last-mile mobility, FADA said in a statement.



Shifting gears: A total of 12.80 lakh electric two-wheelers were retailed in CY25, a year-on-year increase of 11.36%. G.N. RAO

Momentum was also visible in commercial vehicles with the electric CV segment clocking retail sales of 15,606 units, up 54.2% YoY. The share of EVs in this segment grew to 1.55%.

"CY25 clearly reinforces that India's electrification journey is no longer a pilot, it is scaling, segment by segment," said FADA president C.S. Vigneshwar.

"This transition is being powered by improving product choices and total cost of ownership benefits, and it underlines the need for a coordinated push on charging infra and policy continuity," he said.

IndiGo receives first delivery of A321 XLR

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

IndiGo on Wednesday took the delivery of first of the 40 A321 XLRs on order.

The longest narrow-body aircraft will allow the airline to fly further than its current fleet of A320 aircraft allows, though it has started flying to four European destinations with Boeing 787 aircraft borrowed from Norse Atlantic and also has Boeing 777 borrowed (or wet-leased) from Turkish Airlines used to fly to Istanbul.

Nine A321 XLRs will be inducted in CY26 and deployed on existing routes such as Denpasar and Istanbul. Thereafter new routes in East Asia and Europe will be launched. IndiGo is also required to surrender Turkish wet-leased (where aircraft and crew are leased) aircraft, which are used to fly to Istanbul, as per a DGCA directive.

Govt. seeks fare data as part of IndiGo scrutiny

Reuters
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has written to airlines asking for average fares on each route they operated on, for economy and premium economy seats, over the period December 1-15, according to a *Reuters* review of a January 1 government e-mail to IndiGo, Air India, Air India Express, SpiceJet and Akasa.

Pilot shortages at IndiGo, which dominates India's aviation market with a 65% share, forced it to cancel about 4,500 flights last month, stranding thousands of passengers and disrupting air travel nationwide.

Fares of certain airlines surged during the crisis, prompting the government to impose temporary caps.

The CCI in December said it was proceeding against IndiGo to assess whether it had abused its market position.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,961	-0.12
US Dollar	89.87	0.34
Gold	1,41,400	-0.07
Brent oil	60.25	-2.25

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2274.10	15.00
Adani Ports	1465.30	-7.90
Apollo Hosp	7447.50	99.50
Asian Paints	2809.40	-36.40
Axis Bank	1295.50	1.70
Bajaj Auto	9789.50	128.50
Bajaj Finserv	2031.90	-12.70
Bajaj Finance	968.80	-8.55
Bharat Elec	415.65	2.55
Bharti Airtel	2084.20	-21.10
Cipla	1467.90	-62.90
Coal India	431.65	4.60
Dr Reddys Lab	1242.80	-13.40
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7582.50	60.00
Eternal Ltd.	280.95	1.90
Grasim Ind	2837.10	-28.20
HCL Tech	1647.70	31.40
HDFC Bank	949.05	-13.15
HDFC Life	772.35	-5.50
Hindalco	938.45	-3.80
Hind Unilever	2399.40	-25.30
ICICI Bank	1427.70	16.50
IntGlobeAvi	4951.00	-51.50
Infosys	1639.00	26.80
ITC	341.25	-1.20
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	303.50	4.95
JSW Steel	1189.80	13.50
Kotak Bank	2144.00	-2.40
L&T	4157.00	16.40
M&M	3748.80	-36.80
Maruti Suzuki	16809.00	-483.00
Max Healthcare	1034.70	-16.90
NestleIndia	1314.80	-5.10
NTPC	348.85	-1.95
ONGC	239.06	-2.83
PowerGrid Corp	264.10	-4.45
Reliance Ind	1504.20	-3.40
SBI Life	2070.80	-25.00
State Bank	1007.15	-11.75
Shriram Finance Ltd.	995.85	-6.80
Sun Pharma	1782.60	22.40
TataConsumerProduct	1212.60	2.20
Tata Steel	183.80	-2.40
TCS	3295.60	39.80
Tech Mahindra	1625.20	23.40
Titan	4273.20	161.40
Tata Motors PV	363.35	-5.55
Trent Ltd.	4060.50	12.90
UltraTech Cement	12184.00	-20.00
Wipro	270.80	5.20

CMS bags ₹1,000 cr. ATM deal from SBI

Cash logistics-focused CMS Info Systems on Wednesday said it has bagged a ₹1,000-crore deal from SBI to look after 5,000 automated teller machines (ATMs) for SBI. PTI

ED attaches ₹400 crore assets in Jaypee group homebuyers' case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached immovable assets with a current market value of about ₹400 crore in connection with a probe involving Jaypee Infratech Limited (JIL), Jayprakash Associates Limited (JAL) and associated entities, over the alleged misappropriation of funds collected from homebuyers for the Jaypee Wishtown and Jaypee Greens projects.

The agency said the attached properties belong to Jaiprakash Sewa Sanstha and Page 3 Buildtech Private Limited.

The ED investigation against the Jaypee group is based on several first information reports registered by the police in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, following complaints filed by homebuyers of the Jaypee Wishtown and Jaypee Greens projects, alleging criminal conspiracy, cheating and criminal breach of trust against JIL and JAL and their promoters and directors, including Manoj Gaur.



The attached properties belong to Jaiprakash Sewa Sanstha and Page 3 Buildtech Pvt. Ltd.

"It has been alleged that the funds collected from thousands of homebuyers for construction and completion of residential projects were diverted for purposes other than construction, leaving the homebuyers defrauded and their projects incomplete," the ED said.

According to the agency, of about ₹14,599 crore collected by JAL and JIL from more than 25,000 homebuyers, as per claims admitted by the National Company Law Tribunal, substantial amounts were diverted for non-construction purposes and siphoned off to related group entities, including Jaypee Sewa Sansthan (JSS), Jaypee Healthcare Limited (JHL), and Jaypee Sports International Limited (JSIL).

Delhi-NCR weathers air pollution to buy homes

Ashokamithran T.
NEW DELHI

In the luxury category (₹20 crore to ₹50 crore), Delhi garnered 17% of home sales

The Delhi-National Capital region was the most preferred location to buy homes that cost between ₹2 crore to ₹20 crore in the second half of calendar year 2025, despite the air pollution crisis in the capital.

About 32% of the total homes that cost ₹2 crore to ₹5 crore sold in India were in NCR, according to the data from a Knight Frank report. This was despite a marginal dip in sales to 18,887 units on a year-on-year basis.

The share of Delhi in total sales increased in the higher price segments. Six out of every 10 homes which belonged to the ₹5 crore to ₹10 crore category were sold in NCR. Similarly, 62% of the homes worth ₹10 crore to ₹20 crore were sold in Delhi.

In the luxury category (₹20 crore to ₹50 crore), Delhi garnered 17% of home sales, but the segment was dominated by Mumbai with 66% of total sales. In the luxury segment, which Knight Frank considers to be more than ₹50 crore, 173 homes were sold in NCR and 56 in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

Thyssenkrupp weighs phased sale of TKSE to Jindal

Reuters

Germany's Thyssenkrupp could sell its steel division to India's Jindal Steel International in several steps, four people familiar with the talks said, as the two sides try to strike a deal for the complex business.

Jindal Steel International has been conducting due diligence on Thyssenkrupp Steel Europe (TKSE) since October after making an indicative bid for Europe's second-largest steelmaker.

The deal is key for Thyssenkrupp as the submarines-to-car parts group seeks to become leaner and more focused.

APPOINTMENTS

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj an Autonomous organization under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is country's apex organisation for undertaking training and research in various aspects of Rural Development. NIRD&PR invites applications for the following post on deputation basis:

Name of the Post	Pay Matrix Level	Age limit	No. of Posts
Director (Finance)	Pay Level-13 in 7th CPC (Corresponding PB-4 with Grade Pay Rs.8700/- in 6th CPC)	56 years	1

For Job Profile, eligibility Criteria, remuneration and submission of application, please visit: **http://career.nirdpr.in/**
Last date for submission of online application is 07.02.2026.

Advt.No.34/2025
(No. NIRDPR/Admn/2025/62)

Sd/-
Assistant Director Administration (Section-I)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Govt. of India proposes to engage the services of suitable candidates for various positions on contract basis under the Project Management Agency (PMA) of the National Resource Organization (NRO), MoRD. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), NIRDPR invites online applications for below mentioned contractual positions to be placed in MoRD, New Delhi:

Sl. No	Name of the Position	No. of Positions	Remuneration
1	Project Manager	1	Rs. 1,50,000/- pm
2	Assistant Project Manager	2	Rs. 1,20,000/- pm
3	Thematic Expert (MIS)	1	Rs. 1,00,000/- pm

The contract duration is up to 31.03.2026 and may be extended subject to the extension of the scheme beyond 31.03.2026.
For Job Profile, Eligibility Criteria, online submission of application and other details please visit: **http://career.nirdpr.in/**
Last date for submission of online application is **22/01/2026.**

Advt.No.31/2025
File No: File No: NIRDPR/DDU-GKY/NRO/070/HR/2018-19-Part(1)
Comp.no. 8836

Sd/-
Assistant Director Administration (Section-I)

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
"Expression of Interest (EoI)"
Ref. EoI No: APTRANSCO/TELECOM&IT/JV-EOI-02/2026

APTRANSCO invites applications from the eligible and reputed Telecom Service Providers for forming a Joint Venture (JV) / Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for Bandwidth Business. Detailed EoI document available in **www.aptransco.gov.in** from 08.01.2026 at 11:00 Hrs, Ph no.9440811006, 9440817073.

RO No: GMCC/APTRANSCO/11/26

Sd/- Chief Engineer/Telecom & IT
APTRANSCO, Vidyut Soudha, Vijayawada.

DIRECTOR WORKS (EO)
Rajasthan University Of Veterinary & Animal Science, Bikaner

क्रमांक : F( )/DW(EO)/RAJUVAS/2025-26/923 - 933 दिनांक :- 05/01/2026

निविदा सूचना संख्या 08 वर्ष 2025-2026

राजस्थान पशु चिकित्सा एवं पशु विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय, बीकानेर की ओर से विश्वविद्यालय में विभिन्न स्थानों पर निर्माण कार्यों के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में, इस विश्वविद्यालय में एवं अन्य विश्वविद्यालयों में, राज्य सरकार एवं राज्य सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों तथा केन्द्र सरकार व केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों, जो कि राज्य सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के समकक्ष हो, पंजीकृत संवेदको से ई–टेन्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ऑनलाईन निविदा प्राप्त की जावेगी। निविदा से सम्बधित विवरण वेब साईट **www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in/tenders.asp, www.rajuvas.org, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** व **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है। **UBN No. : VAU2526WLOB00094**

राज.संवाद/सी/25/17203

भू-सम्पदा अधिकारी

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
CHIEF EDITOR OFFICE **e-Procurement Tender Notice**

Roc.No. TTD-95021(31)/15/2025-Chief Editor Dt:05.01.2026

E-Tenders are invited for procurement of 16, 00,000 nos. of Packing sheets for a period of one year. For tender details log on to the web site **http://www.tirumala.org.** Click on TTD-95021(31)/15/2025-Chief Editor. For further details contact phone numbers: **0877-2264543, 2264363.2264359.**

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv,No.347) Date:07-01-2026 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

ARMY AIR DEFENCE CENTRE, GOPALPUR (ODISHA)
CONSTRUCTION OF PREFABRICATED SHELTERS

1. Quotations are invited from reputed & experienced Vendors / Contractors at no cost no commitment for **Construction & installation of prefabricated living shelters including washroom facilities for approx 800 personnel at Army Air Defence Centre, Gopalpur.**
2. A mandatory **onsite visit** for assessment of work & specifications is required.
3. **Contact - 9805770092**

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INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE
Post Box No. 2900, Hosur Road, Bengaluru – 29
Ph: 080-2699 5708, 5323, 5290, Website: http://www.nimhans.ac.in

No. NIMH/RECT/ADVT–2/FAC/2025-26 Date: 30.12.2025

NOTIFICATION

NIMHANS Invites applications for the following vacant posts on permanent basis from the qualified Indian Nationals residing in India & abroad fulfilling the following criterion:

1. Professor of Neurosurgery	1 POST [OBC]
1A. Additional Professor of Neurosurgery (Lower Cadre for Professor of Neurosurgery)	1 POST [OBC]
2. Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery	1 POST [EWS]
3. Associate Professor of Neurology	2 POSTS [OBC-1, UR-1]
3A. Assistant Professor of Neurology (Lower Cadre for Associate Professor of Neurology)	2 POSTS [OBC-1, UR-1]
4. Assistant Professor of Neurology	1 POST [EWS]
5. Associate Professor of Neuroanaesthesia & Neurocritical Care	1 POST [OBC]
5A. Assistant Professor of Neuroanaesthesia & Neurocritical Care (Lower Cadre for Associate Professor of Neuroanaesthesia & Neurocritical Care)	1 POST [OBC]
6. Assistant Professor of Neuroanaesthesia & Neurocritical Care	1 POST [EWS]
7. Assistant Professor of Neuroimaging & Interventional Radiology	2 POSTS [ST-1, EWS-1]
8. Assistant Professor of Nuclear Medicine (Under NI & IR)	1 POST [UR]
9. Assistant Professor of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	1 POST [UR]
10. Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology	03 POSTS [ST-1, OBC-1, EWS-1]
11. Assistant Professor of Neurophysiology	1 POST [OBC]
12. Associate Professor of Psychiatry	1 POST [ST]
12A. Assistant Professor of Psychiatry (Lower Cadre for Associate Professor of Psychiatry)	1 POST [ST]
13. Assistant Professor of Psychiatry (Under Centre for Addiction Medicine)	2 POSTS [UR-2]

The candidates may download the Application form from the Institute Website **http://www.nimhans.ac.in**. The duly filled in application along with its enclosures should reach **The Director, NIMHANS, P.B.No.2900, Hosur Road, Bengaluru – 560 029, India, on or before 31.01.2026**. Cut-off date for calculation of age, experience is **31.01.2026**.
For further details, please visit the **"Recruitment and Notifications" section on the NIMHANS website http://www.nimhans.ac.in.**

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

TAIPEI

China's war games to undermine global support for island: Taiwan



REUTERS

China's war game exercises around Taiwan last week, called "Justice Mission 2025," were part of a campaign to counter growing international support for the island and an attempt to divert attention away from Beijing's economic troubles, Taiwan's top security agency said on Wednesday. REUTERS

WASHINGTON

U.S. seizes Russia-linked oil tanker after chasing it to North Atlantic



AFP

The United States on Wednesday seized a Russia-linked oil tanker in the North Atlantic after chasing it from Venezuela's coast, despite Russian navy escort. Washington calls it part of a shadow fleet violating sanctions. Moscow criticised the seizure. The formerly *Bella-1*, now *Marinera*, was, however, deemed stateless by U.S. AFP

ALEPPO

New clashes between Syrian forces, Kurdish fighters erupt in Aleppo



REUTERS

The deadliest clashes so far broke out on Tuesday between Syrian government forces and Kurdish fighters in a contested area of the northern city of Aleppo, as efforts to merge the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) with the national army have shown little progress. *SANA* said a soldier was killed in an SDF attack. AP

ADEN

Yemen's anti-Houthi council expels leader of separatist movement



VIA REUTERS

A Yemeni council fighting Houthi militants expelled separatist leader Aidarous al-Zubaidi for treason after he reportedly declined to travel to Saudi Arabia for talks. Saudi-Emirati tensions deepened as Saudi air strikes hit UAE-backed STC forces, escalating southern Yemen's conflict and exposing coalition fractures. AP

Venezuela will 'turn over' up to 50 mn barrels of oil to U.S.: Trump

Delcy Rodríguez asserts Venezuelan sovereignty with no foreign governance while showing potential willingness to cooperate on U.S. demands; no details available on what the South American nation receives in return for the oil supply

Stanly Johny

U.S. President Donald Trump has claimed that Venezuela's interim government would send 30 to 50 million barrels of oil to the United States, after Washington invaded the oil-rich South American country on January 3 and captured its President, Nicolas Maduro.

"I am pleased to announce that the Interim Authorities in Venezuela will be turning over between 30 and 50 million barrels of high quality, sanctioned oil, to the United States of America," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post on Tuesday.



Protesters hold signs during a demonstration against U.S. military action in Venezuela, in Washington DC on Tuesday. AFP

After capturing Mr. Maduro in a night-time attack, which according to American media killed at least 75 people, including 32 Cubans, Mr. Trump had said the U.S. would "run" Venezuela and that American oil companies would return to the country and make investments. Later, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the U.S. was not seeking to "govern" Venezuela but would enforce changes through economic sanctions and a naval quarantine, which is currently in place on oil tankers going in and coming out of Venezuela.

In Tuesday's post, Mr. Trump said the oil sent by Venezuela would be sold at the market price and the proceeds would be controlled by him "to ensure it is used to benefit the people of Venezuela and the United States". But he did not say what would Venezuela would get in return or provide a timeline for shipping the oil.

Meanwhile, Venezuela's interim leader Delcy Rodriguez insisted that no foreign power was governing her country, according to an *AFP* report.

Ms. Rodriguez has given mixed signals about how much she is prepared to cooperate with Mr. Trump, at times sounding conciliatory, at others defiant.

Speaking three days after U.S. attack, Ms. Rodriguez said: "The government of Venezuela is in charge in our country, and no-one else." "There is no foreign agent governing Venezuela."

Mr. Trump, however, insists Washington is now "in charge" of the Caribbean country but has said he is prepared to work with Ms. Rodriguez – provided she submits to his demand for access to oil reserves.

'Trump actively discussing the purchase of Greenland'

Associated Press
COPENHAGEN

U.S. President Donald Trump has "actively discussed" the purchase of Greenland with his team, the White House said on Wednesday, saying he preferred diplomacy but would not rule out military action.

"That's something that's currently being actively discussed by the President and his national security team," Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said when asked about a possible U.S. offer to buy the territory from Denmark.

"His team is currently talking about what a potential purchase would look like."

Ms. Leavitt reiterated that Mr. Trump believes acquiring Greenland would be in the interest of U.S. national security.



Karoline Leavitt

"He views it in the best interest of the United States to deter Russian and Chinese aggression in the Arctic region. And so that's why his team is currently talking about what a potential purchase would look like."

Asked why Mr. Trump would not rule out military action against a fellow NATO member, Ms. Leavitt replied: "That's not something this President does. All options are always on the table for President Trump."

"But I will just say, the President's first option, always, has been diplomacy."

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said separately on Wednesday that he planned to meet next week with Denmark, which requested talks after Mr. Trump's threats to Greenland.

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen warned earlier this week that a U.S. takeover would amount to the end of the NATO military alliance.

The leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom joined Ms. Frederiksen in a statement on Tuesday reaffirming that the mineral-rich island "belongs to its people".

UN urges Israel to end 'apartheid' against West Bank residents

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The United Nations on Wednesday said decades-long discrimination and segregation of Palestinians by Israel in the West Bank were intensifying, and called on the country to end its "apartheid system".

In a new report, slammed by Israel, the UN rights office said "systematic discrimination" against Palestinians across the occupied Palestinian territories had "drastically deteriorated" in recent years.

"There is a systematic asphyxiation of the rights of Palestinians in the West Bank," UN rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement.

"Whether accessing water, school, rushing to hospital, visiting family or friends, or harvesting olives – every aspect of life for Palestinians in the West Bank is controlled and curtailed by Israel's discriminatory laws, policies and practices," he added.

Inquilab Mancha rejects Hadi murder chargesheet and warns of escalation

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Slain Bangladeshi student leader Sharif Osman Hadi's party has rejected the police chargesheet in his murder case and accused the state machinery of being involved in the killing.

Inquilab Mancha on Tuesday also warned that those who "have shed blood" may be forced to "take blood as well" if justice is not ensured, Bengali daily *Prothom Alo* reported on Wednesday.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police's (DMP) Detective Branch on Tuesday pressed formal charges against 17 people, including prime suspect Faisal Karim Masud, in connection with the murder and said Hadi was killed due to "political vengeance" at the behest of Awami League-nominated ward councillor Taizul Islam Chowdhury Bappi.



Inquilab Mancha claims that an entire 'criminal syndicate', as well as the 'state machinery', was involved in the killing. AP

Inquilab Mancha member secretary Abdullah al Jaber said "even a lunatic would not believe" the claim that Hadi was murdered merely on the instructions of a ward councillor, asserting that the party does not accept the chargesheet submitted by police.

He claimed that an entire "criminal syndicate", as well as the "state machinery", was involved in the killing.

Hadi was shot in the head on December 12.

Iran Army threatens preemptive attack over Trump remarks

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran's Army chief threatened preemptive military action on Wednesday over the "rhetoric" targeting the Islamic Republic, likely referring to U.S. President Donald Trump's warning that if Tehran "violently kills peaceful protesters," America "will come to their rescue".

The comments by Maj. Gen. Amir Hatami come as Iran tries to respond to what it sees as a dual threat posed by Israel and the United States, as well as the protests sparked by its economic woes that have grown into a direct challenge to its theocracy.

"The Islamic Republic considers the intensification of such rhetoric against the Iranian nation as a threat and will not leave its continuation without a response," Gen. Hatami said.

The U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency offered the latest toll of 36 for the demonstrations.

Sport

Anand showcases his class, in joint lead

TATA STEEL CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
KOLKATA

He was the 'Lightning Kid' in the 80s with his rapid pace of play when the shorter formats of chess weren't even in the works. Viswanathan Anand stunned the world with his flamboyant style and climbed to the pinnacle.

He looked sharp as he scored over Wesley So and Aravindh Chithambaram to surge to the lead with Hans Niemann after three rounds of the rapid event in the Tata Steel Chess India tournament at the Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium here on Wednesday.

Up against So in the opening round, the 56-year-old Indian legend was in his element as he scored a crushing win before being held to a draw by Wei Yi in the second.



Old is gold! Anand was in his element. DEBASISH BHADURI

In the third round, the maestro defeated young compatriot Aravindh.

Niemann began by beating former World rapid champion Volodar Murzin before securing a draw against Vidit Gujrathi and outplaying R. Praggnanandhaa. In the first round, Vidit surprised the in-form Arjun Erigaisi with black pieces but could only draw his next two games.

In the women's section, American Carissa Yip led the table with 2.5 points. Rakshitta had a good day, drawing all three games.

The results:

Rapid: Open: First round: Viswanathan Anand bt Wesley So; Wei Yi drew with Nihal Sarin; Arjun Erigaisi lost to Vidit Gujrathi; Hans Niemann bt Volodar Murzin; Aravindh Chithambaram drew with R. Praggnanandhaa.

Second round: So bt Murzin; Praggnanandhaa bt Arjun; Nihal bt Aravindh; Anand drew with Wei; Vidit drew with Niemann.

Third round: Niemann bt Praggnanandhaa; Murzin drew with Vidit, Yi lost to So; Arjun bt Nihal; Aravindh lost to Anand.

Women: First round: Rakshitta Ravi drew with Aleksandra Goryachkina; Carissa Yip bt Stavroula Tsolkidou; Divya Deshmukh drew with D. Harika; Vantika Agrawal bt R. Vaishali.

Second round: Goryachkina bt Vaishali; Lagno bt Vantika; Harika drew with Dzagnidze; Tsolakidou bt Divya; Rakshitta drew with Yip.

Third round: Yip bt Goryachkina; Divya drew with Rakshitta; Dzagnidze bt Tsolakidou; Vantika bt Harika; Vaishali drew with Lagno.

Easy for Nikhat; referees continue to be in focus

NATL. BOXING

Uthra Ganesan
GREATER NOIDA

While the top names continued to march ahead inside the ring, refereeing continued to raise questions on day four of the National boxing championships on Wednesday.

A bout was abandoned and another saw a boxer literally sinking his teeth into his opponent even as the officials continued to insist that everything was fine.

Pawan Bartwal was leading after two close rounds against Lalit of All India Police Sports Control Board (AIPSCB) when the bout was abandoned and awarded to Pawan. It had been acrimonious from the beginning with the AIPSCB officials questioning the decision to award both rounds 3-2 to Pawan.



In a flash: Nikhat spent less than two minutes in the ring as the referee stopped her contest against Banoo.

Interestingly, there was no video available for the bout with the BFI's official stream not working for Ring 1. In Ring 2, Ishmeet of RSPB won over Mohit of AIPSCB 5-0 in the 75kg and the Railways team later complained of Mohit biting their player. In contrast, the women's section was sedate with two-time World champion Nikhat Zareen spending less than two minutes inside the ring, the referee stopping contest against Ladakh's Kulsooma Banoo in the first round.

Nitu Ghanghas, having moved up a category to 51kg, stayed on course for a showdown with Nikhat with a 5-0 win over Tamil Nadu's Kalaivani S. Srinivasan.

Important results: Men: 55kg: Pawan Bartwal (SSCB) bt Lalit (AIPSCB) Abd Rd 3; Jadumani Singh (SSCB) bt Manish Rathore (UP) 5-0; Amit Panghal (SSCB) bt Krrish Pal (Chd) 4-1.

60kg: Sachin Siwach (SSCB) bt Gorish (Har) 5-0; Hussamuddin (SSCB) bt Akshay (Chd) 5-0.

65kg: Abhinash Jamwal (HP) bt Smarak Ranjan (Odi) 5-0.

70kg: Hitesh Gulia (SSCB) bt Nishchaya (AIPSCB) 5-0; **75kg:** Sumit Kundu (SSCB) bt Kapil (MP) RSC-1.

Women: 48kg: Minakshi Hooda (AIPSCB) bt Annu (Jha) 5-0; Manju Rani (RSPB) bt Sonia Tamang (Meg) 5-0.

51kg: Nikhat Zareen (TS) bt Kulsooma Banoo RSC-1, Nitu Ghanghas (Har) bt Kalaivani S. Srinivasan (TN) 5-0.

54kg: Preeti Pawar (SSCB) bt Rushika (Chd) 5-0; Sakshi Chaudhary (SSCB) bt L.K. Abinaya (TN) RSC-II.

57kg: Vinka (Har) w/o Jaismine.

STAR PERFORMER

Gauff shines as the USA storms into the United Cup semifinals



AFP

Coco Gauff registered two wins as reigning champion United States beat Greece in the quarterfinals of the United Cup in Perth on Wednesday. **The results: USA bt Greece 2-1** (Coco Gauff bt Maria Sakkari 6-3. 6-2; Taylor Fritz lost to Stefanos Tsitsipas 4-6, 5-7; Gauff & Christian Harrison bt Tsitsipas & Sakkari 4-6, 6-4, [10-8]).

ON COURSE

Switzerland gets the better of Argentina, makes the last four



AFP

Switzerland rode on Belinda Bencic's efforts to beat Argentina 2-1 and enter the last four of the United Cup in Perth. **The result: Switzerland bt Argentina 2-1** (Belinda Bencic bt Solana Sierra 6-2, 6-2; Stan Wawrinka lost to Sebastian Baez 5-7, 4-6; Bencic & Jakub Paul bt Maria Lourdes Carle & Guido Andreozzi 6-3, 6-3).

WINNING START

All-round Pakistan breezes past Sri Lanka in the opening T20I



AFP

Shadab Khan's all-round show (two for 25 & 18 n.o.) helped Pakistan thump Sri Lanka by six wickets in the first of three T20Is in Dambulla on Wednesday. **The scores:** Sri Lanka 128 in 19.2 overs (Liyanage 40, Mirza 3/18, Abrar 3/25) lost to Pakistan 129/4 in 16.4 overs (Farhan 51); **Toss:** Pakistan; **PoM:** Shadab.

DOMINANT DISPLAY

George and Suryavanshi slam centuries, India u-19 sweeps series



FILE PHOTOS

Aaron George and Vaibhav Suryavanshi struck tons as India u-19 beat South Africa u-19 by 233 runs in the final youth ODI to sweep the three-match series in Benoni on Wednesday. **The scores:** India 393/7 in 50 overs (George 118, Suryavanshi 127, Soni 3/61) bt South Africa 160 in 35 overs (Kishan 3/15); **Toss:** SA; **PoM:** Suryavanshi.

Russell hits a treble in HIL GC's victory

The New Zealander produces a clinical performance to help his side clinch a nine-goal contest; Toofans rally from behind to beat Royals

HIL - MEN

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

For a drag-flicker, New Zealand's Kane Russell is of average build – 5'9'' and 82kg – but what he brings to the table is anything but average.

The 33-year-old registered his second hat-trick in the Men's Hockey India League at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium on Wednesday. His mastery of penalty corners played a decisive role in HIL GC's emphatic 6-3 win over defending champion Shrachi Bengal Tigers.

The first quarter belonged to Tigers as they made eight circle penetrations and opened the scoring through Jugraj Singh's penalty stroke. HIL GC drew level immediately when Russell's drive from the 23m line was deftly deflected home by Sam Ward, who caught the goalkeeper by surprise.

Russell began his penalty-corner magic by scoring twice, in the second and third quarters, as HIL GC established a 3-1 lead.



Kicking it off: Ward slots home HIL GC's first goal. R. RAGU

When forward Sudeep Chirmako smashed home a powerful forehander off an exquisite pass from captain Hardik Singh midway through the third quarter, it became 4-1.

However, the defending champion struck twice in quick succession in the same quarter through its German recruits, Christopher Ruhr and Tom Grambusch. The latter executed a textbook drag-flick past goalkeeper James Mazarelo before Abhishek's withering forehand rebounded off the 'keeper and was swatted home by the former.

The energised Tigers continued to raid HIL GC's citadel, earning four penalty corners in the third quarter, but the HIL backline remained solid. Russell showcased his drag-flicking prowess yet again, unleashing a thunderbolt past goalkeeper James Carr to put the contest beyond Tigers.

Later, Hyderabad Toofans fought back from being 0-2 down to script a 3-2 victory over Ranchi Royals. For HIL GC and Ranchi, it was their last league match in Chennai.

The results: HIL GC 6 (Ward 19, Russell 19, 36, 44, Chirmako 38, Albery 59) bt Shrachi Bengal Tigers 3 (Jugraj 12-ps, Ruhr 40, Grambusch 40-pc).
Hyderabad Toofans 3 (Lakra 42-pc, Woods 45-pc, Talwinder Singh 57) bt Ranchi Royals 2 (Boon 11-pc & 17).



Decisive: Granatto, left, scored the third goal. R.V. MOORTHY

Grannato powers Soorma past Tigers

HIL - WOMEN

Santadeep Dey
RANCHI

While the JSW Soorma Hockey Club won't be able to avoid the wooden spoon in the Women's Hockey India League despite having received a second wind under interim coach Rani Rampal, its late resurgence may have done the SG Pipers a mighty service. For there's a possibility that the Punjab and Haryana-based franchise may have dented Shrachi Bengal Tigers' confidence with a 3-2 win ahead of the big final on Saturday.

Soorma didn't take long to break the door open. Sonam, taking advantage of a goalmouth scramble, played the role of the fox in the box to hand her side an early lead. That being her fifth goal in the league, it took her alongside Yibbi Jansen and Charlotte Englebert as the joint highest goalscorer.

There was a fourth addition to the elite club when Agustina Gorzelany restored parity in the third quarter.

Soorma pulled away when Penny Squibb unleashed a bullet off a penalty corner. Meanwhile, Maria Granatto accounted for Soorma's third, the 30-year-old deflecting the ball just enough to see it sail over the head of the shot-stopper and kiss the roof of the net.

Lalremsiami scored in the 60th minute, but it was too little too late.

The result:
Shrachi Bengal Tigers 2 (Gorzelany 37, Lalremsiami 60) lost to JSW Soorma Hockey Club 3 (Sonam 10, Squibb 50, Granatto 53).

Fitness concerns apart, MI remains the team to beat

WPL COUNTDOWN

Shayan Acharya

Two titles in three seasons. Mumbai Indians enjoys an enviable record in the Women's Premier League, and as another season beckons, the Women in Blue start as the favourite.

Arguably the most successful franchise, Mumbai Indians' biggest strength lies in retaining its core players – Harmanpreet Kaur as the captain, Hayley Matthews, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Amanjot Kaur, and G. Kamalini.

While the side revolves around its captain Harmanpreet, there's a perfect blend of youth and experience.

With three world class all-rounders in Sciver-Brunt, Amelia Kerr and Matthews, the Mumbai Indians has enough depth in its batting, and in a long and challenging tournament, their experience would come in handy, especially in crunch situations.

With off-spinner Matthews pairing with seam bowling all-rounders Sciver-Brunt and Amanjot, the bowling department is well taken care of, for at least 10-12 overs, and even after that, there's enough firepower on the bowling front, with the seasoned Shabnim Ismail, Milly Illingworth, and Nicola Carey, who had a remarkable outing for Hobart Hurricanes in the Women's Big Bash League, around.

There are, however, fitness concerns.

Having suffered a shoulder injury in June last year, Matthews missed out on the big tournaments, including WBBL and Women's Caribbean Premier League, due to surgery.

Even though she is fit now, it needs to be seen whether she can bowl her quota of overs.



Harmanpreet.
FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Vital cog
Coming on the back of a ODI World Cup win, the expectations will be huge from captain Harmanpreet, and she needs to lead from the front and make an impact. She will have to anchor the innings and take charge in the middle overs if the side wishes to put up tall totals. With enough experience of batting in tricky situations, all eyes will be on Harmanpreet.

Even though the team management is confident that things will fall in place as the tournament progresses, there are questions on the wicket-keeping front as well.

Having released Yastika Bhatia, MI has pinned its hopes on the young Kamalini and Rahila Firdous.

The squad:
Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Nat Sciver-Brunt, Hayley Matthews, Amanjot Kaur, G. Kamalini (wk), Amelia Kerr, Shabnim Ismail, Sanskriti Gupta, S. Sajana, Rahila Firdous (wk), Nicola Carey, Poonam Khemnar, Triveni Vasistha, Nalla Reddy, Saika Ishaque, and Milly Illingworth.

MI's schedule:
At Navi Mumbai: Jan. 9: vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru**; Jan. 10:** Delhi Capitals**; Jan. 13:** vs Gujarat Giants**; Jan. 15:** UP Warriorz; **Jan. 17:** UPW*.
At Vadodara: Jan. 20: DC, **Jan. 26:** RCB; **Jan. 30:** GG.
**3 p.m. start, rest of the games begin at 7.30 p.m.*

Bethell slams maiden ton to leave final Test on knife edge

THE ASHES

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Rock-solid Jacob Bethell plundered a chanceless maiden Test century on Wednesday as England reeled in Australia and then built a tenuous 119-run lead to leave the fifth and final Ashes Test on a knife edge.

By stumps on day four at the Sydney Cricket Ground, the tourists were 302 for eight with Bethell not out 142 and Matthew Potts yet to score.

The 22-year-old Bethell saved the day after Zak Crawley fell early and veteran Joe Root cheaply, powering to his hundred in style off 162 balls.

But wickets tumbled around him with Harry Brook (42) and Will Jacks (0) removed in the space of three balls by the part-time off-spin of Beau Webster two overs after Bethell reached the landmark.

"I certainly didn't think I would (impact) with spin this game," said Webster, who is more usually employed as a seaming all-rounder, but had figures of three for 51.

A calamitous mix-up then saw Jamie Smith (24) run out.

Ben Stokes (1) came in to bat even after limping off clutching what appeared to be his groin while bowling the third over of the day.



Chanceless knock: Bethell saved the day for England even as wickets fell around him. REUTERS

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: 384.
Australia — 1st innings: Travis Head lbw b Bethell 163, Jake Weatherald lbw b Stokes 21, Marnus Labuschagne c Bethell b Stokes 48, Michael Neser c Smith b Carse 24, Steven Smith c Smith b Tongue 138, Usman Khawaja lbw b Carse 17, Alex Carey c Bethell b Tongue 16, Cameron Green c Duckett b Carse 37, Beau Webster (not out) 71, Mitchell Starc b Tongue 5, Scott Boland c Brook b Jacks 0; Extras (b-4, lb-14, nb-5, w-4): 27; Total (in 133.5 overs): 567.
Fall of wickets: 1-57, 2-162, 3-234, 4-288, 5-339, 6-366, 7-437, 8-544, 9-564.
England bowling: Carse 27-2-130-3, Potts 25-1-141-0, Tongue 30-0-97-3, Stokes 27.4-6-95-2, Jacks 8.5-0-34-1, Bethell 15.2-1-52-1.
England — 2nd innings: Zak Crawley lbw b Starc 1, Ben Duckett b Neser 42, Jacob Bethell (batting) 142, Joe Root lbw b Boland 6, Harry Brook lbw b Webster 42, Will Jacks c Green b Webster 0, Jamie Smith run out 26, Ben Stokes c Smith b Webster 1, Brydon Carse c Smith b Boland 16, Matthew Potts (batting) 0; Extras (b-9, lb-7, nb-2, w-3, pen-5): 26; Total (for eight wkts. in 75 overs): 302.
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-85, 3-117, 4-219, 5-219, 6-264, 7-267, 8-297.
Australia bowling: Starc 14-2-61-1, Boland 19-4-34-2, Neser 16-0-55-1, Green 6-0-40-0, Webster 13-1-51-3, Head 4-0-25-0, Labuschagne 3-0-15-0.

England is desperate for another morale-boosting win after victory in the previous Test at Melbourne.

Wasteful Nagal falls to Mayot; Dhamne downs Zhukayev

BENGALURU OPEN

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

In a contest of missed opportunities, India No. 1 Sumit Nagal blew seven match-points to go down 6-7(2), 6-1, 6-7(11) to Frenchman Harold Mayot in the second round of the Dafa News Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger 125 at the S.M. Krishna Stadium here on Wednesday.

In the 3-hour, 9-minute slug-fest, Mayot, the tournament's second seed, let go of four match-points of his own - two in the 12th game of the deciding set and two more in the tie-break. But the World No. 167 sealed it by firing an ace into the ad-court to thwart a much-anticipated all-Indian quarterfinal between Nagal and Dhakshineswar Suresh.

The defeat will rankle Nagal. He was 6-2 up in the final tie-break, and lost one of those four chances because of a misjudgement as he waited for the ball to sail long only for it to kiss the line and bounce away.

He often remonstrated with the chair umpire, especially in the second and third sets, and also seemed to be in an extended conflict with himself. It was not surprising that the moment the proceedings ended, the racquet bore the brunt and ended up in the adjacent court.

The 28-year-old World No. 275 did not play a bad match, but his overall play did not shine either.

Even though he erased the two match-points Mayot had at 5-6 in the third stanza with a fine overhead smash and a terrific inside-in winner, his serve failed him at crucial junctures and he was also clumsy at the net.

A steadier mind could have helped him make it a memorable day for India, for Dhakshineswar and Manas Dhamne had both gotten through tough three-setters.

While 18-year-old Dhamne overcame Kazakh Beibit Zhukayev 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 to set up a meeting with France's Matteo Martineau, Dhakshineswar battled past Frenchman Felix Balshaw 6-3, 1-6, 7-6(4).



Holding his nerve: Mayot capitalised on Nagal's errors to win. K. MURALI KUMAR

Other results (second round):
Pedro Martinez (Esp) bt Michael Geerts (Bel) 7-6(3), 6-3; Cedrik-Marcel Stebe (Ger) bt Borno Gojo (Cro) 7-5, 7-6(9).
Matteo Martineau (Fra) bt Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) 6-2, 6-2; Jonas Forejtek (Cze) bt Dan Martin (Can) 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-4.
Timofey Skatov (Kaz) bt Mitsuki Wei Kang Leong (Mas) 6-3, 7-5.



Good showing: TN, with three wins, is unbeaten. R. RAVINDRAN

TN downs Karnataka, both teams in quarters

BASKETBALL

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Defending men's champion Tamil Nadu defeated Karnataka 71-63 to record its third win at the 75th senior National basketball championships at the Nehru Indoor Stadium on Wednesday.

The win ensured TN remained unbeaten while Karnataka suffered its first defeat, with both sides also confirming their berths in the quarterfinals.

Top results: Women:
Group A: Indian Railways 84 (K. Sathya 14, Poonam Chaturvedi 12, Vaishnavi Yadav 11) bt Chhattisgarh 40 (Gulabsha Ali 16, Ishika Singh 15).
Delhi 45 (Garima Gosain 11, Prakriti Ranjan 11) lost to Maharashtra 67 (Lakshmi Raj 15, Siya Deodhar 21).
Group B: Gujarat 70 (Netra Rawat 15, Naomi Lakhanpal 17, Vidhiben Baria 15, Aahana George 11) bt West Bengal 41 (Madhu Kumari 19, Amanda Maria Rocha 10).
Tamil Nadu 65 (R. Sruthy 25) lost to Kerala 82 (Kavitha Jose 23, Aneesha Cleetus 21, Sreekala Rani 13, J. Jayalakshmi 13).
Men: Group A: Rajasthan 88 (Mohammad Ishan 26, Ashish Trivedi 17, Mahaveer 14, Lokendra Singh 13, Akshit Hooda 12) bt Services 80 (T.S. Santosh 20, Himanshu Hooda 18, Sunil Rathee 17, Hemant Sheoran 14).
Tamil Nadu 71 (A. Anantharaj 16, Arvid Kumar 15, Pranav Prince 12, Muin Bek Hafeez 10) bt Karnataka 63 (Aaron Monteiro 18, Arvind Arumugam 14, Sumanth Satyanarayan 19).
Group B: Uttar Pradesh 89 (Prince Tyagi 17, Harsh Dagar 16, Kushal Singh 15, Shreyansh Raj Singh 12) bt Chandigarh 56 (Aditya 12).
Indian Railways 95 (Palpreet Singh Brar 18, Manik 16, Kanwar Gurbaz Singh Sandhu 15) bt Punjab 56 (Gurwinder Singh 12, Sahibjit Singh 11).

INBRIEF



Sindhu and Satwik-Chirag make a winning start

P.V. Sindhu began the new season on a winning note along with men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy in the Malaysia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday.

The results (first round): Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Sung Shuo Yun (Tpe) 21-14, 22-20. **Doubles:** Febriana Dwipuji Kusuma & Meilysa Trias Puspitasari (Ina) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand 21-9, 21-23, 21-19; Pearly Tan & Thinaah Muralitharan (Mas) bt Rutuparna and Swetaparna Panda 21-11, 21-9. **Men:** Ayush Shetty bt Lee Zii Jia (Mas) 21-12, 21-17. **Doubles:** Chirag Shetty & Satwiksairaj Rankireddy bt Yang Po-Hsuan & Lee Jhe-Hue (Tpe) 21-13, 21-15; Hiroki Midorikawa & Kyohei Yamashita (Jpn) bt M.R. Arjun & Hariharan Amsakarunan 21-10, 22-20. **Mixed doubles:** Presley Smith & Jennie Gai (USA) bt Dhruv Kapila & Tanisha Crasto 21-15, 18-21, 21-15.



2018 Asian Games 1,500m gold-winner Johnson retires

National record-holder and Asian Games gold-winning Indian middle-distance runner Jinson Johnson announced his retirement on Wednesday after a 15-year career shaped by "relentless training, quiet struggles, and painful injuries". The 34-year-old from Kerala has not competed since winning the 1,500m bronze in the Hangzhou Asian Games in October 2023. His best moment was winning the 1,500m gold in the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games in 3m 44.72s. He also won 800m silver at the same Games.

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY — THURSDAY'S FIXTURES

Elite: Group A (Ahmedabad): Kerala vs. Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry vs. Rajasthan, Jharkhand vs. Tripura, Karnataka vs. Madhya Pradesh.
Group B (Rajkot): Hyderabad vs. Jammu & Kashmir, Baroda vs. Chandigarh, Bengal vs. Uttar Pradesh, Assam vs. Vidarbha.
Group C (Jaipur): Goa vs. Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh vs. Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh vs. Sikkim, Mumbai vs. Punjab.
Group D (Bengaluru): Gujarat vs. Saurashtra, Odisha vs. Railways, Andhra vs. Services, Delhi vs. Haryana.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Malaysian Open, Star Sports 3 & JioHotstar, 9 a.m.
Vijay Hazare Trophy: JioHotstar, 9 a.m.
HIL (Women): Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 5 p.m.; **Men**: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 1.15 a.m. (Friday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Objective is to perform well in both World Cup and Asian Games: Fulton

Ideally, you need two groups — a core that plays both tournaments, supported by different combinations and fresh legs, says the coach

HOCKEY

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

When Craig Fulton took charge of the Indian men's hockey team in April 2023, his first major assignment was the Hangzhou Asian Games.

The South African delivered, guiding India to gold at the Games.



Coachspeak: Fulton believes that India is not dependent on Harmanpreet for penalty corners.
FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Tougher challenge

But this time, the challenge is tougher. Within-three weeks, India will compete in two marquee tournaments: the FIH World Cup in August and the Asian Games in September, which also serve as a qualification event for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. With such a tight schedule, expecting the team to perform at both events will be demanding, admitted the 51-year-old head coach.

"It's extremely difficult. But, we have to create more depth. Olympic qualification is crucial, but the World Cup also carries enormous history and emotion – the last time India won a (gold) medal was in 1975," Fulton said on the sidelines of Hockey India League (HIL) here on Monday.

"Our objective is to perform well in both. Ideally, you need two groups – a core that plays both tournaments, supported by different combinations and fresh legs.

"Our aim is to peak in both tournaments. That's what we're working towards."

The later games of HIL, according to the head coach, will serve as a guide to pick the Indian team for the FIH Pro League beginning in February.

"It's still early days in the HIL. We know what we're looking for. We'll start assessing performances around games 10 to 15. If there's consistency in specific positions and players are performing well, we'll then name the squad for the FIH Pro League, which includes matches both in India and abroad," he said.

The Indian team, insisted Fulton, is not overtly dependent on Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh for penalty corners and that there are other players who are coming up well.

More options

"We've been working on that as well. We now have more options. Once the group comes together, we'll put a strong plan in place for penalty-corner variations and direct flicking.

"We've got real firepower in penalty corners," he said.

'WPL has brought a lot of changes in me, especially in the way I think'

Lavanya L
NAVI MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians has won the Women's Premier League twice in three years and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur wants to ensure the trophy doesn't leave the city of dreams in the 2026 chapter.

"WPL has brought a lot of changes in me, especially in the way I think. Earlier, there were certain limitations," Harmanpreet told reporters here on Wednesday.

"MI have been winning IPL titles for so many years and are focused solely on the win. I have also started thinking about changing mindsets, and it has reflected wherever I went," the 36-year-old, who recently led India to a famous triumph in the Women's ODI World Cup, added.

Harmanpreet has the support of an all-female staff this season in head coach Lisa Keightley, mentor and bowling coach Jhulan Goswami, batting coach Devika Palshikar, fielding coach Nicole Bolton, and spin-bowling coach Kristen Beams.



Think-tank: MI head coach Keightley, captain Harmanpreet and mentor Jhulan during WPL's pre-season's press conference. PTI

"I have been coaching elite teams for 20 years and have never had a full-female coaching panel. It's great for our players. I am a big believer in 'if you can't see it, you can't be it'. To have a female leader in a powerful position making decisions like Mrs. Nita Ambani, team owner and the first Indian woman to join the International Olympic Committee, also plays a part in this. It has filtered down from the top," Keightley said.

For Jhulan, who also straddles mentorship roles in domestic cricket, the WPL has been a game-changer.

"Our domestic girls play many tournaments, but the recognition isn't as much as the WPL. Here, if you play well, you're a step away from the national team.

" It's a huge opportunity, and the girls now understand this very well. It's the best thing to have happened to the women's game in the past three years," she said.

Kumkum ties with Simranjeet

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Sixteen-year-old Maharashtra archer Kumkum Mohod, ranked 530th in the world, sprung a surprise by tying with the experienced Simranjeet Kaur at the top of the women's recurve table after three qualification rounds in the first archery selection trials on Wednesday.

Kumkum, who had shot 652 in the first round on Monday, scored 657 and 676 on Wednesday to aggregate 1985. Simranjeet, who also totalled 1985, took the top spot on the basis of shooting more Xs and 10s. Deepika Kumari (1984) was third.

Atanu Das shot identical rounds of 686 to tally 2051 and secure the top spot among men. Olympians B. Dhiraj (2034) and Tarundeep Rai (2023) were third and fifth.

In the compound division, former men's individual World champion Ojas Deotale scored two identical rounds of 710 to sit atop the table with 2134.

V. Jyothi Surekha (2122) was the women's topper.



Key player: David, centre, was the architect of Juventus' win with a goal and an assist. AFP

Juventus bounces back with win over Sassuolo

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
ROME

Juventus bounced back from its humiliating draw at home against lowly Lecce at the weekend with a 3-0 win at Sassuolo on Tuesday to reclaim fourth spot in Serie A.

Canadian forward Jonathan David was the architect of Juve's victory with a goal and an assist for the team's fourth win in five matches.

Dominant but wasteful, Juventus could thank home player Tarik Muharemovic for its opening goal after 16 minutes with the Sassuolo defender turning into his own net.

Meanwhile David made up for his missed penalty in the 1-1 draw against Lecce on Saturday setting up Fabio Miretti for his team's second goal after 62 minutes. A minute later the Canadian added the third himself after taking advantage of a poor clearance from Sassuolo goalkeeper Arijanet Muric.

The results: Premier League: West Ham 1 (Murillo 13-og) lost to Nottingham Forest 2 (Dominguez 55, Gibbs-White 89-pen). **Serie A:** Pisa 0 lost to Como 3 (Perrone 68, Douvikas 76, 90+6-pen); Lecce 0 lost to Roma 2 (Ferguson 14, Dovbyk 71); Sassuolo 0 lost to Juventus 3 (Muharemovic 16-og, Miretti 62, J. David 63).

ICC and BCB likely to thrash out a solution by this weekend

T20 WORLD CUP

Amol Karhadkar
VADODARA

The impasse between the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the International Cricket Council (ICC) over Bangladesh's participation in next month's Men's T20 World Cup in India is likely to be resolved before the weekend.

On Wednesday, the BCB stated that the ICC has responded favourably to its request to relocate Bangladesh's matches outside India.

"The BCB has received response from the ICC regarding the Board's expressed concerns over the safety and security of the Bangladesh national cricket team in India for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, including the request for relocation of the team's matches," the BCB said in a statement.



Md Aminul Islam, president of the BCB. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"In its communication, the ICC has reiterated its commitment to ensuring the full and uninterrupted participation of the Bangladesh team in the tournament. The ICC has conveyed its willingness to work closely with the BCB to address the concerns raised and has assured that the Board's inputs will be welcomed and duly considered as part of the detailed security planning for the event."

The Hindu understands that senior ICC officials and top executives held a conference call with BCB representatives on Tuesday to discuss the board's communication over the weekend, in which it expressed its inability to travel to India citing safety concerns.

The BCB's stance came a day after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) asked Kolkata Knight Riders to withdraw Mustafizur Rahman – the only Bangladeshi cricketer signed for IPL 2026 – from the Indian Premier League.

The BCB also denied media reports suggesting that the ICC had issued an ultimatum regarding Bangladesh's participation in the event. However, *The Hindu* understands that ICC officials conveyed during discussions that altering the tournament schedule would be nearly impossible at this stage. Instead, a comprehensive review of security and logistical arrangements could be offered to address the BCB's concerns.

It is understood that a final resolution is expected to be reached on or before Sunday.

"The BCB remains firmly committed to placing the highest priority on the safety, security and well-being of the Bangladesh national cricket team. The Board will continue constructive engagement with the ICC and relevant event authorities in a cooperative and professional manner to arrive at an affable and practical solution that ensures the smooth and successful participation of the team in the T20 World Cup," the statement added.

The T20 World Cup is scheduled to be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka from February 7 to March 8. Bangladesh is slated to play three league-stage matches in Kolkata, followed by its final league fixture in Mumbai. Should it qualify for the Super Eights, the team will play three additional matches.

Sensational Senthil claws his way back to outclass Bodhisatva

WTT FEEDER

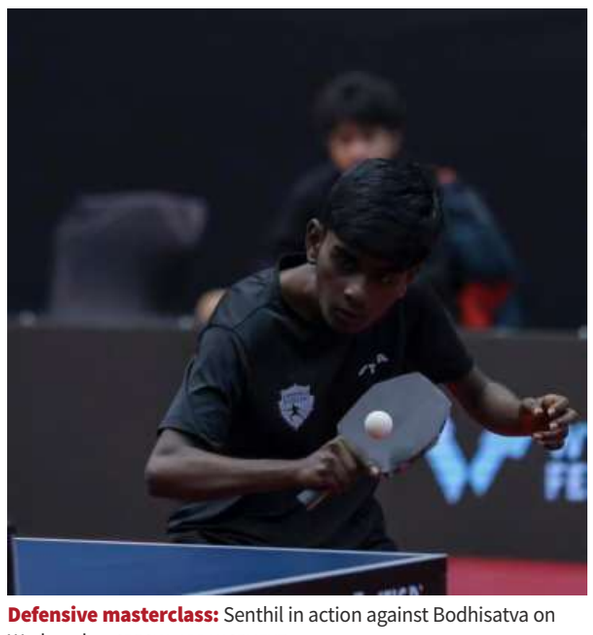
Amol Karhadkar
VADODARA

Senthil Kumar Mehan, a promising defensive specialist, saved three match points to keep his hopes alive of qualifying for the main draw of the men's singles event at the WTT Feeder here on Wednesday.

Relying on his excellent control and sharp ball sense, Senthil outlasted left-hander Bodhisatva Chaudhury 11-13, 16-14, 6-11, 11-4, 12-10 in a 37-minute encounter in men's singles qualification Group 13.

The contest – a clash between Senthil's dogged defence and Bodhisatva's heavy topspin-based attack – proved to be a treat for the handful of spectators at the SAMA Indoor Sports Complex.

Despite being repeatedly drawn into long rallies by Senthil's deep backspin returns, Bodhisatva adjusted his strategy midway through the decider and began passing the defender with greater regularity to surge to a 10-7 lead.



Defensive masterclass: Senthil in action against Bodhisatva on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Senthil, however, showed remarkable composure under pressure. Mixing up his defence with his well-timed forehand using the long-pimpled rubber, he forced Bodhisatva into a series of errors to claw his way back into the match.

As Senthil saved match points and turned the tide, Bodhisatva appeared both mentally and physically drained, before eventually succumbing. Senthil sealed the contest to warm applause from the stands.

Earlier in the evening, Aafrien Murad edged past Pranati Paramesh 18-16 in the deciding game in what was arguably the match of the day.

The qualification rounds will continue on Thursday, the second of the five-day international event, with several Indian paddlers still in contention for spots in the main draw.

Important results (qualification): Men: Senthil Mehan bt Bodhisatva Chaudhury 11-13, 16-14, 6-11, 11-4, 12-10; Yashansh Malik bt S. Preyesh Raj 11-8, 9-11, 7-11, 14-12, 11-8; Sriram Sivam bt Umesh Kumar 5-11, 11-8, 9-11, 11-3, 11-7. **Women:** Aafrien Murad bt Pranati Paramesh 7-11, 11-4, 11-7, 5-11, 18-16. Pritha Vartikar bt Senhora D'Souza 11-2, 9-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-5; Ananya Muralidharan bt Kavya Baskar 6-11, 13-11, 7-11, 11-7, 12-10.

How Indian badminton stayed in the conversation without big conquests



Satwik and Chirag reached the climactic phase in many tournaments but failed to go the distance; Sindhu and Lakshya were not at their consistent best; the absence of depth made it a tougher pill to swallow, making the country's presence a peripheral one at the global level

Devyanshi Bihani

As the new season dawned after a subdued BWF World Tour Finals episode, Indian badminton finds itself in limbo – neither in free fall nor on a golden high.

The year 2025 did not deliver the sort of title count or sustained presence among the world's best that once seemed routine. But India did not entirely fade from the sport's global conversation. That distinction, limited as it may sound, was carried almost entirely by one pairing: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty.

The men's doubles duo ended 2025 without a title, a rarity in their otherwise decorated partnership but remained India's most reliable presence in the latter stages of top-tier tournaments. Sat-Chi played 16 tournaments and reached finals twice and made 9 top-four appearances.

Across Super 500, Super 750 and Super 1000 level, they appeared frequently in quarterfinals and semifinals, occasionally pushing into finals, often emerging as India's last remaining challenge though they fell short of converting opportunities into titles. For most countries, such returns might suggest regression but for India it highlighted scarcity.

Their season was respectable primarily because it prevented Indian badminton from slipping out of the elite conversation, even as it represented many steps down from the duo's own past benchmarks.

Moments not momentum

Lakshya Sen began the year as India's strongest bet in Men's singles discipline, carrying the expectation that he would anchor the transition into the post-Tokyo, pre-Los Angeles cycle.

The issue was not an absence of quality, Lakshya remained capable of troubling the world's best. The 24-year-old's standout moment came at the Australian Open Super 500 in Sydney, where he ended a long title drought with a straight-games win over Japan's Yushi Tanaka in the final. The week had tested him far more severely, with Sen spending 85 minutes in a demanding semifinal and also overcoming Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen earlier in the tournament.

He celebrated by shutting out the noise, eyes closed and fingers in his ears, signalling a rare moment of relief in an uneven season. But the inability to sustain momentum across consecutive tournaments punctuated the calendar. In a circuit designed to reward consistency through cumulative ranking points and qualification thresholds, sporadic excellence proved insufficient.

Former World No. 1 and World championship silver medallist, K. Srikanth's year, following a familiar pattern in men's singles, was marked by a single peak amid frequent early exits. The 32-year-old's run to the final of the Malaysia Masters briefly revived memories of why he is regarded among the sport's most gifted shot-makers. For a week in Kuala Lumpur, he dictated rallies through placement and variation, and the India-China final on that Sunday served as a reminder of his 2017 peak.

That week aside, the broader picture aligned with what unfolded across the discipline, with both experienced internationals Srikanth and H.S. Prannoy struggling to sustain intensity across consecutive tournaments, marked by repeated round-of-16 losses and early exits. Srikanth's resurgence in Kuala Lumpur showed that the skill remains intact, but its isolation only reinforced the larger problem: Indian badminton continues to rely on episodic returns from seasoned players rather than the steady emergence of a younger cohort capable of carrying tournaments week after week.

Beyond Sen, younger men's singles players showed flashes, an upset here, a quarterfinal there but none imposed themselves often enough to alter India's competitive standing.

While India has five men's singles players inside the world's top 50, those expected to take the baton, including Kiran George (25), Priyanshu Rajawat (23) and M. Tharun (23), have struggled to put together consistent runs. However, the 20-year-old Ayush Shetty has emerged as the most promising long-term prospect, though his impact at the highest level is still taking shape.

"It is going to take another couple of years. We have Lakshya, who is still young, and the way he's going, I think he's going to be there for a fair bit. Ayush is coming up, Tharun was the next in line, Kiran George is anyway there. But there is inconsistency in them. Priyanshu came and then got injured, but his best is yet to come, probably next year. Others have to mature," P. Kashyap, former India star and now a coach, had told *The Hindu*.

The post-Sindhu question

P.V. Sindhu's struggles through the season were marked by recurring patterns that became hard to ignore. As the significant share of her defeats came not from being outplayed early, but from an inability to close out games.

At the Sudirman Cup, she led Line Kjaersfeldt 20-16 in the opening game and 19-12 in the second, yet lost both. Similar collapses surfaced across the tour against Thuy Linh Nguyen at the Indonesia Masters, where she surrendered a 20-14 lead, similarly against Tujung at the India Open and Yeo Jia Min at China Masters after being comfortably ahead. Despite holding leads or being level late in games, Sindhu repeatedly conceded runs of points at decisive moments.

At 29, retirement is not imminent for a player with two Olympic and five World Championship medals, but the absence of clarity around a post-Sindhu era has become increasingly evident. For nearly a decade following the Saina Nehwal era, Sindhu's presence provided insulation against systemic weaknesses.

The most notable moment of promise came when Unnati Hooda defeated Sindhu at the China Open, a result that drew attention not merely because of the upset, but because she became the only Indian woman in the last five years to beat Sindhu. The 17-year-old won a three-game (21-16, 19-21, 21-13) contest by absorbing Sindhu's attack and forcing longer exchanges, relying on defensive solidity, patience and precise placement to force errors late in games. Hooda claimed the opening game, conceded the second narrowly, and pulled clear decisively in the decider.

Another glimpse of promise came through Tanvi Sharma, whose upset of former world champion Nozomi Okuhara at the Syed Modi International Super 300 briefly shifted attention to the next rung of talent. The 16-year-old recovered from a one-sided opening game to win a three-game contest, showing composure well beyond her years by matching the Olympic medallist's shot for shot as the match wore on. The game ended with the Japanese player missing a drop shot at the left corner of the court, the final error from Okuhara met with a brief smile that seemed to acknowledge the resistance. The victory, which followed Tanvi's silver medal at the World junior championships earlier in the year and her run to the US Open final, underlined her ability to reset mid-match and handle sustained pressure.

Beyond those isolated breakthroughs, India's women's singles landscape remains crowded with promise but short on readiness. Anmol Kharb, still only 17, has emerged as one of the more assured prospects, with a measured game and has already delivered domestic success. Malvika Bansod, the 23-year-old has defeated Olympic medal winners twice in her career, Surya Charishma Tamiri (19), the new women's singles national champion, Anupama Upadhyaya (20), and Isharani Baruah (21) have hovered around the fringes of consistency, each offering distinct strengths but also clear limitations whether in recovering from injury, finishing power, defensive compactness or physical intensity.

In women's doubles, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand's season also highlighted the tactical ceiling they are still working to breach. Their Super 300 title at the Syed Modi International came through control rather than overwhelming attack, as the pair has increasingly prioritised stability- rally length, pace control and positioning as a foundation for aggression. Against higher-ranked, Japanese, Korean and Chinese pairs, however, the margins became clearer.

India's women landscape remains rich in potential, but potential alone has not translated into regular late-round appearances at the sport's highest level.

While the mixed doubles showed a rare breakthrough, with Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila reaching the World championships quarterfinals after upsetting a top-five pair, India's first last-eight appearance in the discipline since Satwik and Ashwini Ponnappa in 2018.

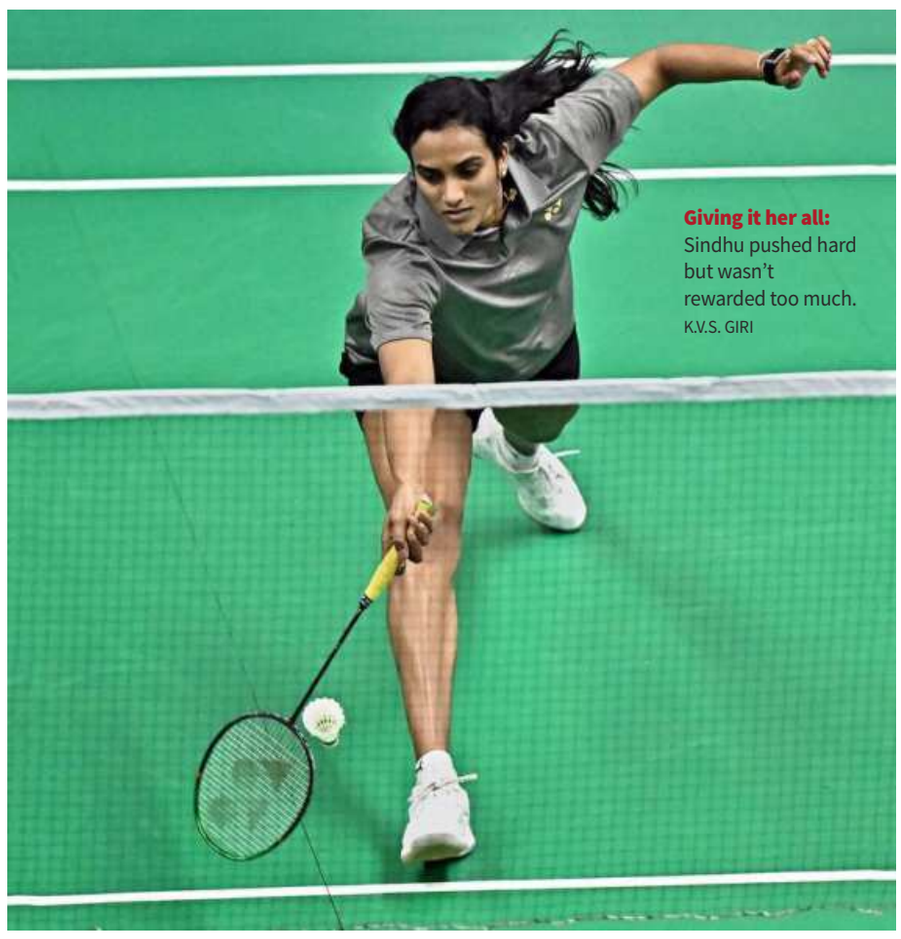
The depth deficit

The contrast with the sport's leading nations such as China, Japan, Indonesia and Denmark routinely placed two or three players into the business end of major tournaments. Even when one faltered, another advanced. India, by contrast, often found its campaign resting on one or two names and when those names stumbled early, the week effectively ended. This gap was most visible at the Grade 1 tournaments, where the depth of opposition magnified inconsistencies.

SatChi exemplified this paradox. Their ability to remain competitive without winning titles kept India visible. That a title-less season from one pair still stands out as the year's most consistent achievement is both a witness to their resilience and an indictment of the broader ecosystem.

"There was no centralised programme or even a plan to provide systemic training for the juniors earlier. We had two centres – in Bengaluru and Hyderabad – and only the top senior players would be training there, barring an occasional youngster who either had the means or was exceptional. With the NCoE in Guwahati, that has changed. It will take some time, but in the next three years, I am convinced we will see an entire generation of players dominating Indian and world badminton just like the previous one," Badminton Association of India general secretary Sanjay Mishra had told *The Hindu*.

For now, Satwik and Chirag have ensured that India has not disappeared from the elite conversation. But a sport of this scale cannot afford to rely on a single partnership to carry that burden. Until a broader base of players begins to regularly populate the latter stages of top-tier tournaments, Indian badminton's global standing will remain precarious – present, but peripheral.



Giving it her all: Sindhu pushed hard but wasn't rewarded too much. K.V.S. GIRI

THE GIST

- SatChi were Indian badminton's most consistent presence in 2025, reaching multiple semifinals and finals despite ending the season without a title
- Lakshya won the Australian Open Super 500, but inconsistency marked the seasons of Srikanth and Prannoy
- Sindhu's year was marred by repeated late-match collapses. Unnati and Tanvi finding only isolated breakthroughs raised questions about succession

Can private reserves restore wildlife and keep tourism gentle?

Private reserves are popular in Africa; in India, responsible private reserves are more about potential than reality; in dissecting how wildlife returned to Jabarkhet Nature Reserve and how it has balanced tourism needs with conservation, it is possible to trace a model for private reserves in India

Neha Sinha



Rufous sibia pictured against verdant foliage at the reserve. NEHA SINHA

"A pathway to the left leads up to a rather extensive plateau for the hills, and forms a very pleasant resort for picnics... There is plenty of room for a good foot-race, and the scenery around, from most points, magnificent. Ponies ... can go up all the way."

– Guide to Masuri, Landour, Dehra Dun, John Northam, 1884

A bird with a rufous body and a mohawk sings sweetly, the sound wafting over us. Its head is black, its body orange, but despite the colours, it merges seamlessly into the leaves around it. That is because the leaves are thick, their diversity giving them different colours. There are oaks, deodars, rhododendrons, and walnut trees, and on the ground, where the Rufous Sibia dives after finishing its warbles, there are nodding ferns and thick inches of leaf litter which no one has swept up. Above our heads, there are scythes in the sky: Himalayan griffon vultures soaring slowly, with all the time in the world.

When you think of wildlife tourism in India, the options are pre-determined. There are safaris inside tiger reserves or there are National Parks, where you enter in Gypsy cars, at stipulated times, and never get off. These are the most well-known kinds of wildlife tourism, but crowding of the star animal – such as a tiger or elephant – is not unheard of. Then there are trails and hides where you can walk as part of other guided tours, usually on community land.

This is usually for the hardcore wildlife-lover, out for a particular sighting of a rare bird. Could there also be a third option, where you can amble at your own pace, in restored woodland, and where wildlife always gets the first right of way, away from mass tourism? Could there, in essence, be picnics without trash, and could this be achieved without emptying one's pockets?

Abounding with wildlife

In 2025, the Jabarkhet Nature Reserve (JNR), near Mussoorie, turned ten years old. This is Uttarakhand's first privately owned and operated nature reserve, meant to conserve wildlife and habitat as a primary goal.

The 1907 Guide to Mussoorie describes the hills around Dehradun as abounding with wildlife:

"These hills are clad with thick forest composed chiefly of Sal [*Shorea robusta*] and Sain [this could potentially refer to the crocodile bark tree or the *Terminalia tomentosa*]. The pine grows on the higher crests, and they were the home of many wild animals; tigers, leopards, sloth-bears, hyenas, deer, pig and porcupine used to abound in the jungles."

In JNR, similar sightings are possible today: leopard, barking deer, goral, yellow-throated marten, leopard cat, jungle cat, black bear, porcupine, wild boar, red fox, jackal, black-naped hare, civet, and sambar. But this was not an easy journey.

Private reserves are popular in Africa. In India, however, with 'eco-tourism' labels being used in arbitrary ways, perhaps responsible private reserves are more about potential than reality. In dissecting how wildlife returned to JNR and how it has balanced tourism needs with conservation, it is possible to trace a model for private reserves in India.

Slowing down the overuse

More than 40 years ago, alarmed by massive deforestation in the hills, the government called for a ban on tree-cutting above 1,000 metres in (then) Uttar Pradesh. In the 1960s, the Jain family, owners of the Jabarkhet Estate, created a working plan for the area with the forest department. The forest was divided into compartments, dead trees were logged, and new ones were planted. Over the years, even this was discontinued and the Estate lay unused and largely unmanaged.

In the intervening areas, Jabarkhet, once described as a 'picnic' spot by Northam in 1889, became more and more crowded. Many different people used the Jabarkhet Estate then, to collect forest produce, as a recreational site, and also to hunt. In 2010, it was evident the area needed stewardship.

"We removed 500 kg of garbage from the slopes. Three tonnes of the weed *Eupatorium* were removed," JNR co-founder Sejal Worah said. "Before we did this, in the intervening years, the forest was badly overused with little management. I was so saddened to see the place where I grew up strewn with rubbish."

If JNR's fortunes had to be turned around, it would both benefit as well as suffer from proximity to tourism-glutted Mussoorie. Mussoorie is so stuffed with hotels and "getaways" that it's easy to forget its name comes from its natural beauty, the red-berried masuri bush. The challenge then was to create a kind of tourism that didn't further take from the mountain, that didn't promise helipads, fake fountains and adventure sports, but a slower form of taking in the Himalayas.

Is it possible that you could stroll around at your own pace, in restored woodland, a place where wildlife gets the right of way, away from mass tourism? Could there, in essence, be picnics without trash, and could this be done without emptying one's pockets?

And if it was to be eco-tourism, the benefits had to accrue to the local population. But this wasn't easy because of the locals' suspicion; they were used to seeing outsiders coming in and "developing" one natural area after another.

The reserve, which now offers affordable ticketed trails, started with selecting people from the neighbouring villages, training them to be guides, and employing them for restoration and maintenance work. This was new for the area, a combination of traditional skills of deeply knowing the mountains and learning bird names in English.

"I didn't think my passion for wildlife could become a job. I want to do this always," Virendra Singh, a naturalist at JNR, said. His favourite wildlife memory is seeing a leopard cub sunning itself on a rock in JNR while the world shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic.



A leopard cub sunning itself at the reserve. JABARKHET NATURE RESERVE

An important refuge

There might be a lot more to see, but this can only happen if we protect natural stands of habitat without shears or with artificial beautification. In 1848, malacologist and snail collector William Benson found a brown land snail (*Bradybaena radicicola*) in the slopes around Jabarkhet. Because JNR could be protected, it can also be studied.

True to its Himalayan roots, the area has incredible diversity: insectivorous sundews, ground orchids, more than 40 species of ferns, and hundreds of species of fungi, dozens of grass species, over 300 types of flowers, and over 150 bird species in about 100 acres of land.

This is more significant when we realise that places known for their natural beauty, whether the Himalayas or the Aravallis, are increasingly being cut up for mining and other commercial projects.

In the Himalaya, widening roads for activities like tourism causes landslides every year. For the Aravallis, the Supreme Court recently accepted a definition of the hills that would have excluded geologically important slopes and ridges, paving the way for ways to use land that does not respect natural topographies or histories. This means, at the landscape level, every stand of natural habitat we can save will be an important stepping stone or refuge for wildlife.

Can we see a rise of private reserves in India where wildlife gets the right of way, and where natural history can return to the present?

(Neha Sinha is a conservation biologist and author of Wild Capital: Discovering Nature in Delhi (2026) *nehabnhs@gmail.com)*



File photo of Chinese students at the Beijing Foreign Studies University. AFP

Overseas scholars are sold on China's scientific clout, generous funding

Agence France Presse

China's government has long made efforts to tempt top scientists from abroad, but researchers say its institutions themselves are increasingly attracting talent thanks to their generous funding and growing prestige.

State-backed initiatives like the Thousand Talents Plan have dangled fast-tracked hiring and bountiful grants to lure overseas experts in strategically important fields, as China and the United States vie for technological supremacy.

But academics said the country is becoming a popular destination even among those not targeted by Beijing, especially at the start of their careers.

"You hear about these amazing advanced labs and the government providing money for things like AI and quantum research," said Mejed Jebali, an artificial intelligence PhD candidate from Tunisia at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. "The scale of the research and how fast things get built is really amazing."

China's official enticements have typically targeted eminent researchers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields that could help Beijing achieve its goal of becoming the global leader in technology and innovation.

There is no official database of foreign or returnee scientists moving to China, but at least 20 prominent STEM experts have done so in the past year, according to university and personal announcements reviewed.

They included cancer expert Feng Gensheng, who left a tenured University of California role for Shenzhen Bay Laboratory, and German medical scientist Roland Eils, now part-time at Shanghai's Fudan University.

"It appears that a significantly greater number of overseas scientists -- particularly those of Chinese origin -- have returned to work in China compared with around 10 years ago," said Futao Huang, a professor at Japan's Hiroshima University.

China's reputation for academic prowess has become undeniable. Four of the top five leading research institutions in natural and health sciences in 2025 were Chinese

Academics cited access to rapidly developing industries in China's massive market as a draw.

Lingling Zhang, who joined the China Europe International Business School after two decades in the United States, told AFP she was drawn to more "pragmatic" research.

She said career considerations drove her decision more than the specific prospect of moving back to China.

"I actually have great access to a large number of entrepreneurs and business people," she said.

The pace of industrial development means more opportunities for "academically grounded but application-oriented research", said a materials scientist who moved to China from a European university, who asked to remain anonymous.

"The quality of papers produced by top Chinese institutions today is in no way inferior to that of leading US or European universities, and in some areas is highly competitive or even leading," he said.

China's reputation for academic prowess has become undeniable. Four of the top five leading research institutions in natural and health sciences in 2025 were Chinese, according to *Nature*.

That is a change from the past, when US and European institutions held sway.

"I wouldn't have done it 15 years ago," said Jason Chapman, a world expert on insect migration, on his recent long-term secondment to Nanjing Agricultural University. But in the last five years, "the funding, resources and support" available – far more than overseas – changed the calculus.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Unusual wave behaviour

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

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

In some crystals and superfluid helium, heat propagates as a temperature wave rather than by diffusion. This requires phonons, the particles of vibrational energy, to behave collectively, which is rare and typically needs very clean materials and low temperatures. What is this phenomenon called?

QUESTION 2

When a particle moves through a medium at a speed greater than the speed of light in that medium, it emits light called _____ _____. This light appears deep blue to human eyes because its relative intensity increases with its frequency. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3

X is a collective burst of light from many identical emitters, like atoms, acting together. If they're close enough, their emitted waves add in step, so the total emission becomes brighter and faster than if each atom radiated alone. It's a cooperative effect. Name X.

QUESTION 4

A _____ _____ is a ripple of magnetism moving through a material. In a magnet, many electrons' spins tend to line up. If one region is nudged, the spins there tilt slightly and the disturbance spreads into its neighbourhood like a wave. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

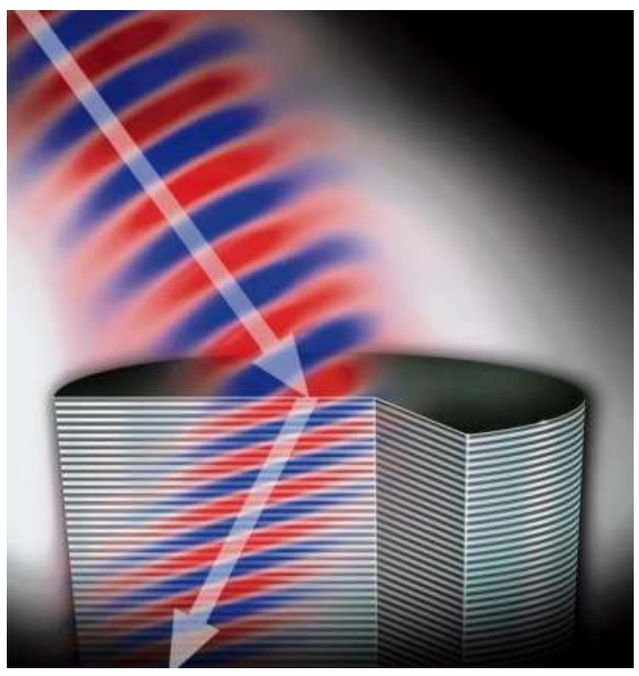
Sometimes very low frequency sound waves can become trapped in 'channels' of temperature or wind layers in the atmosphere, allowing them to move across thousands of kilometres over the earth. This phenomenon is called infrasound _____ _____. Fill in the blanks.

Answers to January 6 quiz:

1. 'Work month' in the Roman calendar replaced by leap days – **Ans: Mercedonius**
2. Astronomer whom Caesar consulted for the Julian calendar – **Ans: Sosigenes**
3. Astronomical cycle the Julian calendar tried to approximate – **Ans: Tropical cycle**
4. Name for 46 BC due to transitioning between the calendars – **Ans: "Year of confusion"**
5. Average difference between Julian, Gregorian calendars – **Ans: 0.0075 days**

Visual: **Janus**

First contact: Tamal Biswas | K.N. Viswanathan | Anmol Agrawal | Appa Rao M.V. | Prem Raj P.



Visual: When light enters regular glass, its Y causes the light to bend but still move forward. Some metamaterials have a negative Y (shown), where the direction of bending also changes. Name Y.
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 public health facilities certified under NQAS

50,373 More than 50,000 public health facilities across the country have been certified under the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS), a quality framework established by the Union Health Ministry. PTI

Vehicles which were involved in illegal mining seized

631 Police seized 631 vehicles involved in illegal mining, and imposed fines amounting to nearly ₹1 crore last year, officials said on Wednesday. Police officials said that out of the 631 vehicles seized, 572 vehicles were released after completion of statutory formalities in 2025. PTI

Applications received with suggestions for the 2025 Seeds Bill

9,000 The government is targeting to introduce the Seeds Bill 2025 in Parliament during the first phase of the Budget session in February. The ministry plans to table the Pesticides Management Bill 2020 after Parliament recess. PTI

Villagers evacuated in the Philippines due to volcanic eruptions

3,000 A series of mild eruptions at the most active volcano in the Philippines has prompted the evacuation of nearly 3,000 villagers. Authorities raised the 5-step alert around Mayon Volcano in the province of Albay to level 3. PTI

Electors removed from draft list of 12 States, UTs in SIR Phase 2

6.5 In crore. The names of 6.5 crore electors were removed from the draft electoral rolls of nine States and three Union Territories published in the past days as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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India's progress on its climate targets

While the country has successfully reduced emissions intensity, and increased non-fossil power capacity, challenges remain in translating these achievements into absolute emissions reductions. The next few years will be critical in addressing these gaps and ensuring a sustainable future

ECONOMIC NOTES

Deepanshu Mohan
Nagappan Arun
Saksham Raj

There has been a lot of focus on the recent Aravalli judgment and its implications for mining operations across the green belt as well as the government's commitments regarding environmental standards and regulatory protection for ecologically sensitive areas.

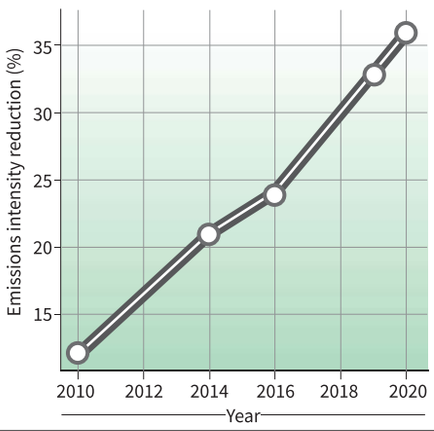
In the Paris summit, India had committed to four quantified climate targets, grounded in the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" – a position that reflects how, historically, India's per capita emissions were fractions compared to emissions of other major countries like the U.S. (however, currently India is the world's third largest absolute emitter). The centrepiece of Prime Minister Modi's statement at the Paris summit was the pledge to reduce emissions intensity by 33-35% by 2030 (based on the 2005 baseline), coupled with commitments to enhance non-fossil power capacity to 40%, 175 GW of renewable energy, and 2.5-3 billion tonnes of carbon sequestration through forests.

Now, more than 10 years later, one needs to evaluate whether these promises have actually been delivered.

Climate promises

While India has achieved meaningful progress on specific metrics, they also obscure fundamental problems. The intensity gains achieved coexist with rising absolute emissions, and renewable capacity expansion has not translated into a proportional share of generation due to the entrenched baseload of coal

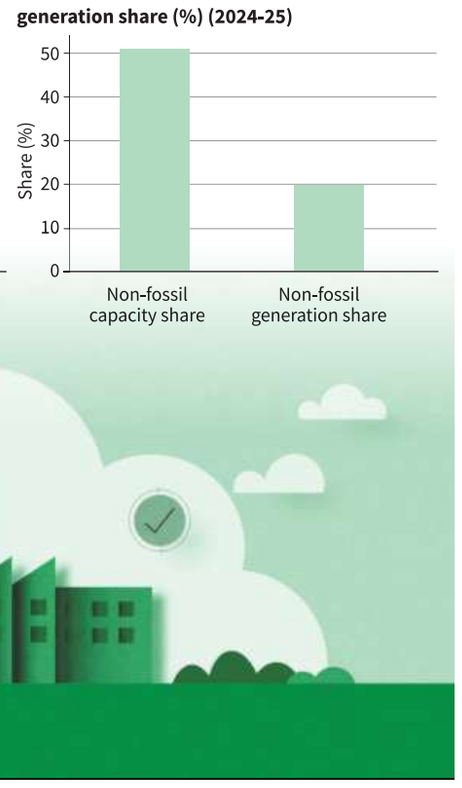
Emissions-intensity trajectory (2005 baseline)



Comparative intensity trajectories: India versus selected G-20 peers



Installed non-fossil capacity (%) versus actual generation share (%) (2024-25)



THE GIST

- Using 2005 as baseline, emissions intensity decreased by approximately 36% by 2020, enabling India to meet its original 33-35% target well ahead of the 2030 deadline. However, intensity gains still coexist with persistently high absolute emissions.
- The India State of Forest Report 2023 reveals that India has already sequestered 30.43 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalents of total carbon stock. However, the official figures do not capture the definition's elasticity. The Forest Survey of India's definition of "forest cover" includes any land of more than one hectare with the overstory 10% canopied.
- The renewable energy targets that India has set for itself, initially 40% non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 and now 50% by 2030, are headline successes that mask a vital subtext: capacity and actual production differ sharply due to limitations in renewable integration and intermittency patterns.

Incomplete decoupling

India's reduction in GDP emissions-intensity (greenhouse gases per unit of economic output) may appear to be a policy success. Using 2005 as baseline, emissions intensity decreased by approximately 36% by 2020, enabling India to meet its original 33-35% target well ahead of the 2030 deadline.

Three structural drivers explain this trajectory. First, the rapid expansion of non-fossil power capacity (solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear) lowered carbon intensity associated with harnessing electricity. By 2023, non-fossil capacity exceeded by approximately 43%, and it reached roughly 50% by mid-2025. Second, India's economic composition shifted toward lower-carbon services and digital sectors, resulting in a reduction in emissions per unit of GDP. Third, national efficiency programmes like Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) and UJALA curbed demand growth in industry and households; national assessments record measurable electricity savings and avoided emissions in FY2020-21.

However, intensity gains still coexist with persistently high absolute emissions. India's territorial greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were approximately 2,959 $MtCO_2e$ in 2020, and absolute emissions have remained high thereafter.

This phenomenon exists because of partial decoupling: GDP growth has outpaced emissions growth, so intensity has declined without an economy-wide absolute fall. This matters because national intensity averages mask sectoral divergence, as evidenced by the continued rise in emissions from the cement, steel, and transport sectors, even as the power sector's CO2 growth moderated in 2024-25.

Analyses by Climate Transparency and the International Energy Agency show that India's rate of intensity decline exceeds that of many G-20 peers, but coal's large share keeps absolute per-kWh emissions high. For India's 2070 net-zero pledge to be credible, remaining intensity gains must be translated into absolute emissions reductions through a transparent coal phase-down timetable and industrial decarbonisation roadmaps.

Generation gap

India's renewable capacity scale-up is dramatic, but it does not yet replace fossil baseload. Non-fossil capacity rose from ~29.5% in 2015 to ≈51.4% by June 2025. Solar led the build-out (≈2.8 GW in 2014 to ~110.9 GW by mid-2025), supported by tariff competition and domestic photovoltaic manufacturing expansion. Wind power increased more modestly (≈21 GW to ~51.3 GW over the same period) but has been constrained by land, grid-connection delays and state-level regulatory bottlenecks. Crucially, electricity generation lacks capacity – renewables supplied ~22% of electricity in 2024-25 despite greater than 50% non-fossil capacity because of lower capacity factors and storage shortfalls; thermal (primarily coal) capacity remained ~240 GW in mid-2025 and still provides baseload.

The 175 GW renewables target for 2022 was missed, and although a 500 GW 2030 ambition is technically possible, converting installed capacity into sustained generation and emissions reduction will require rapid scaling of storage, transmission upgrades and stronger policy delivery.

The renewable energy targets that India has set for itself, initially 40% non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 and now 50% by 2030, are headline successes that mask a vital subtext: capacity and actual production differ sharply due to limitations in renewable integration and intermittency patterns. Non-fossil fuel capacity accounted for 51% of India's cumulative installed capacity of 495 GW as of June 2025, marking the achievement of the first commitment. But this is overshadowed by an essential reality that more than 70% of electricity production in India comes from coal, in spite of its comprising 51% non-fossil fuel capacity. The reason for this is that renewables operate at much shorter capacity compared to coal, as they produce intermittently on a solar and wind basis. In contrast, coal generates constant "baseload" electricity.

Storage is the major sticking point. The Central Electricity Authority has forecast a demand of 336 GWh of energy storage for the 2029-30 period. However, as of September 2025, only 500 MWh of battery energy storage capacity is operational.

Government driven programs such as the National Solar Mission, Solar Parks Scheme, UDAY, PM-KUSUM, and rooftop solar have successfully added 25 GW of renewable energy every year. However, the area of execution remains a challenge, as there is a delay in grid connectivity and limited land acquisition in the power sector. Although the pace of renewable energy in the Indian power sector has reached a groundbreaking level, the country's backbone remains the 253 GW of coal-based capacity.

Forests only on paper

The figure of 2.5-3.0 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent carbon sequestration by 2030, as pledged by India appears achievable in terms of numbers. The India State of Forest Report 2023 reveals that India has already sequestered 30.43 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalents of total carbon stock, representing 2.29 billion tonnes of additional sequestration over the 2005 level, with only 0.2 billion tonnes remaining to achieve the target by 2030.

However, the official figures do not capture the definition's elasticity. The Forest Survey of India's definition of "forest cover" includes any land of more than one hectare with the overstory 10% canopied, and includes eucalyptus monocultures and plantations of mango, tea, and roadside trees in addition to natural forests. Satellite imagery indicating that the country has 7,15,343 sq km of forest cover in 2023, with an increase of only 156 sq km from the previous census in 2021, confuses ecological performance with administrative designation.

Policy mechanisms indicate a friction in implementation. Under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act (2016), approximately ₹95,000 crore has been accumulated. However, there is unequal implementation, as States such as Delhi have been able to utilise only 23% of the allocated amount from 2019-20 to 2023-24. The Green India Mission Revised launched in June 2025 after a decade of 'moderate progress,' has proposed regenerating five million hectares through regional projects in the Aravallis, Western Ghats, and Himalayas. 'Plantations' are, however, equated to 'natural regeneration'.

Moreover, climate change is an added stress. While satellite evidence reveals leaf index values that indicate "greening," net primary productivity, and actual carbon assimilation rate are challenged by warming and water stress, especially in the Western Ghats and northeastern parts of India. The country is likely to meet its "forest sink" target by 2030 through mechanisms that are plantation dominated and governance limited, prioritising carbon accounting over ecological restoration.

The road ahead

While India has achieved meaningful progress on specific metrics, they also obscure fundamental problems with climate action in India. The intensity gains achieved coexist with rising absolute emissions, and renewable capacity expansion has not translated into a proportional share of generation due to the entrenched baseload of coal that mask the actual ecological impact.

The transition path that lies ahead demands sustained effort in areas requiring systemic coordination and coordinated governance like the rapid scaling of battery storage to bridge the capacity generation gap, the development of a coal transition roadmap, reformed forest governance to ensure quality biodiversity outcomes alongside carbon target numbers, and increase in data transparency to track progress across sectoral and regional variations as mere technology and capital influx will now no longer suffice.

The upcoming five years present a critical window for India to accelerate renewable energy growth, resolve storage bottlenecks, and strengthen government coordination on grid connectivity and land acquisition.

In summation, India's performative standards may have broadly delivered on its quantified commitments. Still, the outcomes that matter most lie beyond headline metrics, in converting the now installed capacity into continued sustained generation and intensity gains into absolute emission 'moderation'.

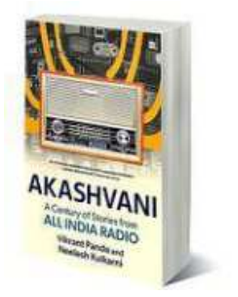
Deepanshu Mohan is professor and dean, O.P. Jindal Global University and Director, Centre for New Economics Studies (CNES). He is a visiting professor at the London School of Economics and a visiting fellow with AMES, University of Oxford. Nagappan Arun and Saksham Raj are research analysts at CNES. With inputs from Simar Kaur and Anvita Tripathi.

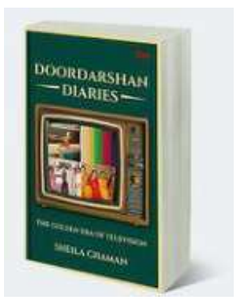
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Shaping discourse: The Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Vasanth Sathe, laying the foundation for Doordarshan Kendra in Bangalore in 1981. HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES







Diversity on the small screen: when Doordarshan stitched together a nation

The evolution of mass communication in India is also the legacy of Doordarshan. Its varied content tried to culturally unify a country. Several books chart the journey of public broadcasting in India and what it did in the face of competition from private networks

Soma Basu

Reading Sheila Chaman's *Doordarshan Diaries: The Golden Era of Television* (Om Books International) is like rediscovering the magic of the public broadcaster. From the silent generation to the boomers who witnessed the birth and growth of Indian television, from Gen X and the millennials often described as the Doordarshan generation to Gen Z and Alpha who perhaps do not connect with its content, this book is a reminder of the uncomplicated times long before algorithms dictated our remote-controlled lives.

It is almost impossible today to gather around the television like we did for broadcasts on a single channel at a fixed time. Those intense emotions and feelings TV viewing evoked have diminished. From shared cultural ritual in front of the television, for limited news to entertainment, sports or education, everything is now available on an industrial scale with 918 private satellite channels.

Conversation starter

That is why Sheila Chaman's book compels you to pause and understand how the daily four hours of broadcast, unified the country, inspiring conversations and shaping opinions.

The veteran broadcaster, who grew with the medium over a span of three decades, does not state the obvious decline, but through her vivid recollection writes about several untold behind-the-scenes anecdotes that bring alive the pioneering spirit of the people behind popular and iconic programmes who transformed Doordarshan into a national memory.

It is important to realise that Doordarshan was not just a channel disseminating tailored information but also upheld constitutional values promoting national integration and social development.

Chaman's is an insider's perspective on the early days of the organisation, its transition and transformation. She captures the nostalgia of unfettered journalism. Reading her is like reconnecting with the older and quieter version of a tolerant India. She highlights the challenges of producing content in those days and reflects on discipline and creativity that helped programmes resonate with diverse audiences.

Challenging a monopoly

It may be prudent not to indict current television programmes, but the advent of cable TV did challenge Doordarshan's monopoly. The saturated media landscape today says something forlorn about DD, a foundational pillar of national media history that began as a modest experiment in public service telecasting.

Once Upon a Prime Time by Ananth Mahadevan (Embassy Books) is partially autobiographical giving an interesting insight into the first-hand experience of those who performed for television audiences and were not part of any consumer-driven shows. It is a throwback for those connected with the medium and its services, past and present.

Public Service Broadcasting in India: A Study of Doordarshan by Rommani Sen Shitak (Bluerose Publishers) reflects on the journey of television in India from its humble beginnings in 1959 to a flourishing sector; how Doordarshan started off with socio-educational experiments, and became a multi-channel network catering to diverse linguistic and ethnic groups. Shitak takes stock of changes that took place in terms of policies, financing and programming over the years. There is a detailed analysis of the strategies implemented by Doordarshan when it was faced with competition from private networks.

The Ramayana effect

IAS officer Bhaskar Ghose who was appointed director-general of Doordarshan by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, has authored *Doordarshan Days* (Penguin India), talking about his seminal role in the organisation's development. This included the airing of popular serials such as Ramayana and Mahabharata; the first live broadcast of the cricket World Cup; the advent of satellite transmission; the first live election coverage; building Doordarshan's international presence; and the onslaught of private networks.

Ghose's attempts at reforming Doordarshan put him in conflict with the murky underside of public broadcasting and he candidly recounts with his characteristic humour the struggle to bring about change.

In another memoir by the same name (*Doordarshan Days*), Manna Bahadur, remembers the days when TV news did not sound like a screamathon and its programmes were a treat for the entire family. He talks about the iconic presenters who became fashion trendsetters for the nation. The memoir treads on DD's anxious birth, teething pains, its golden period to its expansion.

Many books on Doordarshan cover television history and its connection to All India Radio (AIR), as both were part of the same public broadcasting system.

For instance, how many know that Rabindranath Tagore dedicated a poem to AIR called Akashvani, which was adopted as the broadcaster's Hindi name; that an AIR producer was the first civilian allowed inside the Golden Temple after Operation Blue Star; or that noted Pakistani ghazal singer Ghulam Ali made his disciples listen to AIR's Urdu service to correct Urdu pronunciation.

These and many other tales make up *Akashvani: A Century of Stories from All India Radio* by Neelesh Kulkarni and Vikrant Pande (HarperCollins Publishers India). With anecdotes from producers, broadcasters, radio jockeys and listeners, the book reveals the pivotal role of the mass media in an average Indian's life.

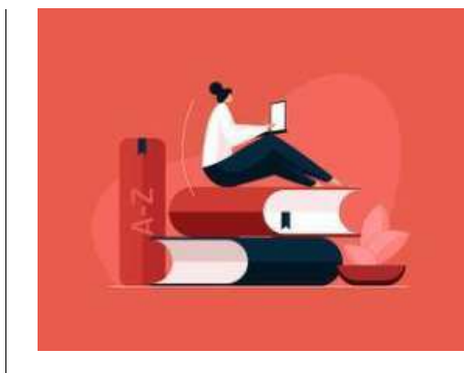
The downfall

Vinod Kapoor in *Radio Cavalcade: Indian Broadcasting ...A Look Back* (Notion Press) writes about the day when India gained independence, the scene at AIR during Gandhi's assassination, the way soap operas gained prominence, and how Hindi cinema provided a stream of artists it nurtured. The author critically discusses the clipped freedom of professionals under the Prasar Bharati Act and how it led to the downfall of public broadcasting.

Viewers of a certain vintage will understand better that Doordarshan mirrors India's growth from a young republic to a global player, and fundamentally shaped every Indian's consumption of news, education and entertainment.

It should continue to fulfil its public service mandate, reflecting diversity and inclusivity.

But does it? Its existence today is no less important, but perhaps different.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the difference in meaning between "salary" and "wages"? (R. V. Murthy, Hospet, Karnataka)

Both words refer to the amount of money that an individual receives for services that he/she has rendered. "Wages" are usually paid to those people who are involved in manual labour – people whose tasks involve more physical than mental effort. Servants, gardeners, masons, electricians, plumbers, factory workers receive wages. These workers, sometimes referred to as "blue collar workers", are usually paid on an hourly/daily/weekly basis. Most government offices in India hire people on "daily wages", and these workers receive their wages at the end of the day, end of the week, or at the end of the month. Here are a few examples:

Sujatha wanted to know what my weekly wages were. For working ten hours a day, Swami was getting Rs. 30 as wages.

Compared to other countries, wages are very low in India. "Salaries", on the other hand, are paid to professionals and people who do not perform manual labour. Such people are sometimes called "white collar workers." If you have a white collar job – i.e. a job that does not involve manual labour – you receive a salary. Teachers, clerks, bank managers, income tax officials are some of the people who get paid a salary. It is usually given to an individual on a regular basis – it could be weekly, monthly, etc. – and unlike wages, the salary that an individual receives is usually fixed. While a wage earner may receive extra money if he works a couple of hours more, a person earning a salary does not usually get anything extra for putting in more hours of work. Here are a few examples:

The company was willing to pay him a salary of Rs. 50,000 a month. His salary has been the same for the past seven years. The Vice-Chancellor informed me that I wouldn't be getting my salary this month.

What is the difference between "sink" and "drown"? (P. Velayudham, Chowdepalle, Chittoor District)

Only living things can drown. When you drown, you die because your lungs become filled with water. The water does not have to be deep for one to drown – one can even drown in a bath tub! People can drown, animals can drown, insects can drown; but inanimate things like stones, books and ships cannot drown. They merely sink. When an object sinks, it goes to the bottom; it does not stay afloat. Both living and non-living things can sink. Here are a few examples:

The stone sank to the bottom of the river. The diver sank to the bottom of the lake. When the Titanic sank, hundreds of people drowned.

When you sink, you do not necessarily die. You can deliberately decide to go to the bottom of a lake/river/pool and come up for air again. When you drown, you do not always end up at the bottom of a river/pool. Bodies of people who have drowned are often seen floating.

Published in The Hindu on March 30, 1999.

THE DAILY QUIZ

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

Simone de Beauvoir, feminist icon and existential philosopher, was born on January 9, 1908. Here is a quiz on the renowned personality

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1

Name her groundbreaking critique of patriarchy, often regarded a foundational feminist literature, which was listed on the Vatican's 'index of forbidden books'.

QUESTION 2

Name her work depicting the attempts of post-Second World War intellectuals to leave their 'educated elite' status and engage in political activism, which won her the French literary prize Prix Goncourt.

QUESTION 3

Name the only play written by Simone de Beauvoir.

QUESTION 4

Name her treatise published in 1947 which deals with themes including freedom, oppression, and responsibility, expounding on the idea that 'human freedom requires the freedom of others for it to be actualised'.

QUESTION 5

Name her novel which opens with the quote: "Each conscience seeks the death of the other" from another philosopher, Hegel.



Visual question:
Name this American philosopher who based her theory of gender performance on Beauvoir's idea that one is not born, but rather becomes, a woman. GETTY IMAGES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The U.S. spy agency and the U.K.'s MI6 were involved in the assassination of this African's country first elected Prime Minister. **Ans: Patrice Lumumba from the Democratic Republic of the Congo**
2. This South American dictator seized power and ruled for 17 years after the CIA involvement in the destabilisation of the government of Salvador Allende. **Ans: Augusto Pinochet**
3. This was the most significant intelligence analysis failure in the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. **Ans: Overstating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction capabilities under Saddam Hussein**
4. The CIA devised several failed and unrealistic assassination plots against this Latin American revolutionary leader. **Ans: Fidel Castro**
5. Although never established as historical fact, X was alleged to have been a CIA agent. X was a former Prime Minister of India. **Ans: Morarji Desai**
Visual: Name this award-winning film that drew criticism as CIA hagiography. **Ans: *Zero Dark Thirty***
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Sukdev Shet| Arun Kumar Singh| Arjun Debnath| Vidyasagar Reddy Kethiri

Word of the day

Marginalia:
notes written in the margin

Synonyms: note

Usage: *Some of their chats were printed as marginalia in the book.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/marginaliapro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /mɑɹdʒɪˈneɪli.ə/

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